

Owners Guide for the



SVP-PRO

Bass Preamp



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Important Safeguards and Precautions:

All Ampeg products are designed for continuous safe operation, as long as common sense is used and steps are taken to help avoid certain problems. Abiding by the following rules can help prevent damage to your preamp, yourself and others.

- The preamp is equipped with a three-pronged AC power cord. To reduce the risk of electrical shock, **NEVER** remove or otherwise attempt to defeat the ground pin of the power cord.
- Connect the preamp **ONLY** to a properly grounded AC outlet of the proper voltage for your preamp.
- Avoid sudden temperature extremes, rain and moisture. Also, avoid sudden and intense impact. (If the preamp has been subjected to any of the preceding abuses, have it looked at by an authorized service center.)
- Unplug the preamp before cleaning it. **NEVER** spray liquid cleaners onto the preamp. Wipe it with a slightly dampened, lint-free cloth to remove dirt and film.
- Don't use the preamp if it has sustained damage to the chassis, controls, or power cord. Refer the unit to an authorized service center for inspection.
- **NOTE:** Amplifiers capable of producing high volume levels are also capable of inflicting permanent hearing loss or damage, if the exposure to such levels is prolonged. Such damage is progressive and irreversible! **Caution is advised and ear protection is recommended when playing at extremely loud levels.**

The chart below shows the U.S. Government Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations which were in effect at the time of this publication for permissible noise exposure, per 29CFR1910, Table G-16.

SOUND LEVEL dBA SLOW RESPONSE	DURATION PER DAY IN HOURS	SOUND LEVEL dBA SLOW RESPONSE	DURATION PER DAY IN HOURS
90	8	102	1-1/2
92	6	105	1
95	4	110	1/2
97	3	115	1/4 or less
100	2		

According to OSHA, any exposure in excess of those listed above could result in some hearing loss.

 CAUTION <small>RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN</small> 	 ATTENTION <small>RISQUE D'ELECTROCUTION NE PAS OUVRIR</small> 	 VORSICHT <small>ELEKTRISCHE SCHLAGEGFAHR NICHT OFFENEN</small>
<small>CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.</small>	<small>ATTENTION: POUR REDUIRE D'ELECTROCUTION NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE. AUCUNE PIECE INTERNE N'EST REPRABLE PAR L'UTILISATEUR. POUR TOUTE REPARATION, S'ADRESSER A UN TECHNICIEN QUALIFIE.</small>	<small>VORSICHT: ZUR MINIMIERUNG ELEKTRISCHER SCHLAGEGFAHR NICHT DEN DECKEL ABENHMEN. INTERNE TEILE KÖNNEN NICHT VOM BENUTZER GEWARTET WERDEN. DIE WARTUNG IS QUALIFIZIERTEM WARTUNGSPERSONAL ZU ÜBERLASSEN.</small>
<small>THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND ENGINEERED TO PROVIDE SAFE AND RELIABLE OPERATION. IN ORDER TO PROLONG THE LIFE OF THE UNIT AND PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DAMAGES OR INJURY, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONARY GUIDELINES: WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT OPEN CHASSIS; DO NOT DEFEAT OR REMOVE THE GROUND PIN OF THE POWER CORD; CONNECT ONLY TO A PROPERLY GROUNDED AC POWER OUTLET. CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. CAUTION: NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL. CAUTION: OUR AMPLIFIERS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS. CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT OR LOSS. USER CAUTION IS ADVISED AND EAR PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDED IF UNIT IS OPERATED AT HIGH VOLUME.</small>		
<small>EXPLANATION OF GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS:</small> = "DANGEROUS VOLTAGE" "HAUT TENSION" "GEFAHRLICHE SPANNUNG"		
<small>"IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE USER TO REFER TO THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL" "REFERREZ-VOUS AU MANUAL D'UTILISATION" "UNBEDINGT IN DER BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG NACHSCHLAGEN"</small>		



An Introduction to your new Ampeg SVP-PRO Bass Preamp

The harmonically rich sound and legendary performance of the AMPEG SVT are redefined in the SVP-PRO. This dynamic preamp delivers unsurpassed quality, reliability and tonal flexibility and offers the classic vibrancy of tubes. The SVP-PRO is the preamp section of our much-respected SVT-2 PRO. All of the features and controls of your SVP-PRO are covered in detail in this owner's guide. We recommend that you read it before you use the preamp.

