

CARR MERCURY V



OWNER'S MANUAL

April 2017

Mercury V Instructions

Thank you for purchasing a Carr Mercury V amplifier. The Mercury V, older British cousin of our award winning Skylark, is back with a ultra evolved feature set borrowing the best of the past while rocketing into the future.

The Mercury V is highly touch sensitive with a huge range of English tones from 60s aggressive clean thru 70s rock into 80s and 90s tasty crunch. Our built-in attenuator delivers real power tube overdrive at whisper levels retaining the feel and juice of full volume fun. Like recording on your computer? Just plug the Mercury V line out into your A/D interface and go! The Luscious Spring Reverb, full ranging Overdrive options, and effective tone controls make the Mercury V an invaluable recording tool. Home player? Experience big amp satisfaction with domestic tranquility. Gigging musician? 16 burly watts in full power means the Mercury V is a commanding stage amp. Mercury V wins the six string triathlon -- -- Home - Studio - Stage.

Plus, you get everything Carr is known for, in-house crafted solid pine dovetailed cabinets, bleeding edge power supply components mixed with Mid-Century signal elements, and true point to point wiring. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this manual.

16 Watts full output ---- (*Perfect Power*)

3 Position Boost switch - British 60s thru 90s output tube overdrive - (*Authentic*)

Dual Volume controls – Classic Parallel or Modded Series toggle- (*Big Stick*)

Jupiter Mustard signal caps - (*Modern Primitive*)

Built-in switchable attenuator 16/3 to 0 watts- (*Ultra Useful*)

Analysis Plus and Transparent cable - (*Super Conductive*)

3 Band Tone Stack – Treble, Mid, Bass - (*Control*)

Recording/PA Line Out - (*Effective Communicator*)

Celestion Creamback M-65 12”speaker - (*Pistonc*)

Custom Carr Transformers – (American)

All NC yellow pine cabinet - (*Wood*)

Spring/Tube Reverb - (*Aquatic*)

2) 6V6 4) 12AX7 – (Trusted)

Carr Amplifiers began in 1998 with an irresistible passion for hand wired vacuum tube guitar amplifiers. We take inspiration from the classics of the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s then imagine new features, refinements in tone, reliability, and ease of operation. Essential tone with organic tactile feel is our signature.

Man Made

High Volume – Voiced for bright, thin sound. In **Parallel** mode you can blend the High Volume with the Low Volume to create the desired sonic body to suite your guitar and the drive level. In **Series** mode this volume drives the gain stage that serves the Low Volume in a cascaded fashion. You will notice that the higher this volume is set – the more sustain and rounder the tone.

Low Volume – Voiced for full, dark sound. In **Parallel** mode you can blend the Low Volume with the High Volume to create the desired body to suite your guitar and the drive level. In **Series** mode this volume drives the rest of the pre amp while the High Volume drives it. It is fun to try different setting of the High Volume and Low Volume in Series to achieve endless overdrive textures.

Parallel/Series Gain toggle – In the 60s and 70s many classic British stack amps had 4 inputs and two volume controls each voice differently for guitar and bass. Players found they could bridge these inputs and use both volumes at once to get a tailored combination of bright and bass. With the toggle up in Parallel mode this is what is happening inside the Mercury V. Each of the Volume controls has its own tube gain stage.

When you set the toggle to Series you are now running your guitar first into the High Volume gain stage then into the Low Volume gain stage – and finally out to the rest of the amp.

This adds 1 gain stage and a lot more overdrive potential. Back in the 70s many techs would mod Stack British amps for just this configuration! Now with a flick of the switch you can go from classic to modded tones.

Boost Switch – Select one of three pre amp gain structures post Volume control.

Setting 1 is low gain and very sweet sounding with clear ringing tones.

Setting 2 has a gain structure similar to a metal panel British amp from the 70s – aggressive!

Setting 3 adds even more drive to push the power tubes while tightening the overall sound.

Reverb – Controls the amount of reverb sound from none to deep and lush.

Treble – Varies the top end from dark to bright.

Mid – Varies the midrange frequencies and is very interactive with the Treble control. For a sweet smooth tone, set the Mid to 9 o'clock. 12 o'clock is a great all around setting for both clean and overdrive. The tone becomes more aggressive as you advance the Mid past 2 o'clock. When the Mid is set near full, the Treble control's effect is more subtle and the amp is easily overdriven with lots of bite.

Bass – Varies the low end from lean to full. To retain clarity, turn the Bass down at higher volumes.

