

# Park 18 Watt Amplifier Combo

## User Manual

The logo for the brand 'PARK' is displayed in a white, stylized, serif font. The letters are bold and closely spaced, with a slight shadow effect. The logo is centered within a dark, textured rectangular area that appears to be the top cover of the manual.



## Rock out with a small combo

Thank you for purchasing the Park P1800 limited edition amplifier. This combo was built as a recreation of the classic vintage British 18 watt combos that have become much sought after by collectors and tone aficionados. The amp is known for its raucous rock tones and sounds best when cranked!

The P1800 uses carefully selected components to give you the best sound possible. We use NOS (New Old Stock) parts 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.

### Operating the amplifier

Although the P1800 is a relatively simple to operate amplifier, we recommend that you read this manual in its entirety before use so that you become familiar with its features and operate the amp in a safe way.

Picture of the top panel here

The P1800 has two channels each with two inputs. One has Volume and Tone controls, The other has Volume, Tone and Tremolo with Speed and Intensity controls. Also on the front panel are the On/Off switch, a Standby switch with Full and Low power switching and there is an On indicator lamp.

Channel "1": Looking from the back of the amplifier the Channel on the right has two inputs. These inputs are identical so they sound the same. 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 down cuts the treble frequencies. Turning it up adds high frequencies (actually it reduces the high frequencies less as you turn it up but let's not get too technical here!). Turn it up past 3:00 and it starts to reduce the bottom end.

Channel "2": Channel two also has two inputs. They are different in that the one near the front of the amp will be louder and brighter and the one towards the back of the amp has less volume and less top end brightness. The Tone control on this channel only affects the high end. As you turn it down it cuts the high frequencies.

This channel features Tremolo. The Tremolo only works with the footswitch plugged in. You can use the footswitch that came with the amp or any single footswitch with a 1/4" plug. The proper functioning of the tremolo in the P1800 is dependent on the tube used in the third position. It is a 12AX7 (ECC83) but please note that in order for the tremolo to function properly it needs to be a high gain version of the tube. If the tube has lower gain, you might notice that in certain position of the Speed and Intensity controls you will lose volume, the sound will get distorted and the tremolo may not function. If this happens try swapping out the 12AX7 tube with one of the other 12AX7s in the amp (all three small tubes are 12AX7s) or swap out the tremolo tube with a known high gain 12AX7.

Bottom Panel



The bottom panel includes the IEC power cord socket (with mains fuse), HT fuse, tube sockets for 6CA4/EZ81, two EL84s and three 12AX7s, impedance selector switch, two speakers jacks 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 and cause a dangerous condition!

Impedance Switch. The P1800 has an impedance switch that will allow you to choose either 8 or 16 ohms. The internal speaker is 16 ohms so the amp comes set to 16 ohms. When using the internal speaker and a 16 ohm external extension cabinet set the amp for 8 ohms.

Speaker Jacks: The P1800 has two speaker jacks for convenience.

Foot Switch Jack: Plug the foot switch into this jack for switching the Tremolo function On and Off

## 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 Surge 18 uses a pair of EL84 tubes. These tubes are known for their strong harmonic content especially when overdriven. The amp is cathode biased so you do not need to have the amp biased 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: Preamp, Phase Inverter, Tremolo. All three will have an effect on performance. If you like to try different tubes to see how they change the sound of the amp, we recommend trying the Preamp first, then Phase Inverter then Tremolo.

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

Park Amplification

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**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.

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