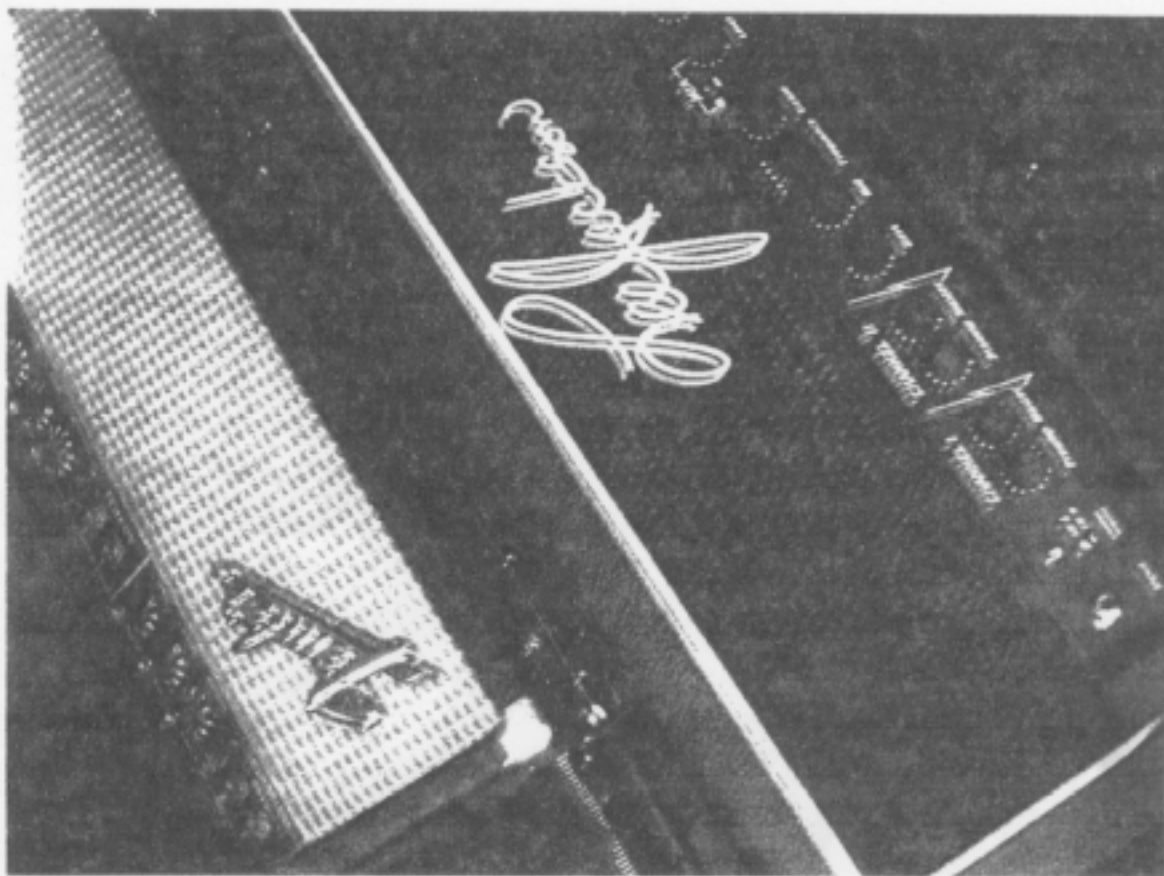


The X-Series

Operating Guide for the XLA



Lee Jackson
AMPLIFICATION

The X-Series

Playing The XLA: Suggested Settings & Effects-Loop Interface

Thank you for deciding to x-perience the X-Series from Horizon Music and Lee Jackson Amplification. Lee has created the X-Series to be very special kinds of guitar amplifiers. Being handmade from start to finish, each all-tube X-Series head has its own personality and tone. Just as each player has his or her own unique style and touch.

This guide will discuss the first X-Series Amplifier, the XLA. The X-Series was designed to be a pallet for tone, and is capable of many different tonal bases.

Five (5) 12AX7 preamp tubes drive the front end of the XLA (one 12AX7 controls the effects-loop), and 2 (50Watt) or 4 (100Watt) 5881/6L6 power tubes provide an excellent overall balance of clean punch and dirty growl. To make the XLA even more versatile, Lee designed it to accept a variety of different power tubes, see Smart Tube™.

Before You Begin

This step is very important if you don't want to damage your new amplifier. Be sure to use good quality speaker cable, and be sure that the cables are securely connected between head and cabinet.

Connecting Speaker Cabinets

The XLA will comfortably drive one to four 4x12 cabinets. The Ohm Selector on the rear of the head needs to be set one of the following ways:

- 1 Cabinet = 16 Ohm
- 2 Cabinets = 8 Ohm
- 4 Cabinets = 4 Ohm.

Now, proceed with the following steps:

- ★ Connect Amp to power supply
- ★ Connect footswitch (optional)
- ★ Be sure the effects-loop switch is out or "off" (if not used)
- ★ Connect instrument cable
- ★ Turn the "Ready" switch on

Allow a minute or two of warm-up time, and to keep yourself occupied during warm-up, make sure both of the Channel Masters are turned down.

