

Hartke

Kickback KB12 / Kickback KB15

Bass Guitar Combos



Owner's Manual

Important Safety Information



ATTENTION
RISQUE DE CHOC ÉLECTRONIQUE -
NE PAS OUVRIR

WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK) AS THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



This lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of non-insulated “dangerous voltage” within the product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

EMC Notice

Kickback KB12 and Kickback KB15 are Active Speakers for professional use, they can be used in following electromagnetic environment: residential, commercial and light industrial, urban outdoors. They are the apparatus Not intended for rack mounting.

- For the Kickback Amplifier, the peak inrush current equals to 4.1A.

FCC Notice

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user’s authority to operate the equipment.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.



If you want to dispose this product, do not mix it with general household waste. There is a separate collection system for used electronic products in accordance with legislation that requires proper treatment, recovery and recycling.

Private household in the 28 member states of the EU, in Switzerland and Norway may return their used electronic products free of charge to designated collection facilities or to a retailer (if you purchase a similar new one).

For Countries not mentioned above, please contact your local authorities for a correct method of disposal.

By doing so you will ensure that your disposed product undergoes the necessary treatment, recovery and recycling and thus prevent potential negative effects on the environment and human health.

Important Safety Information

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at the plugs, convenience receptacles, and at the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug the apparatus during lightening storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel. Service is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. This appliance shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing water and that no object filled with liquid such as vases shall be placed on the apparatus.
16. Caution-to prevent electrical shock, match wide blade plug wide slot fully insert.
17. Please keep a good ventilation environment around the entire unit.



Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Hydrive Kickback KB12 or Kickback KB15 Bass Combo from Hartke! We know you don't like reading owners manuals, but you've just purchased one of the finest bass combos around, and we want to tell you about it. So, before you plug in and start playing, we'd like to suggest you take just a few moments to scan these pages.

The Kickback Series Combos feature a 500 watt, high-efficiency class-D amplifier. The Kickback KB12 features a 12" Hydrive Series speaker with a neodymium magnet and the Kickback KB15 has 15" Hydrive Series speaker with a neodymium magnet. Hartke Hydrive transducers are a radical change, and improvement, in bass speaker technology. The unique hybrid cone speaker is constructed using an outside paper cone, producing deep and warm low frequencies, and an inside aluminum cone which produces mids that cut, yet are still sweet. The specially designed cabinet which can be used either flat on the floor or in its "Kickback" position for increased high-end clarity and directionality. The amplifier design along with neodymium speaker magnets combines tremendous power in a lightweight design.

In these pages, you'll find a description of the many features of your Kickback bass amplifier combo, instructions for setting up and using the amp, plus full specifications. If you purchased the amplifier in the United States you will also find a warranty card enclosed—please follow the instructions so that you can receive technical support and so we can send you updated information about this and other Hartke and Samson products in the future. Also, be sure to check out our website (www.hartke.com) for complete information about our full product line.

We recommend you keep the following records for reference, as well as a copy of your sales receipt.

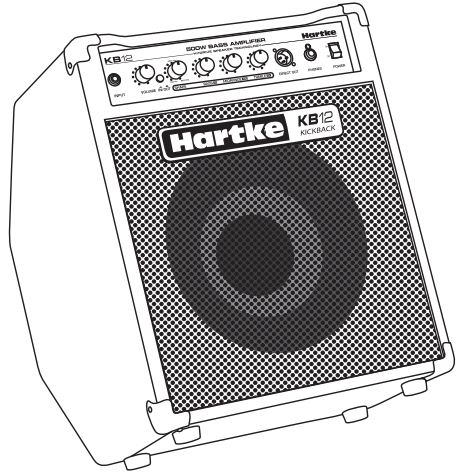
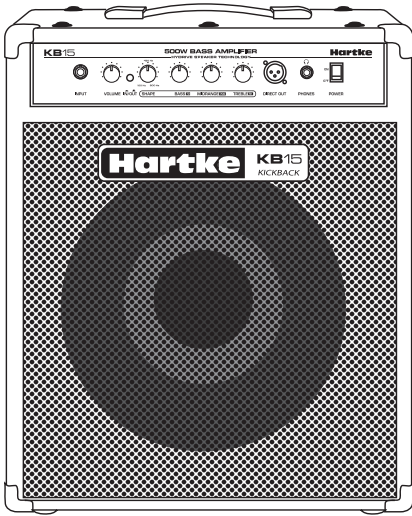
Serial number: _____

