

Park Little Head 18 Manual

Welcome to Park Amplification and thank you for becoming part of the Park family. Park Amplification makes some of the finest vintage-style, British inspired tube guitar amplifiers. The Park Little Head is a newly designed amp based on the sound and feel of the amps made from 1965 to the mid 1970s. It's a lower powered version of the classic Park 45 design and offers power amp flexibility never offered in an amp of this calibre.

Front Panel

There are two channels which are voiced differently. The channel on the right is warmer (less treble) and the one on the left is brighter. There are two inputs per channel. The top jack input is the one that is usually plugged into and has more gain than the lower input. There is one Volume control for each channel. The other controls all adjust tone and are labeled Treble, Mid, Bass and Brightness (Presence). Other things on the front panel include the On/Off switch, Standby switch and Mains fuse (2 Amp, slo blo).

There are a number of useful ways to plug into a "four-hole" amp.

- 1) Plug into either top jack and use its associated Volume control. Adjust the tone controls to taste.
- 2) Plug into the top input of the left (bright) channel and plug a short jumper cable from the lower input of the left channel into the top input of the right channel. You are now plugged into both channels and can blend them for more tonal possibilities. This setup is commonly used on the more aggressive 1970s amps where the left input has very little bass (until you crank it all the way up) and the right Volume control is used to fatten the sound. The left channel on this amp is full with plenty of bass so this is not necessary: but you can if you like!
- 3) Plug into the top input of the right channel, turn it up to the desired level (louder is usually better!) and then turn up the Volume control of the left channel to add some highs and upper mids. This works because there is some interactivity between the channels. The setting of the left Volume control will vary depending on the speakers, room conditions and anything else that can affect tone. It is rumored that some famous guitarists used this setup to achieve their sound in the mid to late 1960s.

This is a simple, plug-and-play amp. Plug in, set your controls and play some music! Make sure the PPIMV control on the back panel is not set to "0" (fully counterclockwise). If it is, there will be no sound!

With 6V6s and 6L6s the PLH sounds very much like a lower powered version of the Park 45 that normally uses KT66s. Since the amp is so tone-full at low volumes you have to lower some control settings when the level is set high. When you crank the amp all the way, try setting the controls like this: Treble: 0 Mids: 10 Bass: 0 Brightness: 0. Then bring up the other controls to get the desired tone. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Brightness Control Note

You may hear a scratchy sound when turning the Brightness control This is normal because of the way the circuit around the control is designed.

Back Panel

HT fuse (0.5 Amp, slo blo)

IEC AC Mains connector

Impedance selector (4, 8, 16 ohms)

Speaker jacks: Set the impedance to the same impedance rating of your speaker cabinet. The single combo comes with one 16 ohm speaker. The two 12” combo comes with two 16 ohms speakers in parallel which equals 8 ohms.

Post Phase Inverter Master Volume (PPIMV) - NOTE - this control is not marked!

PPIMV is a master volume control that is after the Phase Inverter which is the first tube in the power amp. Because of this, you can achieve more gain before the PPIMV than a traditional master volume. Amps like the PLH18, Park 45, 50 and 75 are not high gain amps and a PPIMV works better than a typical master volume control.

User Selectable Tubes

You can change the power tubes and rectifier at will. The choice will affect the power, tone and feel.

For rectifier you can use a 5Y3, GZ34 (5AR4) or solid state plug in. For power tubes you can use 6V6, 6L6 or EL34s. The chart below shows how much power the amp will produce depending on the choice of rectifier and power tubes. To change the tubes, turn the amp off first. Carefully remove the existing tube by slowly pulling it up and gently moving it around. Do not pull too hard or move around too much or you will break off the guide pin. Since the power tubes are cathode biased with separate resistors on each tube, the amp will not have to be rebiased. Plus you can use pairs that are not closely matched.

IMPORTANT NOTE! Change tubes with the amp off!

Little Head 18 power ratings	Rectifier	5Y3GT	GZ34	Solid State plug-in
Power tubes				
CLEAN				

Little Head 18 power ratings	Rectifier	5Y3GT	GZ34	Solid State plug-in
6V6		14	20	22
6L6		14.5	21	23
EL34		15	22	24
FULL CLIPPING				
6V6		33	35	42
6L6		32	36	42
EL34		29	32	38

Specifications

Power: 14 to 24 watts clean, 29 to 42 watts when pushed (depends on choice of power tubes and rectifier)

Tubes: two power tubes (either 6V6, 6L6 or EL34), three 12AX7s

Front panel: Volume (ch1), Volume (ch2), Treble, Mid, Bass, Brightness, On/Off, Standby, Mains Fuse (2A slo-blo)

Back panel: HT fuse (500mA), IEC mains (AC) socket, optional Voltage selector, Impedance selector (4, 8, 16), two speaker outputs, Post Phase Inverter Master Volume (PPIMV)

Dimensions: (H) 8.5", 9" with feet", (W)21", (D) 8.5"

Weight: 27 lbs

Service: These amps are equipped with two fuses. One is on the front panel labeled "2 Amps". There is also a back panel fuse labeled either 500mA or 1A. While either can be used, 500mA is recommended. If your amp is blowing fuses, something is likely wrong and it is highly recommended that you bring the amp to a qualified technician who is familiar with tubes and guitar amps. That said, a bad rectifier or power tube can take out the back panel fuse.

Tubes have a life span and can wear out over time. Power tubes (6V6, 6L6 or EL34, etc) typically will wear out faster than preamp tubes (12AX7). If the power tubes are worn out your amp will sound lifeless and may lack power. In the PLH18 you do not have to bring the amp to a tech for biasing., It is a self biased amp and can use either 6V6, 6L6 or EL34 power tubes.

Custom Little Rock Addendum

There are two push/pull switches on the Little Rock that make it a different amp to the Little Head. The Amp is basically the same as a “normal” four-hole, two channel amp with the two push/pull switches in the “In” position. However the voicing of the channels is reversed. Channel 2 is brighter and Channel 1 is darker. Channel two’s upper input is the one you want to use to get the highest gain and saturation out of this amp.

Channel 2 Volume has a push/pull switch. When engaged channel 2 is cascaded into channel 1. As such you can get more gain and saturation out of the amp. Setting channel 1’s volume on about 6 will give you about the same amount of gain with the push/pull switch in the Out position as in the In position. Settings over 6 on Channel 1’s Volume control will give you more gain.

Channel one (the darker channel) also has a nice boost when Channel two’s push/pull switch is in the out position. It is full, is less bright and sounds great on “ten”.

Channel one also has a push/pull switch. It engages a large cap across Channel 2’s Volume control like the ones used on late 60s and later plexi amps. It creates a huge boost to the highs and upper mids. The amount of boost is controlled by the setting of Channel 2’s volume control. Higher settings of this control will decrease the effect of the cap and boost. There are some nice settings there when you use high gain. This is best used with setting over 6 on Channel Two’s volume control. You can use this switch without using the extra gain and then it makes this amp’s preamp just about the same as a typical plexi where you might want to blend the channels using a short cord from the bottom input of Channel 2 into the top input of channel 1.

Three way Standby/Rectifier switch

The three positions are:

Up: Solid state (diode) rectifier

Middle: Standby

Down: Tube rectifier.

The amp comes with 6V6GT power tubes and 5Y3GT rectifier. You can also use 6L6 and EL34 power tubes and 5AR4/GZ34 rectifier.

Park Amplification

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