Attenuator toggle and Attenuator – When the toggle points up to the left the attenuator is out of the signal path and the amp delivers its full 16 watts to the speaker. When the toggle is down the attenuator is active and you can continuously vary from 4 down to approximately 0 watts. *Note: The Attenuator is a power L-Pad and as such has a somewhat coarse feel and action. The tracking is linear, though at the very bottom of the track there is a slight jump from minimum power to zero. This is normal and is a result of high power wire wound L-Pad construction.*

Line Out – ¼ mono guitar cable output which is always active. We have tailored the sound to simulate a speaker roll-off and response. You can run this into an A/D converter then into your computer to record or run it into a mixer/PA for live sound in addition to the amps speaker. If you want to record silently – turn on the attenuator and set it to minimum.

Standby – Off – Play – The Toggle switch baton in the middle position is Power Off. To play set the amp to Standby (switch baton *down*). After 1 minute of warm up, switch the Power baton *up* to Play. The amp is ready to be played. Using the Standby setting every time the amp is turned on will prolong tube life.

Bottom Panel

Fuse – In the unlikely event that a tube fails, the Mercury V is protected by a 1.5 Amp slow blow fuse for 120v and 100v (North America and Japan) models or a 0.75 Amp slow blow fuse for 220v and 240v (Europe and Asia) models. Please consult us or a qualified tech for assistance in the event of a fuse blowing. The fuse is located on the bottom of the chassis by the power cord.

Speaker output jack – The speaker output jack is located between the third and fourth pre amp tubes on the chassis (see *Chassis Diagram*). The Mercury V is designed to drive an 8 ohm load. Maximum tone will be realized when connected to a 8 ohm speaker or cabinet. The speakers in Mercury V combos and extension cabinets are configured to provide the amplifier with an 8 ohm load.

To run an external cabinet, turn the Mercury V OFF, unplug the internal speaker (combo amps) and plug in the external cabinet's speaker cord. Alternatively, a "Y" speaker cord can be used to run a 16 ohm external cabinet along with the internal speaker(s) of a combo amp without damage to the amp (the total impedance or speaker load in this case will be 5.3 ohms – see the previous paragraph).

Damage will result from operating the Mercury V without a speaker load or into a 4 ohm load. The Attenuator is designed to operated with an 8 ohm load only.

Biasing your Carr Mercury V

The Mercury V is a partial cathode bias (self bias) amplifier and as such does not require a bias adjustment when changing tubes. Please use matched pairs of output tubes for maximum performance. The Mercury V can only use matched pairs of 6V6 power tubes.

Carr Amplifiers selects and tests the finest current production tubes specifically for each amplifier model. Caution should be used when buying replacement tubes from any dealer who does not have a return policy as all tubes can have problems (NOS tubes are susceptible to microphonics and failure too).

Recommended Settings (These give you a place to start – the Mercury V has a huge range of possible tones – have fun experimenting and remember that guitar pickups vary a lot and you will need to tweak to your guitar and ear!) –

-----Parallel/Series Toggle Up in Parallel-----

Sound	High Volume	Low Volume	Reverb	Treble	Mid	Bass
Spacey Lush Boost 1						
Angus Beef Boost 2						
Does Your Dog Bite? Boost 3						
Vintage Grind Boost 1						

-----Parallel/Series Toggle Down in Series-----

Sound	High Volume	Low Volume	Reverb	Treble	Mid	Bass
Allman Joy Boost 1						
Ziggy + Boost 2						
All Teeth Boost 3						
Cello Bowa Boost 3						

CARR AMPLIFIERS CHASSIS DIAGRAM



Power Connection

100 VAC - Japan

120 VAC - North America

220, 240 VAC - Europe & Asia

Fuse - slow blow

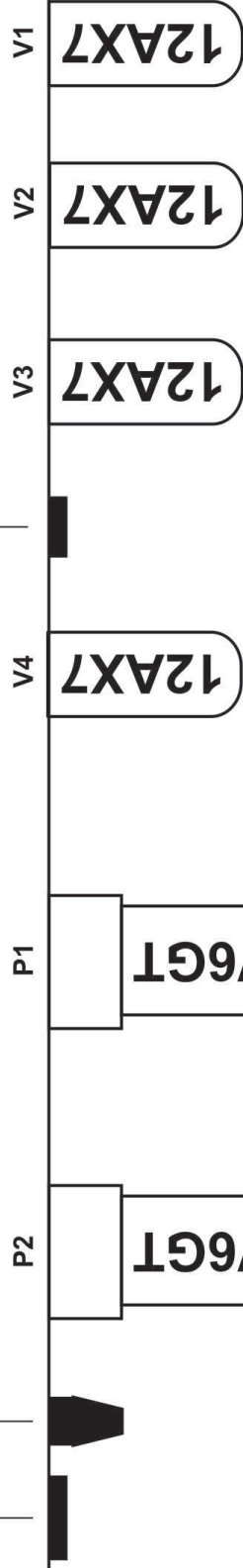
1.5A - 100, 120 VAC models

0.75A - 220, 240 VAC models

Reverb Return Jack
(on speaker side of chassis)

