

Welcome to BluesBaby!

This is where you can find information about installing and using 'BluesBaby 22', 'BluesBaby 45' and 'BluesBaby 45/HH' models.

Design & Build: All models are entirely designed and built by Award-Session in Britain.

The design was created by Stewart Ward, the same designer who created the SESSION amps of the nineteen-eighties. Sessionette, Rockette and Duette amps. Also the JD10—Jerry Donahue direct recording pedal and the Gordon Giltrap acoustic preamp/pedal, some of which were sold in America under the MORLEY badge.

Components: BluesBaby is made using high quality components from industry giants such as Thomson Semiconductors, National Semiconductors, Alpha Pots, Samwha Capacitors, Neutrik Connectors and Royal Ohm Resistors. The power transformer is a 'toroidal' type which



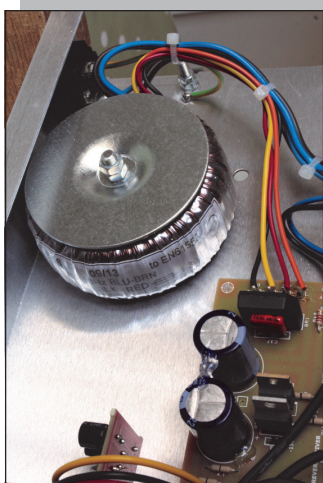
reduces hum radiation into your pickups by over 70%... Great for guitars fitted with P-90s!

Never heard of Thomson Semiconductors

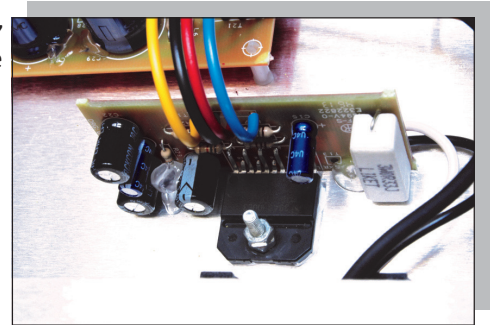
and National Semiconductors? This is because the guitar world is filled with 'must be tube amp' talk, therefore you're not accustomed to hearing about them. They are the 'transistor' versions of JJ, Sovtek and so on... at the very top in their field for quality and reliability! But transistors are not

prone to the same inconsistency problems like tubes are.

You will see that some of the capacitors are ceramic, but don't panic! They are used for jobs where they are essential; like decoupling the power supply rails to help prevent annoying radio station interference breaking through. Contrary to popular 'guitar



forum mythology', film capacitors are 'inductive' and, as such, actually make the situation worse!



What comes included: 10 x M5 (5mm threaded) dome, pozidrive head machine screws, to mount your amplifier inside the cabinet and fit the back to the chassis.

What kind of speaker can I use with BluesBaby? You can use any guitar speaker or any amount, as long as the total impedance is not less than 8 ohms. It will easily power two 16 ohm 4 x12" cabinets! It will also power a single 16 ohm cabinet, although the power/volume will be significantly reduced. BluesBaby has been optimised for an 8 ohm load impedance.

You cannot mix different speaker impedances. If two speakers are employed then they can be different types, but must be the same impedance. This also applies with four speakers! Sadly, there is no way to change the impedance of any speaker.

Please, do not be tempted to fit a 4 ohm speaker, it could cause permanent damage which will not be covered under our warranty!

What is the best speaker to use with BB? That is entirely up to you. It depends on what kind of tone you are looking for. We cannot sensibly recommend speakers, because our taste might not suit your objectives. You should expect to experiment and read up on speaker maker's websites for ideas. But the Eminence Legend 1258 and Celestion G12 Classic Lead 80 are probably a very good place to start. If you want to keep weight down, then consider a speaker which has a 'neodymium' magnet. They are much lighter and are also very efficient in turning electrical energy into acoustic sound.

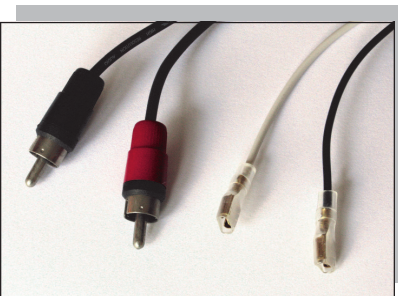
Open or closed back cabinet? Again, that is entirely up to you! Open backed cabinets will produce bass output close to the speaker's 'fs' (resonant frequency), usually around 80 Hz. All speakers have a natural 'free air' resonant frequency.

However, installing any speaker into a cabinet with a closed back will 'tune-up' the 'fs' by about 2½ notes... from 80 to ~110Hz... approximately open E on the sixth string, to open A on the fifth string.

The latter produces a characteristic more associated with rock music. We think an open back cabinet is more suited to traditional 'vintage' guitar sounds commonly heard in blues and country styles. However, it's not a hard and fast rule.

Connecting BluesBaby to the speaker and reverb tray: The BLACK & WHITE wires are the speaker feed wires. The WHITE cable plugs onto the speaker + (HOT) terminal and the BLACK wire onto the - (COLD) terminal. Job done!

The reverb unit must be the exact model as quoted, Accutronics 8EB2C1B, or all sorts of strange results might



occur. Squealing being one. Reverb 8EB2C1B requires that the open side is facing downward... or rattles and other odd distortions might occur in the sound. Failing to observe this

requirement is not a warranty issue. This reverb unit is electro-mechanical and wide differences in ton can occur, unlike digital reverb units.

The RED & WHITE (or black) phono plugs are to connect the amplifier to the reverb tray. The red one plugs into the INPUT socket on the tray, and the white (or black) one into the OUTPUT socket. Connecting a 'phono plug' extension cable will not affect anything.

