SONICTONE AMPLIFICATION®

'67 Special

Vintage Series

50-Watt Fixed-Biased
Tube Amplifier Head, 1x12 Combo,
2x12 Combo or 4x10 Combo

Owner's Manual

www.sonictoneamps.com
Made in the USA

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Safety Instructions 3

Features 4

Front Panel 5

Rear Panel 6

Warranty 7

Sample Settings 8

Specifications 9

SONICTONE AMPLIFICATION®

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Introduction

I'd like to personally thank you for purchasing the SonicTone '67 Special tube amplifier. I know how important every player's tone is to them and that consideration goes into every amp. Carefully designed and hand-built here in the U.S., the '67 Special is an homage to that classic British rock sound from the late 1960's that carried through the 1970's. From early break-up crunches to rich overdrive, this amp will deliver some fantastic tones for you to use when playing live or in the studio. Good luck and enjoy the amp!

Sincerely,

Nick Sagona

Safety Instructions

1. Always use the correct types of tubes for this amplifier.
2. Always match the impedance to correct value of the speaker load.
3. Do not attempt to bypass the fuses or use different fuse values.
4. Please only use the provided SonicTone footswitch, which is compatible with this amplifier.
5. Please only use an active 5-pin DIN cable to connect the footswitch to the amplifier.
6. Please operate the amplifier in dry and safe conditions.
7. Please store the amplifier in a reasonable, climate-controlled environment.
8. Prolonged exposure to high sound levels may cause permanent hearing loss. Please take the necessary precautions. See page 5 for more information.
9. If you are experiencing issues with the amplifier, please have it worked on by a qualified service technician only. Do not attempt to open the amp and work on it yourself.

WARNING!

Dangerous and potentially lethal voltages may be present in the amplifier even after it has been turned off and unplugged. Do not open the amp yourself or touch the inside of it. Only have a qualified service technician open up and work on the amplifier.

Features

The ‘67 Special is a 50-watt fixed-biased tube amplifier that uses three (3) 12AX7 preamp tubes, one (1) GZ34 rectifier tube, and two (2) octal power tubes (either EL34 or KT66). The features include:

- 2 channels with independent parallel gain control (footswitchable)
- Shared 3-band EQ with presence
- Master volume
- A bright switch on channel 1
- A clean/crunch switch
- Buffered FX loop, bypassable
- Tube/solid-state rectifier switch
- Negative feedback selector switch
- 3-way output impedance switch (16, 8 or 4 ohm)
- 2-button footswitch
- Birch plywood cabinet with finger-jointed construction

Independent Parallel Gain Structure:

The independent parallel gain structure between channels 1 and 2 offers a unique voicing between the channels. It is fashioned after the design of vintage multi-channel amplifiers with multiple input jacks. In those designs, the channels could be run separately, or they could be “linked” together with a patch cable which that would produce more gain. The ‘67 Special’s design eliminates the need for multiple input jacks and patch cables and allows you to control the mixing of the 2 channels via the footswitch or front panel switches.

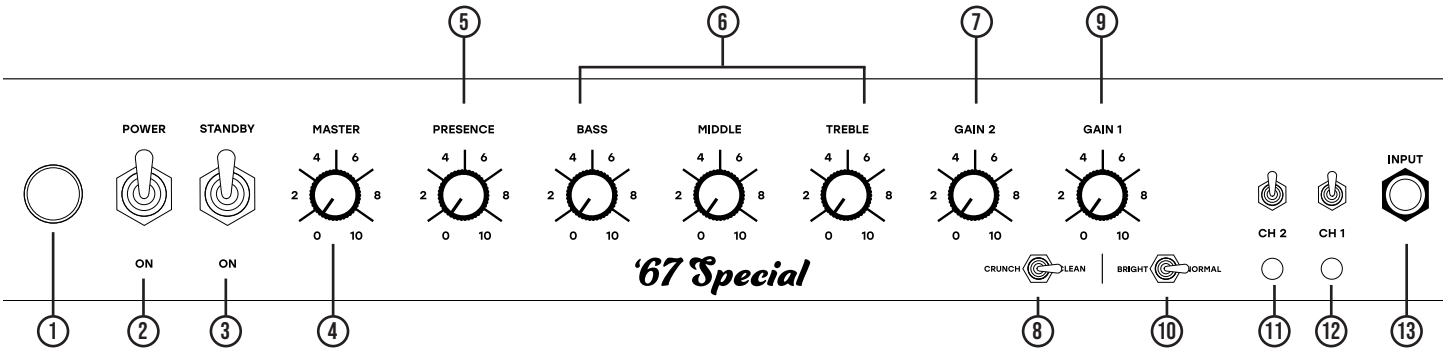
Tube/Solid-State Rectifier Switch:

