

Park® Rock Head 50 MKII and Combo Manual

Welcome to Park 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 *Rock Head 50* MKII is an updated version of the Park Rock Head 50 which was introduced in 2015. It is loosely based on the vintage Park Rock Head made in the 1970s. However, it's a hand-wired channel switching amp unlike anything made back in the 1960s and 1970s. The circuit in the Rock Head 50 is derived from both the Park 50 and the Colby Mod Machine. Its clean channel is based on the Park 50 and the second channel can go from pure clean to bluesy OD to classic rock and even a bit more.

The new version updates include:

Easier to operate front panel channel and tone switching...

The FX loop is now buffered

Updated power transformer which provides a bit more clean headroom and more note definition when overdriven



Front Panel

Input (top jack)

Footswitch input (bottom jack). Note: the channel switch (bottom mini toggle) has to be in the “out” position for the foot switch to work. The LED on the foot switch lights when the Clean channel is selected.

Volume 1 (Push-pull pot): Channel 1. This is the Clean channel volume control. Use this to set your clean volume. In conjunction with the PPIMV Master you can overdrive this channel. Set the Volume low and the PPIMV high for clean sounds. Set the Volume high and the PPIMV low to overdrive the clean channel. For the cleanest tone, set the PPIMV Master on full and set the Volume control to the desired level. (Pull the Volume control to add brightness to the Clean channel)

Gain 2: Channel 2. OD channel Gain control (Push-Pull pot): The OD channel has been carefully and cleverly designed to be able to achieve great clean AND overdrive sounds. Low settings of this control (and high settings of the Gain Master) will give you a very good clean sound. Set this control higher for

various levels of overdrive. (Pull the Gain control to mellow out the OD channel. This is good for a warmer OD sound that's appropriate for roots rock and blues).

Volume 2: This is the Gain channel master volume control. Set low to start with especially with high Gain settings. Set higher if you want to use the OD channel as a second clean channel or for a low gain overdrive sound.

Top mini toggle switch: switch to the up position to add aggressiveness to the OD channel. This works well with Gain setting over half way. Under half way it may be too aggressive. With the Gain control push-pull in the In position and this mini toggle in the up position this channel sounds a lot like a Master Volume amp from the 1980s.

Treble, Mid, Bass, Brightness (presence). All tone controls. Self explanatory....

Master PPIMV: Overall Master Volume

So, in the "Clean Channel" the controls that function are:

Volume 1 (with push-pull), Treble, Mid, Bass, Master (PPIMV) and Brightness

In the "OD Channel" the controls that function are:

Gain 2 (with push-pull), Volume 2, Treble, Mid, Bass, Master (PPIMV) and Brightness, mid boost 2 (mini toggle)

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.

Setting up your Tone

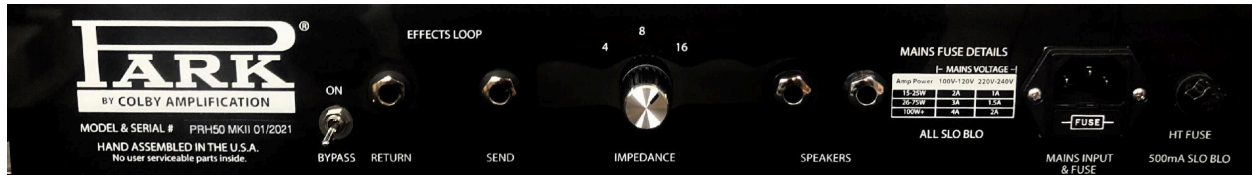
I recommend dialing in your OD channel sound first. Because of the two push-pull pot on the Gain 2 control and the mid boost mini toggle, the OD channel is capable of warm bluesy overdrive to Master Volume type crunch to higher gain sounds. Because these sounds vary a lot in high frequency content you may or may not want to use the bright switch on the "Clean" Channel. So set up your OD channel sound first, then decide whether you want to pull the Volume pot to engage the Clean channel bright switch.

PPIMV Master Notes

The PPIMV is a very useful tonal tool in our arsenal since it works on both channels. You can use it as an overall Master Volume control. If you like the settings you have chosen for both channels, but you need to raise or lower the overall level, the PPIMV can do that. An example would be if you are rehearsing at one level but need to raise both channels evenly when you gig outdoors.

Another way to use the PPIMV is to use it as a Master Volume for the Clean channel for low gain overdrive and the Gain channel as a higher gain overdrive. By experimenting with the Gain channel Master and PPIMV you can achieve a range of overdriven tones. By the way, PPIMV stands for Post Phase Inverter Master Volume.

Other things on the front panel include the On/Off and Standby switch



Back Panel

HT fuse (0.5 Amp, slo blo)

IEC AC Mains connector with mains fuse (2.5A or 3A slo-blo, for 230V operation use a 1.5 Amp, slo blo 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

Effects Loop: This is an active, buffered, series loop. It can work with just about any effect from pedals to studio rack units. The loop comes from Park set to pedal level. There are two switches on the FX Loop board that when switched make it work with the appropriate levels fro rack gear set to +4.

Operation

There are two channels which can be chosen by front panel mini toggle switch (you may notice a pop when switching channels). The pop will be louder the first time you switch after turning the amp on. After that it, the pop will be low enough to not be an issue). The "Clean" has its own Volume control. The "Gain" channel has both Gain and Volume (which is the master control for this channel) controls. Both channels share Treble, Mid, Bass, Brightness (presence) and PPIMV (Post Phase Inverter Master Volume).

Footswitch Operation

The Park Rock Head comes with a single footswitch with LED. In order to use the foot switch, the front panel Channel switch has to be set to Ch 2. The LED will light when the clean channel is selected.

Specifications

Power: 45 watts clean, 65 watts when pushed

Tubes: two EL34 power tubes, three 12AX7s

Front panel: Input, Footswitch input, Volume 1 (ch1), Gain 2 (ch2), Volume 2 (ch2), Treble, Mid, Bass, Brightness, PPIMV, On/Off, Standby

Back panel: HT fuse (500mA), IEC mains (AC) socket with mains fuse, Impedance selector (4, 8, 16), two speaker outputs, Passive/Series Effects Loop

Dimensions: (H) 8.5", 9" with feet", (W)24", (D) 8.5"

Weight: 32 lbs

Combos

The Rock Head 50 is also available as a 1x12 or 2x12 combo.

See website for more info.

Service: These amps are equipped with two fuses. The one in the IEC connector is the Mains fuse. If this blows then the amp will not turn on. Fuses blow for a reason. If it blows, the problem could be simply a bad rectifier or power tube. If it's something else bring the amp to a qualified technician. There is also a back panel fuse labeled either 500mA. If this fuse blows, the amp will turn on but you will not get any sound. This fuse could blow if there is a bad power tube but there are many reasons this fuse can blow. 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.

Tubes have a life span and can wear out over time. Power tubes 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. When EL34 power tubes are replaced in the Rock Head, they must be biased!

Park Amplification

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