Date of purchase: _____

Dealer name: _____

With proper care and maintenance, your Kickback Combo will operate trouble-free for many years. Should the product ever require servicing, a Return Authorization (RA) number must be obtained before shipping your unit to Samson. Without this number, the unit will not be accepted. Please call Samson at 1-800-3SAMSON for an RA number prior to shipping your unit. Please retain the original packing materials and, if possible, return the unit in its original carton. If your Kickback KB12 or Kickback KB15 was purchased outside of the United States, contact your local distributor for warranty details and service information.

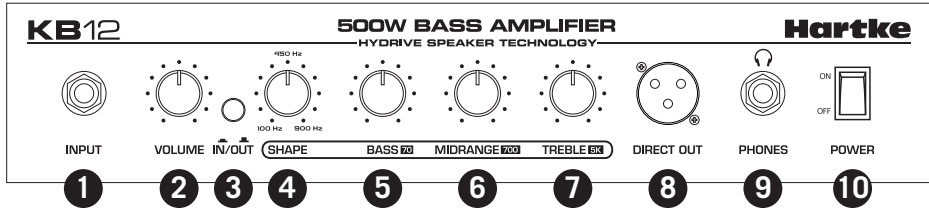
Features



The Hartke Kickback Series offers all the state-of-the-art speaker technology as well as robust amplification in an extremely compact size and affordable price. Here are some of its main features:

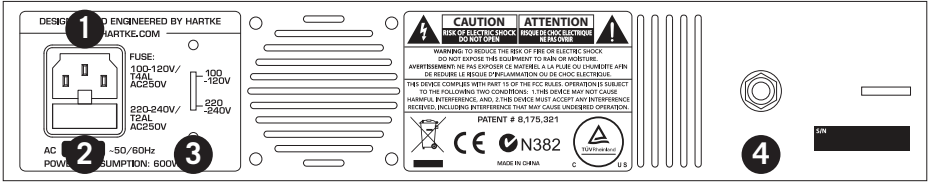
- Earth shaking 500 Watt amplifier
- Lightweight design utilizing class D amplifier technology, neodymium speakers, and plywood cabinet construction.
- KB12: 12" Hydrive bass speaker
- KB15: 15" Hydrive bass speaker
- Input accommodates a broad range of input levels, so that you can use passive model basses or those with active circuitry.
- 3-band equalizer offers a broad range of tonal colors for your instrument.
- Shape control circuit continuously sweeps a preset EQ curve through a wide frequency range.
- Electronically balanced direct output for routing the signal to professional mixing consoles in both live performance and recording sessions.
- Headphone output automatically disconnects the speaker output allowing use as a high-quality practice amp.
- Built-in limiter protects the speaker and amplifier from overload.
- Rugged construction makes the Kickback Series combos eminently road-worthy.