The tube/solid-state rectifier switch is another interesting feature that can give you a subtle tonal option. When set to the tube rectifier, the amp will produce a slightly more vintage sound, where there is a little more compression and sag with the sound. Some players prefer this, saying that it gives the amp a more vocal and spongy sound and that the notes have a nice “touch” or “bloom” to them. However, if that’s not your preference, switching to the solid-state rectifier will give the amp a slightly more aggressive sound with a more firm and immediate response.

Footswitch Operation:

The footswitch requires the active 5-pin DIN cable to be inserted into the footswitch jack on the rear panel as well as the jack on the footswitch. In order for the footswitch to operate correctly, the switches on amp must be set to the OFF position. The orange LED button engages channel 1. The red LED button engages channel 2. Both can be engaged at the same time for a blend of gain from both channels. Both can be turned off at the same time which will mute the amplifier.

Front Panel

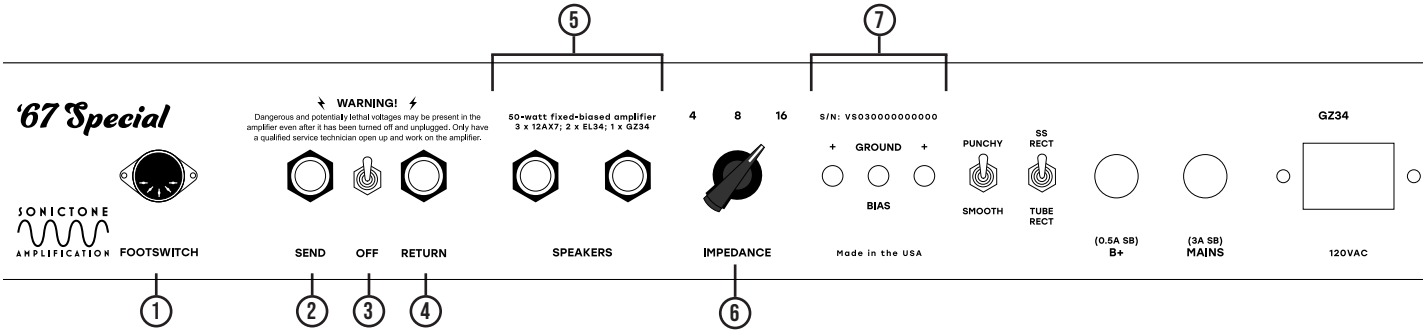


1. **Pilot Light** – illuminates when the amp is turned on.
2. **Power Switch** – turns the amp on.
3. **Standby Switch** – allows the amp to be played. When the standby is off, the tubes are kept warm, but the amp will not make any sound.
4. **Master** – the overall master volume of the amp.
5. **Presence** – active tonal control that can be used to brighten up the amp's overall sound.
6. **Bass, Middle and Treble** – passive equalization controls to adjust the tone of the amp.
7. **Gain 2** – control to adjust the amount of gain on channel 2 (the brighter channel.)
8. **Clean/Crunch Switch** – switch to engage more overall gain in the amp.
9. **Gain 1** – control to adjust the amount of gain on channel 1 (the darker channel.)
10. **Bright Switch** – switch to engage a slightly brighter tone for channel 1.
11. **CH 2 Switch & LED** – switch to engage channel 2 in the mix. The LED illuminates when channel 2 is engaged. (The switch must be set to OFF for the footswitch to operate.)
12. **CH 1 Switch & LED** – switch to engage channel 1 in the mix. The LED illuminates when channel 1 is engaged. (The switch must be set to OFF for the footswitch to operate.)
13. **Input Jack** – mono input jack to plug your guitar into.

