

Mambo Amp user guide and specification, last updated October 2020

mambo amp
probably the best compact jazz combo on the planet



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This information is for guidance and applies to the standard 400 watt guitar combo.

Specification

- 400 Watt rms at 0.1% THD continuous power rating (200 Watt rms with the internal speaker, plus an additional 200 watt rms when used with an external 8 Ohm loudspeaker) (250 W rms / 500 W rms peak at 2% THD)
- 24 bit digital reverb, with depth and delay-time controls
- hand-made birch ply cabinet
- two guitar input jacks ,
- line level input (3.5mm stereo jack) for MP3 / CD etc.
- headphone output (3.5mm stereo jack)
- European (230 V) or US (115V) mains voltage (specify when ordering)

Size and weight (approx.)

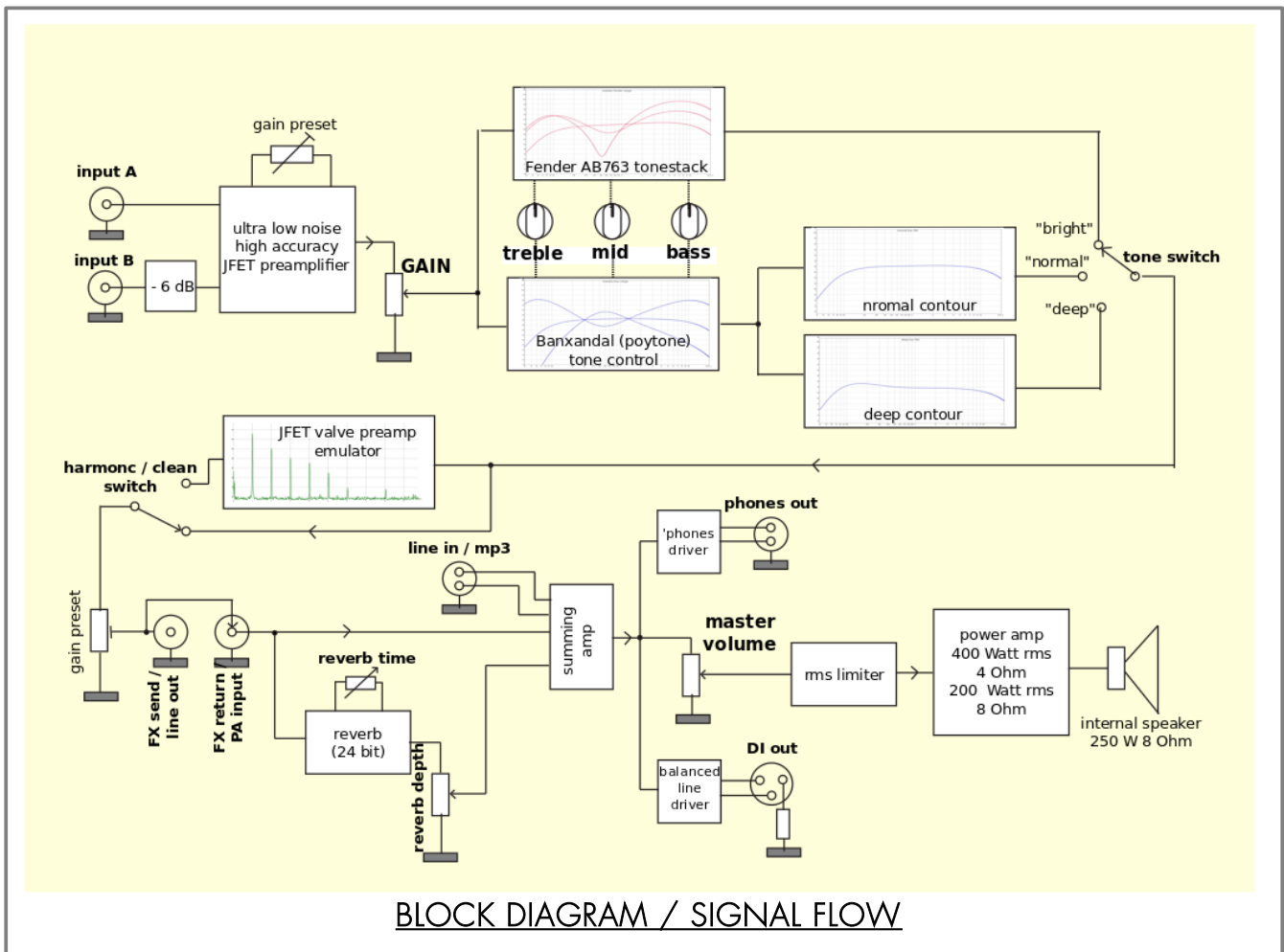
- 12" - 12.1 kg, 36 by 36 by 30 cm
- 10" - 8.1 kg, 31 by 31 by 25 cm
- 8" - 7.3 kg, 27 by 27 by 23 cm

