

Mephisto user Manual

The Mephisto is a new design concept. Instead of a traditional channel switching amplifier the Mephisto has two independent amplifiers housed in one chassis with a common in- and outputs. Both amplifiers have their own sound and the foot controller can switch between them or run them in parallel at the same time for a uniquely new voice.

Both amplifiers share a common Hi and Lo gain input, from there the signal gets routed to the amplifiers with each having their own independent preamp, phase inverter and power-amp which feeds the signal into one output transformer. This is only possible with tube types of very similar output impedance which is the case with 6V6 and EL84 tubes.

The 6V6 amplifier has the qualities and sounds of the 50's tweed amps while the EL84 has the pentode preamp based 60's British flavor.

- **6V** - 50's American
- 2x 6V6 12W Class A cathode biased power amp
- JJ ECC83s single triode 1st gain stage
- JJ ECC83s 2nd gain stage and cathodyne phase inverter
- Volume and Tone controls
- 2 position Notch switch with blackface mode

- **84** - 60's British
- 2x EL84 18W Class A cathode biased power amp
- NOS 5879 pentode gain stage
- JJ 5751 long-tailed phase inverter
- Volume and Schizo 6 position rotary voice control
- 3 position voice switch

Common features:

- High and Low gain input
- 5Y3 tube rectifier (5AR4/GZ34 can also be used)
- 20W in parallel mode
- Variable power attenuator, footswitch-able
- Single 8 ohm speaker out
- Functions on footswitch: 6V6 or EL84, 6V6 and EL84 parallel mode, power attenuator
- Head or 1x12 open back combo with Celestion G12H 8 ohm
- Pine cabinet with baltic birch floating baffle
- Unique retro design in black comet with classic salt & pepper grill

Inputs

The H high and L low inputs function just like on most traditional amplifiers: H is loudest and L is slightly attenuated. Depending on the output level of your guitar pickups you may prefer one input over the other.

84 Rotary Body Control

The Body control sets the overall gain and tone structure and allows you to re-shape the voicing of your guitars. The first position is heavily frequency attenuated for a mid scooped clean voicing which is much lower in volume in comparison to the other positions. To make up the level increase the volume control. The other 5 positions are pure signal and gradually increase in gain, bass and highs.

84 Voice Toggle Switch

This 3 position switch will give you the option to find the right openness for your guitar. Each position can be seen as a combination of a bright switch and the commonly known class A cut circuit. The – position will give you tamed highs, the + position normal brightness while the ++ position is chimey, bright and open sounding.

84 Volume Control

The Volume control sets the loudness. With the 84 rotary control in the first mid scoop position you will find you need to turn the Volume up quite a bit, this is normal.

6V Tone Control

The Tone control works over the entire frequency spectrum and is not just adding treble or bass like a traditional tone control. It also affects the gain and when turned up you can dial in a more aggressive tone. It is extremely flexible and usable throughout the entire range.

6V Notch Switch

With the switch toggled to the left you have a blackface mid scoop attenuation while set to the right you have the traditional fuller 50's tweed.

6V Volume Control

The Volume control sets the loudness. The cool thing about these tweed types of amps is their ability to be much more touch sensitive and dynamic on the gain, or breakup, than the volume. You can control the gain breakup with your right hand's pick attack while the overall volume is not so much affected. In other words it cleans up nicely with a soft touch on your strings while the volume remains close to the max. So common use is often to set these amps fairly dirty and work the guitar with your playing attack.

Power Attenuator Control

The power attenuator works with both amplifiers and is foot-switchable. Unlike a master volume the attenuator is there to retain the qualities of a cranked power-amp at low volumes. It gives you the option to dial in a level of gain breakup and then adjust the over-all volume for the environment you play in. Another option is to use the attenuated sound as your regular volume and then turn the attenuator off to have a louder setting for solos. It is not intended to switch from extreme settings; in that case you may have a slight swelling of the volume until the internal circuit has stabilized.

Foot Controller

The foot controller has two ¼ plugs, please notice one is a mono: sleeve and tip, the other is stereo: sleeve, ring and tip. The mono plug is for the attenuator and gets plugged into the ATT jack located on the bottom panel. The stereo plug is for the amp switching and the 84/6V jack is located on the bottom panel next to the attenuator jack. If you stand over the amp from the front the 84/6V jack is on the left and the ATT jack is on the right hand side. With the 84/6V center footswitch you can switch between the amplifiers while the footswitch on the left combines both in parallel at the same time. This gives you 3 different sounds just via the two switches and a fourth with the attenuator.

DIMENSIONS and WEIGHTS: Are subject to change anytime, Please measure *your* amp carefully if a Custom Case is being made. **Add ¼ inch for each, handle and rubber feet.**

Head:	10.50" H	20.75" W	8.25" D	32 pounds
1x12 Combo:	17.50" H	23" W	9.50" D	46 pounds

Troubleshooting

Make sure you read and understand the safety instructions!! Repairs should be done only by knowledgeable Technicians!! Always make sure your Cables, Guitars, Effects and Extension Cabinets are working and hooked up correctly. If you think something is wrong with your Amp, play straight into the Amp with nothing else hooked up other than a Guitar. That way you make sure it is the Amp. If you own a combo unplug the internal speaker and hook up an external speaker cabinet to make sure it's only the amp which is faulty. For noise check the appropriate preamp tubes (refer to f). Tubes are delicate and have a limited live span depending on operating time, temperature and mechanical influences. 99% of all sound and noise problems come from preamp tube failure. We let our amps run for at least two days before we ship them to make sure that the tubes work properly but since they have glass housing and delicate little plates inside them it happened that they got damaged during shipping. Please don't feel discouraged. We don't manufacture tubes and can only retest them to make sure they're okay.

Fuses

To check the fuses, use an Ohmmeter to make sure they're blown because sometimes you can't see if they're blown. Only 3GA types are used.

The Main fuse for the Mephisto should be 2A slow blow.

The HT fuse should be 500mA slow blow.

The HT fuse blows usually if your power tubes are bad to protect the power amp circuit from getting damaged. If the Main fuse blows it could be just a voltage peak from your power outlet. Put a new one in and see what happens. If it blows again give us a call.

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