! HIGH SOUND LEVEL WARNING !

Guitar amplifiers produce extremely high sound levels. Any prolonged exposure to high sound levels may cause permanent hearing loss. Please take care to use proper hearing protection when operating and playing through a SonicTone amplifier. For more information on exposure to extreme sound levels and its effects, please visit the **OSHA website here**.

Rear Panel



1. **Footswitch Jack** – 5-pin DIN jack to plug the provided footswitch cable into.

2. **FX Loop Send Jack** – mono input jack for the FX loop send signal.

3. **FX Loop Bypass Switch** – switch to fully bypass the FX loop circuit.

4. **FX Loop Return Jack** – mono input jack for the FX loop return signal.

5. **Parallel Speaker Jacks** – mono input jacks to plug the speaker(s) into. PLEASE NOTE: The jacks are in parallel, so if you plug two equal impedance speaker loads into them, you must set the impedance switch to half their impedance. For example, with two 16 ohm speaker loads plugged in, the impedance switch should be set to 8 ohms.

6. **Impedance Selector Switch** – switch to select the correct impedance of the speaker load hooked up to the amp.

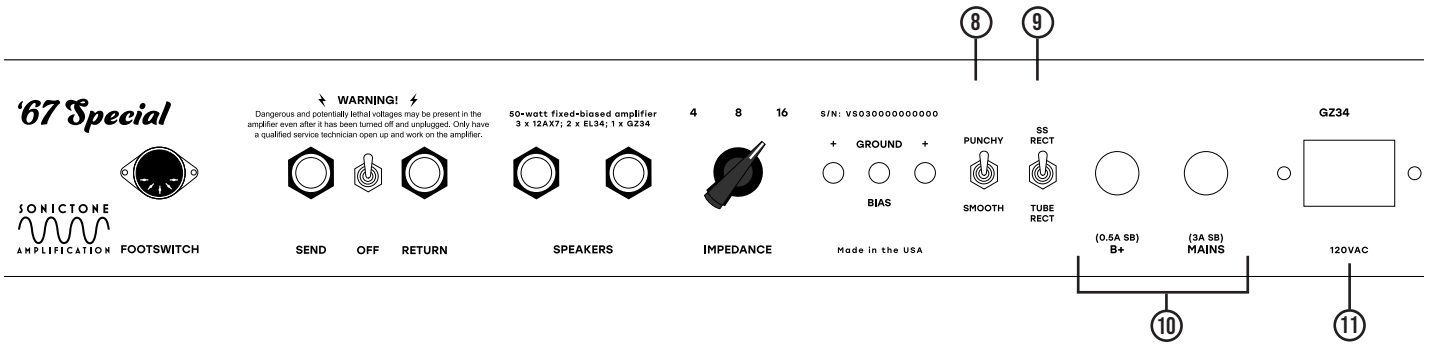
7. **Bias Probes** – test jacks to check the approximate bias point of each power tube in millivolts (mV).*

A note about the FX Loop – When the FX loop is off (bypassed), the entire signal will bypass the FX loop circuit altogether. However, the send and return jacks are switched jacks that are connected together internally when nothing is plugged into them. Therefore, when the FX loop is on, signal will be allowed to pass through the FX loop even if nothing is plugged into it.

***Important Note About Biasing:**
The value given at the bias probes represents the voltage drop across an internal 1 ohm resistor attached to the cathode of each power tube. Using Ohm's law (V = IR), the value in millivolts (mV) can easily be converted to milliamps (mA) to get the approximate cathode current. For example, a reading of 40mV would equal 40mA. Power tube cathode current can act as a set point for adjusting the amplifier's bias. This is only an approximation to guide you in checking and setting the bias of the amp, as other factors go into calculating an amp's bias, such as the available plate voltage and max plate dissipation of the power tubes. Before leaving the shop, all SonicTone amplifiers are biased by measuring the plate voltage and plate current, and using those values to properly set the plate dissipation of the power tubes at idle.