Inputs and controls



- **two guitar input jacks**, normal (A) and low gain (B)
use the normal input for most guitars, use the low gain input for very high output guitars or other signal sources. Both inputs can be used at the same time, in which case they automatically switch to normal gain. Useful if you use two guitars on stage, or for teaching etc.
- **gain**
adjust to taste, at higher gains the harmonic setting will have more effect, in a similar way to a valve preamp. As a starting point set to 12 O'clock. **On the harmonic setting it is possible to overdrive the preamp slightly with high gain settings when playing loud**, This is deliberate, but if you want a cleaner sound, turn the gain down, or use the clean setting.
- **treble**
- **middle**
- **bass**
- **power on LED**
- **headphone out** ; stereo 3.5mm jack
when using headphones, turn the master volume down to zero to mute the loudspeaker
- **line in** ; stereo 3.5mm jack, for mp3 /cd etc
- **bright / normal / deep** ; 3 way switch
the normal setting has a fairly flat frequency response
deep setting is similar to normal, but has slightly more bass and less treble
bright has a deep mid-scoop and some treble boost, similar to a Fender AB763

- **clean / harmonic** ; 2 way switch
the clean setting is pure and clean, very high headroom
the harmonic setting is similar to a valve preamp, turning the guitar up and playing harder will produce more dynamic overtones. Use the gain control and guitar volume to get the best of this to suit your taste. High gain settings will produce mild overdrive on loud notes.
- **master volume**
the main volume control
- **reverb depth**
set the amount of reverb
- **reverb time**
set the reverb time, (room size / dwell)
- **effects send** ; 1/4" mono jack
line level output, taken before the reverb and master volume
can also be used as a line out
- **effects return** ; 1/4" mono jack
line level input
- **direct out** ; 3 pin male XLR
balanced output, taken after the reverb is added, and before the master volume control
The output level here is affected by the gain control, but not affected by master volume.



Using the Mambo Amp for the first time.

This guidance is for first time users, just to get started and note some important points.

- Plug in to the mains and switch on.
- After a few seconds the green light will come on.
- Set the gain control to 12 O'clock.
- Set the bass, middle and treble controls to 12 O'clock.
- Set the master volume to zero.
- Plug your guitar into input A
- Turn your guitar volume up full.
- Play loudly and turn up the master volume to the required maximum loudness.
- Adjust the tone controls and reverb etc. to your taste
- Use the guitar volume to control the overall loudness.

Some points worth noting:

On the harmonic setting it is possible to overdrive the preamp slightly with high gain settings when playing loud, This is deliberate, but if you want a cleaner sound, turn the gain down, or use the clean setting.

Use the tone switch to select the best overall tone for your preference. The bright setting has a Fender style sound, the deep setting is more like a Polytone.

There is a delay of a few seconds between switching on the power and the green light coming on. This is normal. The power amplifier is checking mains voltage and loudspeaker impedance during this interval.

After turning on the power the volume turns up gradually, taking a few seconds to reach normal volume. This is the soft-start feature and is correct operation. To protect ears and loudspeakers.

To use the headphone socket, turn the master volume control to zero. The loudspeaker is not automatically muted when you plug the headphones in. This is to remove the common problem of loudspeaker mute-switch failure.

There are two guitar inputs, input A is normal, input B has a 6dB pad, i.e. half gain. Use input A with most guitars. Some active guitars and pedals may benefit from using the low gain input B. If plugging in two guitars at the same time both sockets automatically switch to normal. i.e. they are identical if used simultaneously.

Using the Mambo Amp with an extension speaker

The extension speaker socket is provided to allow the use of a separate speaker cabinet either on its own, or at the same time as the internal speaker. total speaker impedance must be 4 Ohms or greater,

The rocker switch near the extension speaker socket switches the internal speaker on / off. If you are not using an extension speaker and the amp is silent, check the switch hasn't been switched off by mistake !

The power amplifier is rated for two 8 Ohm loads in parallel, e.g. 200 Watts rms, for the internal 8 Ohm speaker, plus an additional 200 Watts rms for an external 8 Ohm speaker. Be sure your external speaker is 8 Ohms or more, and can handle the power. You can use a 4 Ohm external speaker cabinet if the internal speaker is switched off. (note the 400 W rms rating is quite conservative, the measured output is nearer 250 W rms / 500 W rms peak at 2% THD)

Electrical Safety

Mambo amp electrical safety. Important please read carefully.

This amplifier is designed and manufactured in accordance with European electrical safety requirements for domestic appliances for use indoors in a dry environment. Specifically the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) 2006/95/EC

In order to continue the intended level of safety, observe sensible precautions and please note the following points;

- **Use only with an earthed (3 pin) socket outlet. THIS UNIT MUST BE EARTHED.**
- Do not use outdoors or in wet or damp environment.
- Protect from moisture, excessive heat or physical damage.
- Switch off and unplug when not in use or when unattended.
- Select the correct operating voltage for your locality using the rotary switch near the power inlet on the rear panel.
- Always use the correct fuse.

There is a fuse fitted to the electrical inlet of the amplifier. Make sure the correct fuse is fitted. Never replace with a fuse with a higher Amp rating.

Correct fuse ratings for the 180W rms mambo amp are;
for 230V a.c. operation use a 1 Amp time-delay (T) fuse
for 115V a.c. operation use a 2 Amp time-delay (T) fuse

Mains power cable colour coding

The cable supplied uses European colour coding;
blue = neutral
brown = live (aka hot or active)
green/yellow = earth. (aka ground)

The equivalent USA colour coding is Black = Live White = Neutral Green = Earth
Australian colour coding is usually the same as European.

Use an RCD whenever possible to reduce the risk of electrical shock from musical instruments.