

UglyAmps Superdrive Special User Manual

This manual explains the various controls and features of your amplifier. This is a complex amplifier that requires some time to dial in the controls for your particular playing style. Experiment with the settings to find the sound that works best for you.

Front Panel Controls

Ratio Control

The Ratio control functions as a master volume specifically for the overdrive section of the amplifier.

FET (Field-Effect Transistor) Control

This is a push/pull pot that activates an integrated JFET boost circuit, which acts similarly to an external clean boost pedal placed before the amp's input.

Caution: This feature adds significant gain. Use it judiciously. Ensure the Overdrive Trim control is set conservatively when engaging the FET boost to avoid excessive, unwanted distortion or artifacts.

Rock/Jazz Switch

This switch toggles between two distinct voicings. Most users prefer the "Rock" sound, but the "Jazz" setting helps tame the low-end response of the overdrive channel. It is included to emulate the original amplifier design.

Overdrive Trim Control

This control primarily sets the gain level for the overdrive section.

Pull/Push Function: This POT also pulls out to engage a Bright switch. Use caution when combining high gain settings, the Bright switch, and the FET boost, as this can cause unpredictable results.

Tone Stack (Bass, Midrange, Treble)

The amplifier utilizes a single, shared tone stack for both the clean and overdrive channels.

Mid Boost Pushbutton Switch

Engages an additional midrange boost for a fatter tone.

Presence Control

The presence control on this amplifier is uniquely wired as a high-frequency cut control (wired in reverse). To avoid cutting the high frequencies in the power amp stage, it is recommended to keep this control partially engaged (turned up) most of the time.

Footswitch

The included footswitch allows you to change channels from the drive channel to the clean channel. It also features a built-in PAB (Preamp Boost) function.

Note: Engaging the PAB defeats the function of the main Bass, Midrange, and Treble tone controls.

Rear Panel Features

Effects Loop

The amplifier features a fully buffered effects loop, utilizing high-voltage LND150 FETs.

Controls: Send and Return level controls are located on the back panel, adjacent to the corresponding jacks.

Defeat Switch: A pull-out switch on the Send control pot engages or bypasses (defeats) the entire effects loop circuit.

General Operating Notes

Gain Management: Exercise caution when stacking multiple gain stages. You should generally avoid having the PAB boost, the FET boost, and the Overdrive Trim all cranked simultaneously.

Genre Note: This amplifier is designed for classic rock and blues tones and is not intended for modern high-gain metal styles.

Use responsibly and enjoy your new amplifier!