

## ***Park Little Rock 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 Rock 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 50 design (with additional features) and offers power amp flexibility never offered in an amp of this calibre.

### **Front Panel**

There are two channels which are voiced differently. Channel II on the left is warmer (less treble) and Channel I on the right is brighter. There are two inputs per channel. The top input jack is the one that is usually plugged into and has more gain than the lower input. There is a Volume control for each channel. Most of the other controls adjust tone and are labeled Treble, Mid, Bass and Brightness (Presence). There is also a Master Volume control. Set this high for high-headroom clean sounds and lower for high gain sounds (when the Volume controls are high). Other things on the front panel include the On/Off switch, Standby switch, and Tube/SS rectifier select switch.

New features on the Little Rock take the standard "four-hole" British style amp to a new level. There are two push-pull switches on the two channel Volume controls. Pull Channel I Volume control to "Cascade" the two channels. What this does is put the two channels in series and allows you to get more gain and saturation out of the amp. Setting channel II's volume on 6 will give you about the same amount of gain with the push/pull switch in the Out position as in the In position but the tonality will change to more suit the possible extra gain. Settings over 6 on Channel II's Volume control will give you more gain.

Channel II (the darker channel) also has a nice boost when Channel I's push/pull switch is in the out position. It is full, is less bright than channel I and sounds great on "ten".

### **Getting Started**

- 1) Plug into Channel I's top jack. Set the Master on full. Set Channel I's Volume control to the desired level. Adjust the tone controls to taste. Set the Volume control low and the Master high for high headroom clean sounds. NOTE - For clean sounds be aware that turning up Channel II's Volume control will darken the clean sound of Channel I. So it is recommended that you keep Channel II's Volume control on "0" when using Channel I for a clean sound.
- 2) As you turn up the Volume you will overdrive the amp. Set the Volume high for more overdrive and set the Master to the desired volume level. Setting the Master low will make the amp overdrive quicker.
- 3) Try pulling Channel II's Volume control to add "Punch" which is an emphasis on the upper mids. This can add clarity on overdriven sounds. Also lower the Bass to clean up the bottom.
- 4) Pull Channel I's Volume control to Cascade the channels. At this point Channel II's Volume control will affect the level as well so if it is on "0" you will hear no sound. Turn it to "6" and the volume

level will be about the same with and without the Cascade pull switch engaged. Higher than “6” will give you more gain than possible without Cascading the channels. With both Volume controls on “10”, I recommend placing the PUNCH switch (Channel II Volume) to the in (off) position

- 5) If you plug into Channel II the Cascade switch disconnects channel one so that will also increase the gain of Channel II. This offers an additional tonal flavor and also sounds great with Punch switch engaged.

### **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.

### **Master Volume Note**

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 Little Rock (when not cascaded), Park 45, 50 and 75 are not high gain amps and a PPIMV works better than a typical master volume control.

Amps built after May 2020 have a pre phase inverter master volume. This change was done because higher gain settings sound tighter, especially in the bottom end.

### **Back Panel**

HT fuse (0.5 Amp, slo blo)

IEC AC Mains connector with 2A mains fuse

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.

### **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 or GZ34 (5AR4). 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 Rock 18 power ratings	Rectifier	5Y3GT	GZ34	Solid State (SS)
<b>Power tubes</b>				
<b>CLEAN</b>				
<b>6V6</b>		14	20	22
<b>6L6</b>		14.5	21	23
<b>EL34</b>		15	22	24
<b>FULL CLIPPING</b>				
<b>6V6</b>		33	35	42
<b>6L6</b>		32	36	42
<b>EL34</b>		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 EL34 (but can also use 6V6 or 6L6), three 12AX7s

Front panel: Volume (ch1), Volume (chII), Treble, Mid, Bass, Master, Brightness, On/Off, Standby, Tube/SS

Back panel: HT fuse (500mA), IEC mains (AC) socket with 2A slo blo fuse, Impedance selector (4, 8, 16), two speaker outputs

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 in the IEC AC cord socket. There is also a back panel fuse labeled 500mA. 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 one of the back panel fuses.

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 PLR18 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.

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