The bias pot is located on the top of the amp chassis near the power tubes. As always, please have a qualified technician service the amp and set the bias accordingly. When biasing the amp, all measurements should be performed with the amplifier warmed, set to play mode and with all controls set to zero.

Rear Panel *(continued)*



8. **Punchy/Smooth Switch** – switch to change the amount of negative feedback injected into the amp. The "punchy" setting has less NFB and is more aggressive sounding. The "smooth" setting has more NFB and is less aggressive sounding.

9. **Solid State/Tube Rectifier Switch** – switch to change between using the tube rectifier or the solid state rectifier. Using the tube rectifier will produce more of a vintage sound which is more compressed and spongy. Using the solid-state rectifier, the sound will be more firm and aggressive.

10. **Fuse Holders** – receptacle for the amp's fuses.

11. **AC Jack** – jack to plug the provided AC cord into.

2-Year Limited Warranty

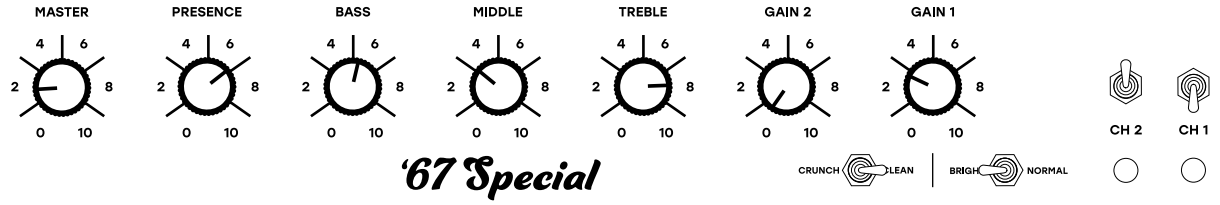
This amplifier is protected with a limited, 2-year warranty for any and all defective issues with the build workmanship and parts, excluding tubes, transformers and speakers. The warranty does not cover general wear and tear, neglect, misuse or abuse, damage from liquids (water, alcohol, etc.), disasters, acts of God or unauthorized modifications. Any modifications made to the amp by the owner or a technician will void the warranty. The owner is responsible for all warranty shipping costs. Once the warranty work is completed, the customer will be notified and sent a final shipping invoice. The owner then is required to pay the shipping invoice to have the repaired amp shipped back to them. Returned warranty shipping will be insured and will require a signature.

! NOTICE !

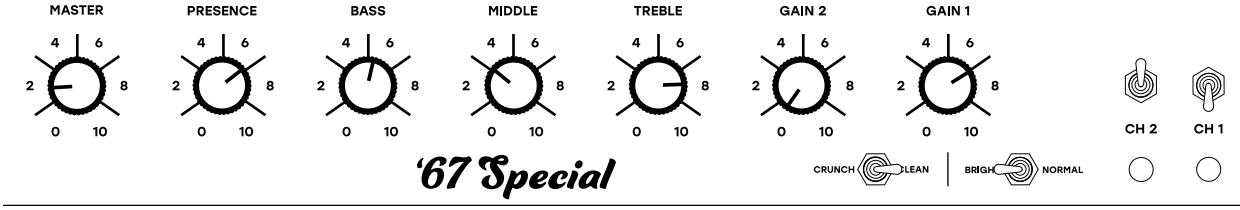
Tube amplifiers are voltage-sensitive devices that require a certain amount of AC input voltage (VAC.) If the provided input voltage is too low, the amplifier may not function properly. If the provided input voltage too high, it may damage the amplifier. Please take care to ensure that the correct AC input voltage is provided to the amplifier. See the **specifications** section of this manual for more info.