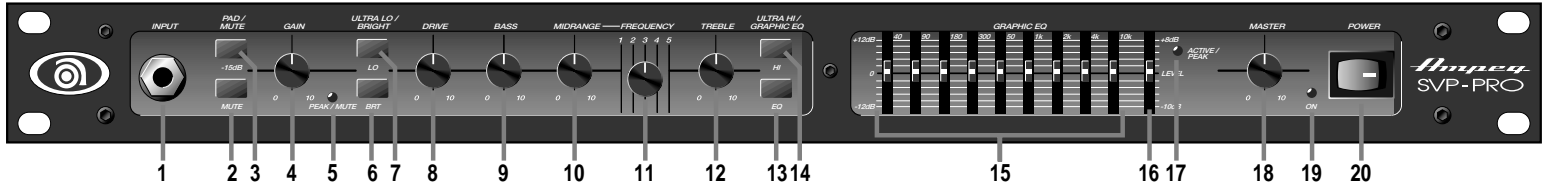
Features

In the world of high performance bass amps, Ampeg's SVT amplifiers stand alone. Keeping with true Ampeg tradition, the SVP-PRO Bass Preamp offers you more performance and flexibility than any other preamp in its class. Listed below are some of the outstanding features of your new preamp - features which set it apart from the competition! Additional information on these features can be found on the pages indicated.

- **PAD:** A switchable input pad, this feature is perfect for basses with active electronics or very "hot" pickups (page 4)
- **MUTE SWITCH:** Allows you to tune your bass in private (page 4)
- **ULTRA LOW, ULTRA HIGH AND BRIGHT SWITCHES:** Lets you tailor the sound to suit your tastes "with the touch of a button" (page 4)
- **5-POSITION MIDRANGE SELECTOR:** Five center frequency points are available to get just the right midrange voice (page 4)
- **9-BAND GRAPHIC EQ:** Shapes the sound to your own exacting standards (or use it as a "second channel" for bass solos). An independent level control lets you adjust the Graphic EQ volume. Switchable at front panel or with a footswitch (page 4)
- **TRANSFORMER BALANCED OUT:** Electrically isolate your system from the PA or recording mixer to eliminate ground loop hum



The Front Panel Controls and Their Use



1. INPUT: The signal output from an instrument (active or passive) or a line level signal may be connected to this jack by means of a shielded instrument cable.

2. MUTE: This switch, when depressed, mutes the signal at the the Preamp Out, Effects Send and Transformer Bal. Out jacks (24, 26, 29). The signal is not affected at the Tuner Out jack (27), allowing “silent tuning.”

3. PAD: This switch, when depressed, attenuates the input signal by 15dB. Attenuation allows the Gain control (4) to be used in a more usable (higher) position. If clipping is indicated with the Gain control way down, attenuation is needed.

4. GAIN: This control, along with the Pad switch (3), adjusts the level of the signal at the beginning of the preamp. To get the best signal to noise ratio, adjust this control until the Peak/Mute LED (5) flashes on the loudest passages.

5. PEAK/MUTE LED: This LED flashes when the signal level into the preamp (excluding the Graphic EQ) approaches clipping. When the Mute switch (2) is depressed, this LED stays on, indicating that the Mute function is active.

6. BRIGHT: This switch, when depressed, boosts the upper mid and high frequencies.

7. ULTRA LO: This switch, when depressed, provides emphasis to the low end by boosting the low frequencies and cutting the mid frequencies.

8. DRIVE: This control is used to overdrive the preamp in order to get various distortion sounds. In the fully counter-clockwise position the preamp is in the cleanest, traditional SVT condition. As the control is rotated clockwise, signal level is increased to drive the preamp harder (into distortion). The tone of the signal is also changed to provide a smoother overdrive. The tone controls may have to be readjusted to obtain the overall desired tone. The Gain control (4) and Pad (3) interact with the Drive control. For greater overdrive, the attenuator switch should be out and the Drive control full clockwise. Use the Gain control to set the amount of overdrive desired. The Peak/Mute LED (5) will glow a steady red when the amp is used in this manner.

9. BASS: This is the primary low frequency control. It allows for 12dB of cut or boost at 40Hz.

10. MIDRANGE: This is the primary midrange control. It allows for 15dB of cut or 12dB of boost at the center frequency selected by the Frequency control (11).

11. FREQUENCY: Allows you to select the center frequency for the Midrange control (10), giving you a choice of five “voices” for the Midrange. The center frequencies are (from left to right) 220Hz, 450Hz, 800Hz, 1.6kHz, and 3kHz.

12. TREBLE: This is the primary high frequency control. It allows for 12dB cut or boost at 4kHz.

13. GRAPHIC EQ: This switch places the Graphic EQ circuitry in or out of the signal path. The switch must be depressed for the Graphic EQ footswitch to function. In the OUT position, there is no solid state circuitry in the signal path from input to preamp out (in other words, the signal is “pure tubes”).

