

# The People's Amplifier User's Guide

Thank you for purchasing your People's Amplifier. With proper care, your amp should provide you with a lifetime of fantastic tube tone. However, tube amps do need to be handled properly. Here are a few tips to guarantee a long and happy life for you and your amplifier.

- 1) Under no circumstances should you or anyone else open the amplifier chassis. Tube amps use very large and powerful filtering capacitors, which can hold LETHAL voltages long after the amp has been turned off and unplugged. Seriously, these things can kill you. Besides that, if you're monkeying around in there, I have no idea what might have happened. If your amp stops working, just give me a call at 614-405-2300 or send me an e-mail to [kwohlwe@columbus.rr.com](mailto:kwohlwe@columbus.rr.com) I will fix it for you, as long as it hasn't been opened. By the way, I will know immediately whether it has been opened or not, so don't even try to lie about it.
- 2) Tubes are delicate, especially when they've been heated up. Try to keep the amplifier safe from undue shock. Treat it gently, the way you would treat your guitar when it's out of its case. Let the tubes cool down for a few minutes before you move it, especially when moving from environments with vastly different temperatures. If you are bringing it in from the cold, let it sit for a few minutes before turning it on.
- 3) When turning the amplifier on, turn on the power switch, wait at least 30 seconds, then turn on the standby switch. When turning the amplifier off, turn the power switch off first.
- 4) **Never, Ever, EVER** turn the amplifier on unless it is connected to an 8 ohm speaker. This can fry the output transformer. If you call me because your amp stopped working and send it to me with a blown output transformer, I will not fix it.
- 5) Plug the power cord into a standard 110v 3-hole outlet only. If you are using the amplifier outside of the US, make sure to use a proper converter. Never plug the amp into a two-prong converter. You could get shocked very badly and die.
- 6) Use only the specified tube types. This amp is designed to use two 12ax7 preamp tubes, two 6l84 power tubes, and an ez81 rectifier tube. It is clearly labeled which tubes go in which sockets. Using other types can seriously damage the amplifier circuitry and could be very unsafe. Don't do it, no matter what you've heard. While we're on the subject, don't be silly and pull power tubes. It's only an 18 watt amp anyway, and it won't work with only one power tube. Just leave it alone.
- 7) Under normal usage and with careful handling, your tubes should last a very long time. Pre-amp (12ax7) tubes almost never blow. Sometimes they become "microphonic", and you'll hear rattling sounds. After many many hours of use, especially if it's loud, power amp (6l84) tubes can wear out, not unlike a light bulb. You will notice a serious reduction in volume, or "cold" tone. If it's blown completely,

it won't glow, and there will be no sound. The rectifier (ez81) tube should last the life of the amp. If it goes bad, the amp might oscillate, making motorboat kinds of sounds, but it probably just won't work, and you might blow the fuse when you turn the standby switch on. Should you need to change the tubes, it's very simple. First make sure the tubes are cool. Those things get hot enough to burn you. Loosen the four thumbscrews on the underside of the amp. Four or five turns should allow them to drop from the inserts in the wooden legs, and they will hang freely from the bottom plate. There is no need to remove them completely. You should then lift the cage from the chassis, exposing the tubes. If you need to replace the pre-amp tubes, carefully remove the amp shield by turning and lifting. Pull the tube gently straight out of its socket, and push the replacement gently back into the socket. Notice where the gap in the pins is, so that you replace the new tube in the correct way. Do not force the tube into the socket. Make sure you replace the tube covers over the pre-amp tubes. They help to protect the tubes from radio frequencies. In most cases, only one tube will fail at a time. However, it is recommended, especially for the 6x4's, that you replace them in pairs. If one of the 12ax7's fail, it's not as critical that you change them both, but you might as well, while you're in there. If tubes are blowing frequently, it's a sign that something else is wrong. This is very rare. In most cases, the tubes are to blame for problems with tube amps. That's why they make them replaceable.

- 8) If you turn the amp on and nothing happens, see if the tubes are glowing. If they are not, chances are you've blown a fuse. The fuse is located in a drawer in the bottom of the power receptacle on the back panel. Use a screwdriver to pop it out and inspect the fuse. You will be able to see if the fuse is blown - it looks like a broken wire, and often has burn marks. Replace the fuse only with a 2 amp slow-blow type fuse. There is a replacement stored in the drawer. If the fuse blows repeatedly, it's a sign of a bigger problem. Call me or send an e-mail.
- 9) The amp cabinet is crafted from solid poplar and expanded steel sheet, painted with a durable satin finish. It is very durable and is designed to protect the tubes. That being said, it won't withstand much brutality without showing signs of wear, and the cage might warp if you put anything really heavy on top of it. You might want to think about putting it in a road case if you're going to throw it around or stack a bunch of gear on top of it.

I am not responsible for any injury or death which might result from use of the People's Amplifier. You're safe, as long as you don't do anything stupid like open up the chassis, use a two-prong plug, or defeat the fuse. I'm also not responsible if you hit yourself in the head with it.