Sample Settings

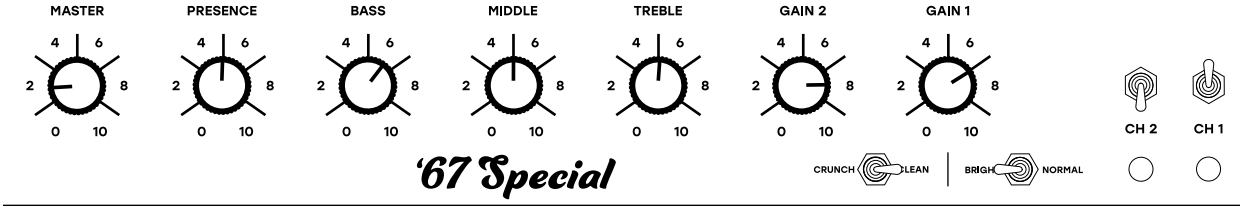
Channel 1 - Warm Clean:



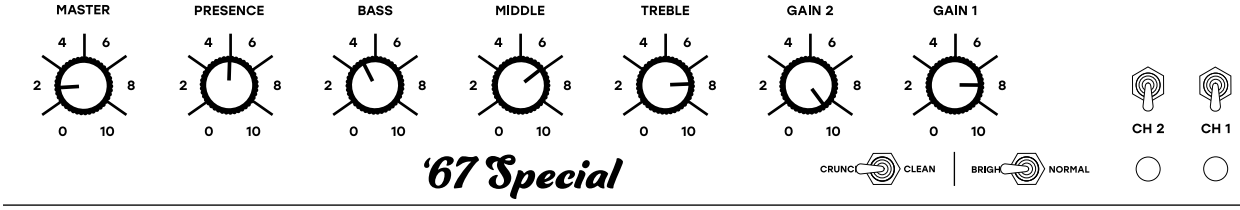
Channel 1 - Edge of Breakup:



Channel 2 - British Blues:

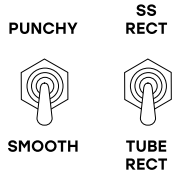


Channel 1 + 2 - Classic Rock:



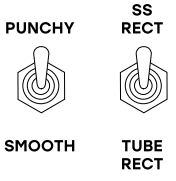
'60's Setting (Smooth + Tube Rect):

Gives the amp a sound that's more well-rounded and compressed.



'70's Setting (Punchy + SS Rect):

Gives the amp a sound that's more aggressive and tight.



Specifications

Product Series: Vintage Series

Product Model: ‘67 Special Head, 1x12 Combo, 2x12 Combo or 4x10 Combo

AC Input & Fuses:

- Standard IEC jack for U.S. 120VAC
- 3A slo-blo mains fuse for U.S. 120VAC
- 0.5A slo-blo high voltage (B+) fuse

Tubes:

- Three (3) 12AX7 preamp tubes
- Two (2) octal power tubes (either EL34 or KT66)
- One (1) GZ34 rectifier tube

Power Output:

- 50W @ 16, 8 or 4 ohms

Speakers:

- Choice of 12-inch Celestion or Jensen speakers, in either ceramic or Alnico (1x12 or 2x12 combo)
- Choice of 10-inch Celestion or Jensen speakers, in either ceramic or Alnico (4x10 combo)
- Choice of 16 ohm or 8 ohm wiring

Footswitch:

- 2-button SonicTone footswitch
- 5-pin active DIN cable required for proper operation

Dimensions:

Head

- Width: 24 in
- Height: 10.75 in
- Depth: 9 in
- Weight: 31 lbs

1x12 Combo

- Width: 24 in
- Height: 20.75 in
- Depth: 10 in
- Weight: 51.0 lbs

2x12 Combo

- Width: 30 in
- Height: 20.75 in
- Depth: 10 in
- Weight: 55.0 lbs

4x10 Combo

- Width: 24 in
- Height: 24.75 in
- Depth: 12 in
- Weight: 55.0 lbs

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