14. ULTRA HI: This switch boosts the frequencies above those affected by the Bright switch (6).

15. EQ FREQUENCY SLIDERS: These sliders control the Graphic EQ section at the frequencies indicated above each slider.

16. EQ LEVEL: This adjusts the level of the signal to compensate for boosts or cuts, or to obtain a desired level change when using the Graphic EQ.

17. EQ ACTIVE/PEAK LED: This LED glows yellow when the EQ section is enabled by the proper combination of Graphic EQ switch (13) and Footswitch jack (23). The LED momentarily turns off whenever the signal gets close to clipping.

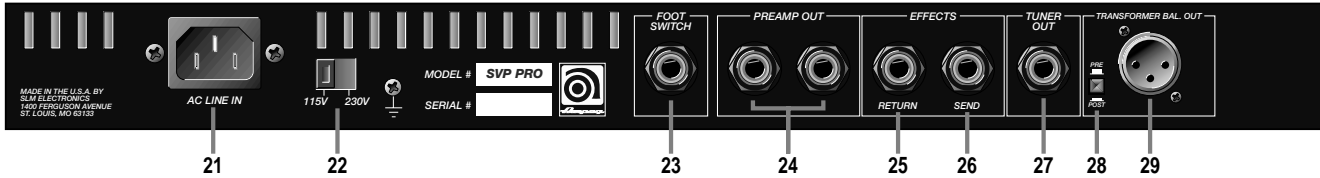
18. MASTER: This controls the signal level to the Preamp Out Jacks (24).

19. POWER INDICATOR LED: This LED glows green when the preamp is on.

20. POWER: This switch supplies AC power to the unit.



The Rear Panel



21. AC LINE IN: Firmly insert the supplied AC power cord into this socket until it is fully seated. Plug the male end of the cord into a grounded AC outlet. **DO NOT DEFEAT THE GROUND PRONG OF THE AC PLUG!**

22. AC LINE SELECTOR: This switch selects the proper AC line voltage to match the preamp to the available AC mains. Make sure it is in the proper position.

23. FOOTSWITCH: This is a stereo jack which will operate with a standard dual footswitch. The tip of the plug controls the Mute operation, the ring controls the Graphic EQ operation, and the sleeve acts as a ground common to both. With the footswitch inserted, both the front panel and the footswitch Mute switches are active. *The front panel Graphic EQ switch (13) must be depressed for the Graphic EQ footswitch to operate.*

24. PREAMP OUTS: These jacks carry the post-Master (18) signal. This signal is the main output which can be used to feed an external power amplifier, mixing console, or house PA system.

25. EFFECTS LOOP RETURN: This is a pre-Master (18) patch point return jack. It breaks the path through the preamp. When using an external signal processor, connect this jack to the OUTPUT of the processor by means of a shielded instrument cable.

26. EFFECTS LOOP SEND: This is a post-EQ, pre-Master (18) patch point send jack. It does not break the path through the preamp. When using an external signal processor, connect this jack to the INPUT of the processor by means of a shielded instrument cable.

27. TUNER OUT: This jack is a direct output from the instrument. It is the only output that stays active when the Mute switch is depressed.

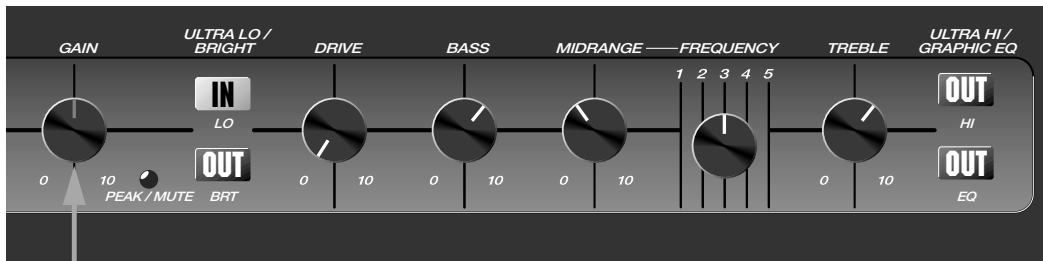
28. PRE/POST: This switch selects a direct out from the bass (Pre) in the OUT position and the preamp signal just before the Master (18) (Post) in the depressed position. The selected signal is sent to the Balanced Out jack (29).

29. TRANSFORMER-BALANCED OUT: This XLR-type jack is the output for the signal selected by the Pre/Post switch (28). This signal can be used to feed an external power amplifier, mixing console, or house PA system.