Front Panel Controls



1. **INPUT** - Connect your bass guitar here using a standard ¼" unbalanced instrument cable.
2. **VOLUME Control** - This is the overall volume control. For best signal-to-noise ratio, keep the output of your bass at or near maximum and adjust the VOLUME to the desired level.
3. **SHAPE switch** - When pressed it activates a special equalization curve that is designed to enhance the sound of your bass instrument. When out, Shape is inactive.
4. **SHAPE Control** - When the SHAPE switch is pressed in, this control is active. It applies a 20 dB filter to the specified frequency area so that you can customize the effect of the Shape curve to best complement your particular bass instrument. Moving the Shape control clockwise causes the notch filter to be applied to higher frequencies while moving it counterclockwise causes it to be applied to lower frequencies. At the fully clockwise position, the filter is applied to the 900Hz frequency area; at the fully counterclockwise position, the filter is applied to the 100Hz frequency area.
5. **BASS Control** - This control is used to adjust the low frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
6. **MIDRANGE Control** - This control is used to adjust the mid frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
7. **TREBLE Control** - This control is used to adjust the high frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
8. **Direct output** - This standard male XLR connector provides a mic level pre-EQ (and pre-Volume control) balanced low-impedance output from the amplifier. This output is usually used this to connect the Kickback to a Direct Injection (DI) box or to an XLR mic input when interfacing with external sound reinforcement or recording mixing consoles. The signal from this output adds approximately 6 dB of gain to the input level.
9. **Headphones jack** - Connect headphones to this standard ¼" jack. When a plug is inserted into the headphone jack, the speaker output is disconnected, allowing you to use your Kickback KB12 as a practice amplifier.
10. **Power Switch** - Use this to power the amplifier on or off. When powered on, the switch illuminates red.

Rear Panel Controls



- 1. AC Inlet** - Attach the grounded AC power cord here to connect your amplifier to mains power. This cord comes supplied with the appropriate plug for your geographic area. **CAUTION:** Do not use an adapter to defeat the third grounding pin on this plug or severe electric shock may result!
- 2. Fuse Holder** - The fuse holder comes from the factory with the appropriately rated fuse for your model. If you need to change this fuse for any reason, replace it with one that has the same exact rating.
- 3. Voltage Selection Switch** - This switch is used to select the amplifiers operating voltage. *NOTE: Before using your speaker, be sure the voltage selection switch is set to the correct voltage for your country. Be sure to install the properly rated fuse when changing the operating voltage.*
- 4. Speaker Output Jack** - The internal speaker is normally connected to this standard unbalanced 1/4" jack. *Note: Because of the high power levels and low frequency content of the signal generated by the Kickback amplifier, we recommend the use of the provided internal speaker only. If you do wish to connect an external speaker, use only appropriately rated 4 ohm speaker cabinets that are specifically designed for bass instruments.*

Quick Start

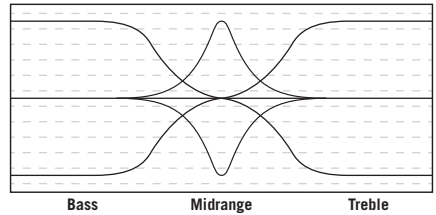
Setting up your Hartke Kickback Series Combo Bass Amplifier is a simple procedure which takes only a few minutes:

1. Remove all packing materials and decide where the amplifier is to be physically placed.
2. Before you plug-in the power cable, be sure the Power switch is in the off position. Connect the supplied power cable to the AC inlet located on the rear panel. Then, plug-in the 3-pin AC plug into any grounded AC socket.
3. Use a standard ¼" instrument cable to connect your bass to the Input jack on the front panel.
4. Turn the Volume the minimum (fully counterclockwise) position, set all EQ knobs to their twelve o'clock position and set the Shape switch to the OFF (out) position.
5. Press the Power switch in order to turn on the amplifier.
6. Set the output of your bass to maximum and then, while playing, slowly turn the Volume control up until the desired level is achieved.
7. Press in the Shape switch and rotate the Shape knob clockwise and counterclockwise to hear the effect of the Shape equalization curve on your bass. Leave the Shape knob at the point where it best complements your particular instrument and playing style.
8. Adjust the equalization controls to taste.
9. Test the headphone output by turning the Volume control to its minimum (fully counterclockwise) position and then connect a pair of headphones to the top-panel Phones jack. While playing your bass, slowly turn the Volume control up, you should hear sound from the headphones and none from the connected speaker.
10. If you need to connect the Kickback combo to a mixing console, plug a standard female XLR jack into the front-panel Direct Out output and connect it to an XLR mic-level input on a mixer.

Using Equalization

The Hartke Kickback Series Bass Amplifier gives you control over shaping the sound of your bass, using a process called equalization. To understand how this works, it's important to know that every naturally occurring sound consists of a broad range of pitches, or frequencies, combined together in a unique way. This blend is what gives every sound its distinctive tonal color. The Kickback Series EQ controls allow you to alter a sound by boosting or attenuating specific frequency areas - they operate much like the bass and treble controls on stereo, but with much greater precision.