- ★ Turn the "Go" switch to "On"

**Now, let's set up the XLA for your playing application
and get familiar with the controls**

Setting Up the Channels

Channel I

(Clean or Overdrive)

1. Set the Preamp to 2 or 3.
2. Slowly bring the Channel I Master up to comfortable playing level.
3. Adjust Preamp for Edge or Clean

Channel II

(Clean or Overdrive)

1. Set Preamp to 12.
2. Slowly bring the Channel II Master up to comfortable playing level.
3. Adjust the Presence for desired crispness and edge.

Tone Controls

The XLA's Tone circuitry is Pre-Gain/Distortion and the controls are designed to just shade the tonal foundation. Lee designed the XLA to sound great no matter where you position the controls. A 5-position Frequency shift has been added to the tone control section. The "Frequency" is centered around the critical frequencies of the guitar, and allow you to vary your sound from thin(1) to thick(5).

Suggested Settings

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Bass | 6 |
| Mid | 12 |
| Frequency | 3 |
| Treble | 12 |
| Presence | 7 |

MTA

The purpose of the MTA (Master Tube Attenuator) is to allow the power tubes to be worked hard to get that wide-open crunch, but still operate the XLA at sane volume levels. Even though the MTA adjusts the volume level from 0 db to maximum volume, the power tubes are still working all the time at the level of the Channel Master. Remember, this is a hotrodded amplifier and will consume power tubes faster than stock tube amps, but it's worth it.

To Use The MTA

Engage MTA switch, set to 4 or 5, and then roll up the Channel Master to get desired tone and distortion. You must use the MTA with discretion, in other words, you can't open the Channel Master to 12 and MTA to 1 or 2. If the MTA and Channel Master are not properly adjusted, a squalling sound will be heard.

Bring the Channel Master down until a proper balance is achieved. Generally, by setting the Channel Master @ 6, the MTA operates best.

Interfacing With Effects

The X-Series has a Tube-Driven effects-loop in order to maintain the Tube-Tone that's sent to the effects unit. In order to achieve this tonal integrity, the Channel Master must drive the Effects-Loop, see below.

(The benefits: 1.) Much higher signal-to-noise ratio, its quiet. 2.) Flexibility in matching levels with cutting-edge or ancient effects because of adjustable levels on Send and Return.)

To Engage Effects-Loop

Depress the Effects On/Off switch on rear panel of the XLA.

Note: *The XLA will not operate if Effects-Loop is engaged while not connected to an effect.*

The effects-loop drive level is driven by the Master on each channel. Therefore, you must tailor the Send level (the trim pot next to "Send") to match with the effect you wish to use. Generally, once the levels are set for your playing volume, they won't need to be readjusted.

Hint

If the effects unit has Input and Output level controls, match the input levels by adjusting the Send level on the XLA and Input level on the effect so that the signal is clean and not redlining or clipping. Then use the effect Output level to control your overall volume. Note: If you hear a whistling-squeal while interfacing with effects, slowly bring the XLA "Send" level down until proper matching occurs.

Stereo Effects

Using two XLA heads in stereo creates an awesome guitar rig. To do so:
1.) Select the outboard effect you wish to use. 2.) Engage the Effects-Loop on each head. 3.) Take the "Send" from XLA "right" to effect input. 4.) Take Effects-Return "right" to XLA "right" Return. 5.) Take the Effects-Return "left" to XLA "left" Return. Using this method, the "Send" on XLA "left" is not used.

Channel Switching & Going From Clean to Distortion

The XLA is designed with two independent channels to allow maximum flexibility. One channel can be set up for sparkling clean, the other for maximum overdrive. Try these settings:

Channel I

1. For Clean, Set the Preamp to 2
2. Channel I Master to 7

Channel II

1. For Overdrive, Set Preamp to 12
2. Channel II Master to 4

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Bass | 9 |
| Mid | 12 |
| Frequency | 4 |
| Treble | 12 |
| Presence | 10 |
| MTA | 5 |

Once a good balance has been established, use the MTA as the Master Volume for both channels.

Hint

Lee has set up the X-Series Input to be Touch-Sensitive. Touch-Sensitive allows the player to control tone, gain, and clean by using the guitar volume knob. By using the settings suggested for Channel II, you can get an excellent warm clean sound by turning the guitar volume down about halfway. The overall volume will stay just about the same regardless of where the guitar volume is positioned, allowing the player to go from clean to gain anywhere on stage.

Smart Tube™

Each type of power tube has its own character, tone, and distortion properties. With the Smart Tube feature, you can select and experiment with the XLA's power base.

To Change Power Tubes

Disconnect amp from power supply, remove back grill, remove existing power tubes - the big ones, plug in new tubes - EL34, 6ca7, 6550, 6L6, 5881 - and slide the small recessed switch in the direction the white sticker indicates, replace grill, reconnect to power, allow 5 minute warm-up period. The XLA is now re-biased and ready to rock.