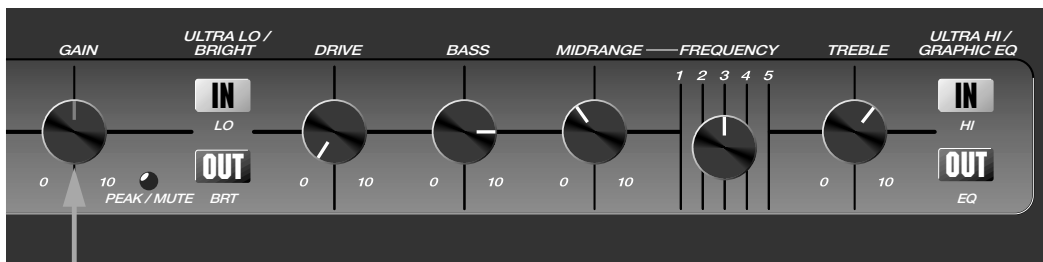
Some Suggested Settings*

JAZZ:



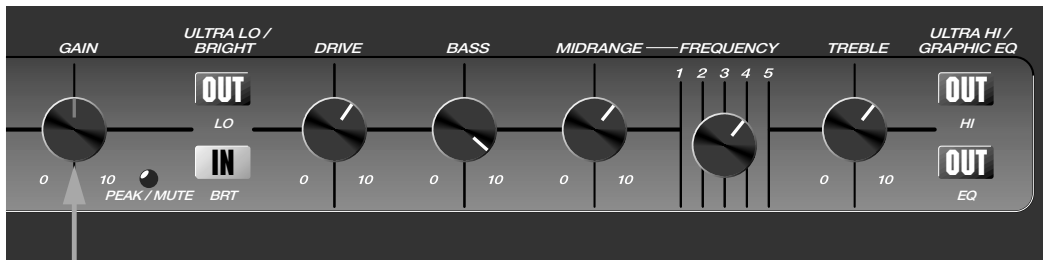
ADJUST UNTIL **PEAK LED FLASHES**

FUNK:



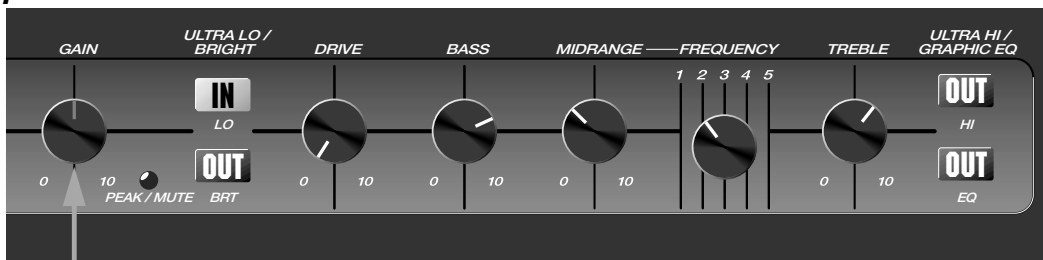
ADJUST UNTIL **PEAK LED FLASHES**

ROCK:



ADJUST UNTIL **PEAK LED FLASHES**

COUNTRY:



ADJUST UNTIL **PEAK LED FLASHES**

*A Note About The Graphic EQ:

The Graphic EQ can be used in two ways:

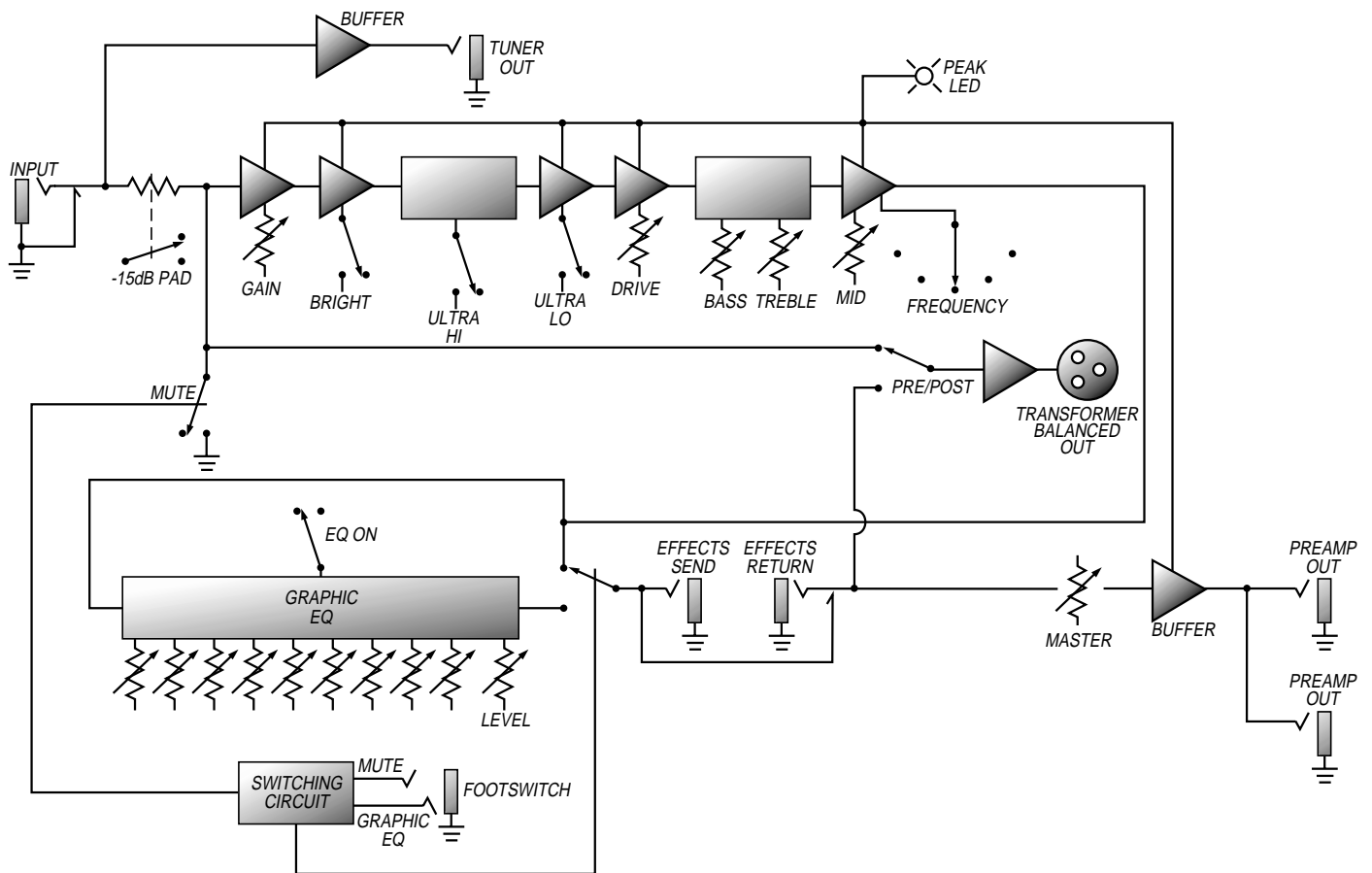
- 1) To fine tune your sound, make small adjustments at the desired frequencies and leave the EQ on throughout the entire session. (This is great for adapting to varying room acoustics when going from club to club, etc.);
- 2) For a completely different sound, make larger adjustments and only activate the EQ when you want a "second channel" sound (such as during bass solos).



Changing the Tubes

The performance characteristics of tubes are degraded in direct proportion to how often and under what conditions the amplifier is used. Preamp tubes typically last longer than power tubes. When a preamp tube wears out, the preamp may squeal, get noisy, lose gain and sensitivity, or just quit working. A service center can determine which tube(s) may need replacing. To gain access to the tubes in the SVP-PRO, the top must be removed. **Tube replacement should only be performed by a qualified service person.**

System Block Diagram





SVP-PRO Bass Preamp

Technical Specifications

TOTAL SYSTEM GAIN	76dB, @ 1kHz w/levels up, tones flat; -3dB @ 30Hz, 15kHz
TONE CONTROL RANGE	
Bass:	±12dB @ 40Hz
Midrange:	+12dB, -15dB @ Frequency selected (220, 450, 800, 1.6k or 3kHz)
Treble:	±12dB @ 4kHz
Ultra Low:	+3dB @ 40Hz, -12dB @ 500Hz
Ultra High:	+8dB @ 8kHz
Bright:	+7dB @ 2kHz
GRAPHIC EQ RANGE	±12dB @ 40Hz, 90Hz, 180Hz, 300Hz, 500Hz, 1kHz, 2kHz, 4kHz, 10kHz
GRAPHIC EQ LEVEL	+8dB, -10dB
SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO	80dB typical
TUBE COMPLEMENT	12AX7 (4), 12AU7 (1)
POWER REQUIREMENTS	
Domestic:	120VAC, 60Hz, 28VA
Export:	100/115VAC 50/60Hz, 28VA 230VAC, 50/60Hz, 28VA
SIZE AND WEIGHT	19"W x 1.75"H x 10"D; 9 lbs

Ampeg reserves the right to change specifications without notice.



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