The Kickback KB12 and Kickback KB15 offer three bands of equalization. Each EQ knob, labeled Bass, Midrange, and Treble, affects a different frequency area of the audio. We carefully selected these frequency areas because they have maximum impact on bass guitar signals. The Bass and Treble controls are shelving EQs, which provide boost when the control is moved clockwise



from the center or cut when the control is moved counterclockwise from the center. The Mid EQ control is a peaking EQ. As the Mid control is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.

In many instances, the best way to deal with equalization is to think in terms of which frequency areas you need to attenuate, as opposed to which ones you need to boost. Be aware that boosting a frequency area also has the effect of boosting the overall signal; specifically, too much Low EQ boost can actually cause overload distortion or even harm the connected speaker.

The Shape Control

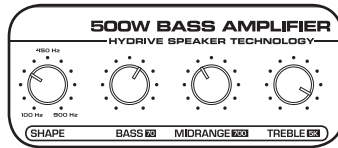
The Kickback's unique Shape control enables the sound of your bass instrument to be enhanced at the touch of a button. When the front panel Shape switch is pressed in, a special equalization curve is activated that is designed to enhance the sound of most electric bass instruments. This curve provides moderate boost at certain frequency areas and deep attenuation at other frequency areas. Furthermore, the Shape control adds a filter to a selected frequency area within the Shape curve. As the Shape knob is turned clockwise, the filter is applied to higher frequency areas; as it is turned counterclockwise, the filter is applied to lower frequency areas.

Even when Shape is activated, the front-panel EQ controls remain operational. When all three EQ controls are set to their "0" (flat) position, they add no boost or attenuation to the preset Shape curve. However, when any EQ controls are turned left or right of their 12 o'clock ("0") position, their boost or attenuation effect is layered upon the preset Shape curve. In this way, you can customize the sound of the Kickback amplifier further still to complement your particular bass instrument and playing style.

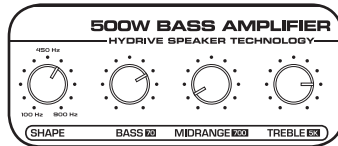
Note that, when the Shape switch is out, the EQ controls operate on the "flat" signal coming from your bass (that is, there is no preset equalization curve imposed).

The specific EQ you will apply to your bass signal is very much dependent upon your particular instrument and personal taste and playing style. However, here are a few general suggestions:

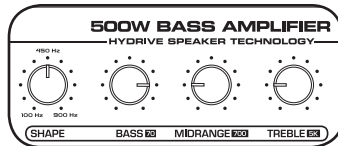
Modern Rock



Classic Rock



Vintage Deep Bass



As you experiment with the EQ and Shape controls of the Kickback Series, don't forget that your bass also provides significant EQ control in the form of its pickup and tonal settings. This can be particularly effective in instruments that have active circuitry.

Specifications

Rated Output Power	500 watts Peak / 250 watts RMS
Rated Input Level	77.46mv rms (@1kHz)
Total Harmonic Distortion	0.54% (@1dB below rated output, 1kHz typical)
Signal To Noise Ratio	1W/49.3dBu (1Wrms @1kHz)
Signal Gain Speaker Output	37.1Vrms
Signal Gain to Direct Out	4.2Vrms
Equalizer Center Frequency	
Bass	70Hz
Midrange	700Hz
Treble	5kHz
Shape Control	100Hz - 900Hz
Fuse Rating	220V-240V:T1.5AL AC250V 100V-120V:T800mAL AC250V
Weight	KB12: 28.2lb 12.8kg KB15: 35.6lb 16.2kg
Dimensions (HxWxD)	KB12: 15.7" x 14.75" x 18.14" 399mm x 375mm x 461mm KB15: 16.73" x 17.55" x 21.25" 425mm x 446mm x 540mm

At Hartke, we are continually improving our products, therefore specifications and images are subject to change without notice.

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