Output-Tube Protector

If a faulty speaker cable has been used, or something has caused the red LED on the rear panel to come on, the Output Fuse has blown. To replace this or any of the three rear-panel-accessible fuses, disconnect from power supply, remove fuse cover and replace blown fuse with fuse type that's indicated on the panel.

Speaker Cabinets

All Lee Jackson Cabinets are 16 Ohm and can be used with any head or power amp. The XLS cabinets offer a Horizon Speakerline Direct Box built into the rear of the cabinet. This allows connection directly to a recording console or P.A. board. The Speakerline is a special circuit that sounds like a miked 4x12 cabinet because its signal passes through working speakers.

Experiment

Long before the XLA was available to you, Lee was building this amplifier for players like Paul Gilbert, George Lynch, Zakk Wylde, and Steve Vai. What got all of these players to the top was their ability to experiment with their talent and their gear. The X-Series provides the best tonal foundation that a player could ask for. The Touch-Sensitive Input allows for expression not capable on other amplifiers and the SmartTube biasing provides maximum tonal flexibility. Use the XLA dry, right out of the box with out effects. Or create a monster rig by adding outboard effects such as delay, chorus, e.q. and reverb. Spend some time adjusting the parameters until you establish your own unique signature sound and tone. Keep Rockin'.

Creating The Monster-Rig

There are many options when it comes to guitar-rig technology, but a rather simple rig that won't cost an arm and a leg is as follows:

- 2 - XLA Heads (XLA-Right, XLA-Left)
- 1 - Alesis Quadraverb/Or Comparable Multi-Effect Processor
- 1 - Aphex Aural Exciter/Or Comparable Exciter
- 1 - Stereo Graphic EQ/Lots of good units-choose a quiet one

Use Horizon Cable, HCG/Studio or HBGS/Concert for the best signal connection.

Run XLA-Right Send into Input on Aural Exciter (Drive @ 9:00 O'Clock, Frequency @ 4:00 O'Clock, Mix @ 8:00 O'Clock), Aural Exciter "Out" to Quadraverb "In". Quadraverb (Configuration EQ-Delay-Pitch), Quadraverb Right/Left "Out" to Right/Left EQ "In." Right/Left EQ "Out" to XLA-Right/Left "Return." XLA-Left "Send" is not used. Now, starting at the beginning of the chain, dial in each component one at a time. Start with exciter and leave the other units in "bypass" until ready to use.
Repeat steps until you achieved monster-rigdom.

Trouble Shooting & Fuse Replacement

No Sound:

- 1.) Be sure effects-loop is disengaged
- 2.) Be sure Instrument cable is connected
- 3.) Be Sure "Go" Switch is on
- 4.) Be sure speaker cables are connected
- 5.) Check MTA volume position

Squeaking, Hissing, Squalling:

The XLA is designed to be the quietest (in terms of unwanted noise) guitar amplifier made. Anytime you hear a strange noise, investigate immediately. High-pitched squeaking/hissing noises are usually Effects-Loop related matching problems.

- 1.) Be sure your using good cable for effects-loop connection
- 2.) Double check the Send level, no redlining should be occurring on effect, adjust levels until noise goes away and proper matching occurs
- 3.) If using the MTA and a squalling occurs, be sure Channel Master is not wide open

Replaced Fuses and Still No Sound or Power

(Seek Professional Assistance)

There is a 5A fuse located inside the chassis on the Main Board. Disconnect from power supply, remove rear screen, remove chassis screws, and carefully slide chassis out, locate and replace fuse, reverse process to reinstall.

Horizon 5 Year Transferable Warrantee

*Horizon Music & Lee Jackson Amplification
Warrantee the XLA-500, XLA-1000, and XLA Speaker Cabinets, for normal,
non-abusive use, to be free from defects due to materials
and/or workmanship for a period of Five (5) Years
from original date of purchase. This Warrantee is transferable to secondary
owner(s). Manufacturer reserves the right to determine abusive use.*

*Power Tubes, Preamp Tubes are Warranted
for a period of Ninety (90) Days from original date of purchase.*

*Lee Jackson Speakers are Warranted against defects
in materials and/or workmanship, for normal, non-abusive use
for a period of Three (3) Years from the original date of purchase.*

*Celestion Speakers are Warranted for normal, non-abusive use
for a period of Ninety (90) Days from original date of purchase*

*This Warrantee is transferable, and a photocopy of the original, dated sales
receipt must accompany Warrantee claim. To make warantee claim, go to the
nearest Horizon/Lee Jackson Amplification Service Center near you.*



XLA Owner's Copy

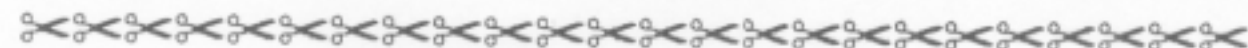
Date Of Purchase: _____

Dealer's Name & Address: _____

XLA Amp Serial Number: _____

XLA/XLS Cabinet Serial Number: _____

Your Name & Address: _____



Horizon Music/Lee Jackson Dealer Copy

Date Of Purchase: _____

Dealer's Name & Address: _____

XLA Amp Serial Number: _____

XLA/XLS Cabinet Serial Number: _____

XLA's Name & Address: _____

