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A Desktop Reference Of Hip Vintage Guitar Amps



Synopsis

(Book). If you have questions about guitar amplifiers-how to fix them, how to restore them, or how to hot-rod them-this book has the answer. This book is written for the guitarist or collector who desires a common sense approach to understanding the essence of vintage tube amps and vintage tube tone. Not written for engineers, it does not contain engineering formulas, polar mathematic equations, or abbreviations that are assumed you should know. Gerald Weber, a regular columnist for Vintage Guitar magazine, shares the knowledge he has accumulated over the years of repairing and building his line of Kendrick amps.

Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Kendrick Books (January 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0964106000

ISBN-13: 978-0964106000

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

This is an interesting book, but it is not, as it calls itself, "a desktop reference of hip vintage guitar amps," unless the definition of "hip" is made so subjective as to be meaningless. The only amps regarding which this book could be considered a reference are a handful of old Fenders---one brand, and not even all of them. In fact, it only mentions Marshall amps occasionally, and there is practically nothing about Vox, or Ampeg, or Silvertone, much less any of the less-common vintage amps. With a title like this, I expected a book that one could leaf through and learn about vintage amps. This is not that book. But that's not to say this book doesn't have its good points. The author was an amplifier repairman and builder for many years, and he shares a lot of insights and tricks that I have not seen elsewhere. Most of the information in the book is aimed at, and of greatest use to, somebody who builds, refurbishes or repairs amplifiers, and there are a lot of hobbyists in that

category (like me), and not a lot of resources available to them, so this book definitely can be an asset. But again, from the title, it is far from clear that it's for that audience. And, while Weber was a knowledgeable amp builder, he's not really a writer, and whoever edited this book for the publisher didn't really do much of a job---it's disjointed, and while it contains a lot of good information, it's not really organized. One chunk of the book is reprints of Trainwreck newsletters, presented without any context. And almost half the book is reprinted schematics, most for amps not even mentioned elsewhere in the book. In this book, they are padding, adding heft but not much useful information.

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