

Park 1800HiLo Head

User Manual



Rock out with a small head

Thank you for purchasing the Park P1800HiLo amplifier. The development of this amp started as a recreation of the various classic vintage British 18 watt combos that have become much sought after by collectors and tone aficionados. These amps are known for their raucous rock tones and sounds best when cranked! However we've added some mods to give it improved clean tones, switchable higher gain, plus four power levels from 18 watts down to 1/2 watt.

The P1800HiLo uses carefully selected high quality and rare components to give you the best sound possible. We use NOS (New Old Stock) resistors and signal capacitors and an output transformer that is a clone of the original Radio Spares EL84 Output Transformer that was used on the best sounding vintage examples of the amplifier.

Operation

We recommend that you read this manual in its entirety before use so that you become familiar with its features and operate the amp safely.

The P1800HiLo has two channels, each with two inputs. One channel has Volume and Tone



controls. The other channel has Volume, Tone and Tremolo with Speed and Intensity controls. Also on the front panel are the On/Off switch, a Standby switch with High and Low power switching, a NORMAL/CASCADE switch and an On indicator lamp.

Channel "1": The Channel on the right has two inputs. These inputs are identical so they sound the same (note: if the two halves of the first 12AX7 are very unmatched the two inputs can sound different). Plug into either one and turn the Volume and Tone controls to your preferred settings. The Tone control performs two functions at the same time. Turning it up adds high frequencies. Turn it up past 3:00 and it starts to reduce the bottom end.

Channel 1 becomes a fire breather when the front panel "NORMAL/CASCADE" switch is in



the CASCADE position. What it does is route the signal of Channel 1 into the input of Channel 2 (with some additional tone and gain shaping parts to make it sound best) giving you more gain. When you are plugged into Channel 1 and the front panel switch is in the CASCADE position, both channels are active and therefore both Volume and Tone controls will affect the sound.

Channel "2": Channel two also has two inputs. They are different in that the top one will be louder and brighter while the bottom one has less volume and top end. The Tone control on this channel only affects the high end. As you turn it down it cuts the high frequencies and as you turn it up, the high frequencies increase.

This channel features Tremolo. The Tremolo only works with the footswitch plugged in and the front panel "NORMAL/CASCADE" switch is in the CASCADE position. You can use the footswitch that came with the amp or any single footswitch with a 1/4" plug and no LED.

NOTE! When in the CASCADE mode, the Channel 2 inputs do not work!

HIGH/LOW power switching: This switch in conjunction with the back panel NORMAL/SUPER LOW switch give you four power settings. When the back panel switch is set to NORMAL, the amp will be either 18 watts (HIGH) or 7 watts (LOW) depending on the front panel setting. With the back panel set to SUPER LOW, the front panel HIGH/LOW switch will switch between 1 and 1/2 watt. When the switch is in the middle position you will be in the STANDBY MODE.

Back Panel





The back panel includes the IEC power cord socket (with mains fuse), HT fuse, impedance selector switch, two speakers jacks, "NORMAL and SUPER LOW" switch and a jack for the footswitch.

IEC socket: Plug one end of the AC cord into this socket and the other into the wall. This socket includes the amp's mains fuse. For 120V use a 2 amp slo blo fuse (T2A). For 240 volts use a 1 amp fuse (T1A). The fuse is removed by pulling out the fuse tray. Change the fuse and reinstall the fuse tray.

HT fuse: Use a 500mA slo blo fuse.

NOTE: A fuse usually blows when there is something wrong with the amp. If you replace a fuse and it blows again, bring the amp to a qualified amp technician. Always use a fuse of the correct value and do not do anything that will bypass the fuse, otherwise you may cause damage to the amplifier.

Impedance Switch. The P1800HiLo has an impedance switch that will allow you to choose either 8 or 16 ohms. Because of the unique winding of the original Radio Spares EL84 Output Transformer, which this transformer is a copy of, we can provide both 8 and 16 ohm outputs with superior quality sound.

Speaker Jacks: The P1800HiLo has two speaker jacks for convenience.

Foot Switch Jack: The Tremolo function only works with the footswitch plugged in. Use the included footswitch or any single footswitch with a 1/4" plug and no LEDs.

NORMAL/SUPER LOW Switch

This switch, in conjunction with the front panel HIGH/LOW switch gives you four power settings. See above.

Tubes:

6CA4/EZ81: This is the rectifier tube. 6CA4 is the US designation and EZ81 is the UK designation for the same tube type.

EL84: The P1800HiLo uses a pair of EL84 tubes in the power amp. These tubes are known for their strong harmonic content especially when overdriven. The amp is cathode biased so you do not need to bias the amp when you replace the EL84s. It is recommended that you use a matched pair of tubes when they are replaced.

12AX7s: Looking from the right the tubes are as follows: Channel 1 preamp, Phase Inverter, Channel 2 preamp and tremolo. All three will have an effect on performance.

By the way, the P1800HiLo is named after a car I had when I was 18 years old, the Volvo P1800. Also driven by Roger Moore in "The Saint" 😊

Park Amplification

sales@parkamplifiers.co.uk

parkamplifiers.co.uk



NON TRANSFERABLE 2-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

Britampco Ltd. warrants that the Park Custom Shop product you have purchased shall be free of any defects in parts and workmanship if used under normal operating conditions for a period of two (2) years from the date of purchase, except that pedals, footswitches and speakers are warranted for a period of one (1) year from date of purchase and light bulbs, vacuum tubes, cables and all other included accessory products are warranted for a period of ninety (90) days from date of purchase. This warranty shall run to the original purchaser when purchased from an Authorized Park Dealer or direct from Britampco LTD. IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETAIN YOUR SALES RECEIPT, AS IT IS YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE COVERING YOUR LIMITED WARRANTY. THIS LIMITED WARRANTY IS VOID WITHOUT SUCH ENDORSED SALES RECEIPT.

Defective products that qualify for coverage under this warranty will be repaired without charge. If repair is not possible the product will be replaced at Britampco Ltd's discretion. To receive warranty service, email us at sales@parkamplifiers.co.uk for instructions which may include either returning the amplifier back to Britampco Ltd or sending the complete product to an Authorized Electronics Service Center, with proof of purchase, during the applicable warranty period. The Authorized Dealer from whom you purchased your product may also be authorized for warranty service. TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS LIMITED WARRANTY.

Any repair or service performed by any person or entity other than an Authorized Electronics Service Center is not covered by this limited warranty. This limited warranty becomes void if the serial number on any product is defaced or removed, or the product has been damaged by alteration, misuse, accident, or neglect; or the product has been repaired or serviced by persons not authorized..

THE FOREGOING CONSTITUTES THE ONLY WARRANTY MADE BY Britampco Ltd WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCTS AND IS MADE EXPRESSLY IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. Any implied warranties, including without limitation, any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose, imposed under state law are limited to the duration of this limited warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not be applicable to you.

Britampco Ltd ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM FAILURE OF THIS PRODUCT NOR ANY LOSS OF INCOME, SATISFACTION, OR DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE LOSS OF USE OF SAME DUE TO DEFECTS OR AVAILABILITY OF SAME DURING SERVICE.