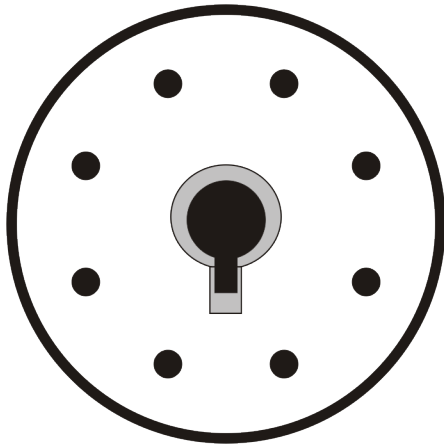
Reverb Send Jack
(on speaker side of chassis)

Speaker Output Jack - 8 ohms

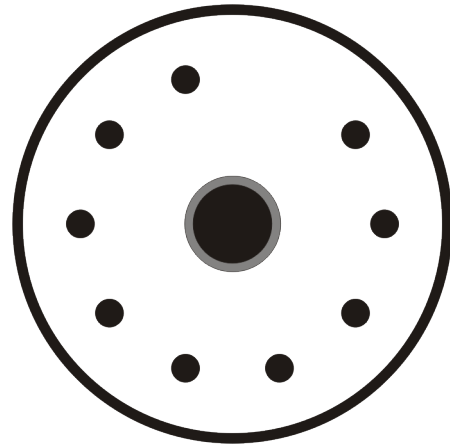


IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Please keep the original packing materials in case your amp needs to be shipped for service.
- When inserting power tubes, the power tube key must line up with the tube socket keyway.
- When inserting preamp tubes, the tube pins must line up with the tube socket holes.



Do not insert power tubes with missing or damaged keys or pins.



Do not insert preamp tubes with missing or damaged pins.

- To reduce the risk of electric shock, keep the unit away from excess moisture.
- No user serviceable parts inside.
- Potentially lethal voltage present.

CARR AMPLIFIERS WARRANTY

All Carr amplifiers are warranted to be free from defects in workmanship (solder joints, hardware assembly etc.) for the lifetime of the original owner, and free from defects in materials (including cabinet) for three years from the date of purchase by the original owner, provided that:

- The owner mails the signed warranty registration card (next page) and a copy of the original sales receipt to Carr Amplifiers within thirty days of purchase.
- Problems are not the result of misuse, abuse, tampering, circuit modification, improper tube installation (incorrect orientation of tubes can damage the amp), or spilled beverages, as these will void the warranty.
- The amplifier is shipped to Carr Amplifiers in the original packing materials with freight paid by the purchaser. We pay the return shipping after the warranty work is complete.

Tubes, speaker(s), and reverb tanks carry a ninety-day warranty, and are subject to the same terms and conditions as above.

Please call us at 919-545-0747 if you have a warranty claim. Be prepared to provide the model and serial number of your amp. We will issue a Return Merchandise Authorization number (RMA#) before the amplifier is shipped for service.

For customers outside of North America, warranty and repair service is provided through the dealer where the amp was purchased.

Shipping address:

Carr Amplifiers
23 Rectory St., Suite E
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Mailing address:

Carr Amplifiers
433 W. Salisbury St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Tel: 919-545-0747

Fax: 919-545-0739

www.carramps.com
info@carramps.com

Carr Amplifiers Owner's Registration

To validate your warranty, please mail the **completed form** and a **copy of your original sales receipt** within 30 days of purchase to:

Carr Amplifiers
433 W. Salisbury St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312

We do not sell, give away, or otherwise share customer information with third-parties.

MODEL: _____

SERIAL NUMBER (located on the tube chart sticker and the bottom or back panel of the chassis): _____

PURCHASED FROM: _____

DATE OF PURCHASE: _____

OWNER'S NAME: _____

OWNER'S ADDRESS: _____

OWNER'S E-MAIL: _____

TYPE OF MUSIC YOU USUALLY PLAY: _____

HOW YOU FIRST HEARD ABOUT CARR AMPLIFIERS: _____

YOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ARE INVITED: _____

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of the warranty agreement as set forth in the owner's manual.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

The above must be signed and dated to validate the warranty.

With your completed registration form you are eligible for a complimentary Carr Amplifiers t-shirt!

Please specify your size:

- ____ **Small**
- ____ **Medium**
- ____ **Large**
- ____ **X-Large**
- ____ **XX-Large**