Leaving the reverb 'drive & recovery' leads unconnected is not recommended. The reverb plugs must not be allowed to touch each other. If you adopt this method of use, then keep the REVERB control set to zero.

How to find and replace the Mains (AC supply) Fuse: On the back panel of BluesBaby, you will find the AC Inlet socket (IEC Socket). This is where you plug the AC cord into the amplifier (not included). It also has a built in AC fuse holder (as shown right). To replace the fuse, unplug the amplifier from the AC supply. Gently insert a ¼" (6mm) bladed screw driver into the slot as shown, and then gently lever the fuse draw out. The lower picture shows two fuses... the lower one is the spare fuse (not included).



There may be slight variations in appearance.

Correct Fuses: Always replace the fuse with

the same type as fitted.

This should be a T500mA type for 230VAC supplies or a T1A type for use on 115VAC AC supplies. Do not use fuses with an 'F' prefix, they will keep blowing when you switch on your amplifier. It is not possible to switch between AC voltages. The AC voltage is pre-set at the factory.



WARNING!

Do NOT operate the amplifier outside a cabinet or other protective structure where the high voltages inside will be exposed to children or other people! It is not good practice to work on the amplifier chassis whilst it is connected to the AC power supply!

Rear Panel Sockets: 8 Ohm External Speaker output. Mutes internal speaker when deployed. (Not fitted to Standard or Americana models)

Reverb Foot Switch: To connect an ON/OFF foot switch to the amplifier. (Not fitted to Standard or Americana models)

FAT Foot Switch Socket: To connect an ON/OFF foot switch to the amplifier. (Not fitted to Standard or Americana models)



Aux In: Enables you to plug in MP3 players to play backing tracks. It operates at a fixed volume level, so you will need to use the volume control on the device you are plugging in to vary the volume. Left and right signals are mixed to a mono signal. It needs **500mV** rms to drive the amp to full clean output and the input impedance is **22k** ohms per channel on the provided TRS (stereo) jack socket. (Not fitted to Standard or Americana models)

TAKE CARE TO ENSURE THE DEVICE'S VOLUME IS SET TO A LOW LEVEL BEFORE PLUGGING IT IN... IT COULD BE EXTREMELY LOUD OTHERWISE! If hum occurs when you connect anything 'mains operated', this is called a 'ground loop.' You will need to seek professional advice locally.

Warranty: BluesBaby is covered by a 12 month warranty commencing the day that the amplifier is delivered to the customer. We will always do our best to help customers to resolve any issues, but it does not cover wear and tear. It covers only defective materials or faulty manufacture.

This does not affect your statutory rights.

The Controls & Use

INPUT: In case anyone doesn't know, this is where the guitar is plugged into BluesBaby!

VOLUME Control: This is really a 'gain or drive' control and is used to set the level of distortion you want to have. The range covered is 'clean' to 'heavy crunch.'

To set up a clean sound, turn the MASTER control to maximum and then use the VOLUME to adjust the volume level you would like. If you set the VOLUME control so that the amplifier is very loud, the sound will eventually start to distort the more you turn the control. This is because you are exceeding the 22 watts maximum output power of the amplifier.

For the cleanest possible sound, you *must* turn the MASTER control to its maximum setting (12).

If you intend to use external pedals with BluesBaby to create your LEAD sound, then you will need to keep the MASTER control set reasonably high. You can, of course, use BluesBaby's VOLUME and MASTER controls to set up your background 'crunch' sound and set the distortion pedals to create your various LEAD sounds. *There is no foot switchable clean/distortion facility on BluesBaby and it cannot be 'retro-fitted'.*

FAT Switch: Push in to boost the bass. This is situated after the distortion circuitry and is used when a fuller overall tone is required.

EQ Controls: Treble, Bass and Middle. The EQ Controls are situated post distortion. This means they alter the tone of the already distorted signal. This is very good for rock styles of playing and is the same system used by all the leading makes of rock amplification. They are based on the classic 'Bridged T Network' (or Tone Stack) used in many valve amps.

MASTER Control: This is used to set the overall loudness of BluesBaby. It is also adjusted in relation to the VOLUME control to help set the DISTORTION level of the amplifier. For the least distortion, set the MASTER to maximum (12) and the VOLUME (1-4) control until you find the required level of 'clean' sound. For maximum distortion sound, set the MASTER to a low level and the VOLUME control to maximum.

These settings are described for guidance only and you may well find that they will vary according to the power of the pickups fitted to your instrument. P-90 and Humbucker pickups will be among the loudest encountered.

REVERB Control: This is used to vary the amount of REVERB that is applied to your guitar's sound. The quality of the reverberated sound will vary according to the reverb spring you have fitted. Being 'electromechanical' devices, the sound will not always be the same as another reverb tray... even if it

has got the same part number! So, do not compare it with a friend's BluesBaby amp with the same reverb unit fitted, it is highly likely they will sound quite different. Sadly, this is the nature of the beast and there is nothing we can do to help this situation!

Presence Switch: This can add a sparkle to BluesBaby's tone. It can also create a warmer tone similar to that you would hear if you fitted a Lightning Bolt or Cannabis Rex speaker. Because it is installed into the amp's circuitry post distortion, it takes some of HF 'sting' out of the distortion tone.... making it much more 'creamy' and less 'in your face'. This switch is located between the MIDDLE and BASS controls on the front panel.

Blackface Switch: This converts BluesBaby's EQ (tonestack) into a classic early sixties toned EQ section based on that found in a Twin Reverb© of that era. It shifts the MIDDLE control's centre frequency downward from BluesBaby's stock setting of ~700Hz, to ~250Hz. Just flip between the two characters. Very useful for authentic 'old school' tones... add generous reverb too and you're into sixties surf music's 'Wipe-Out' or 'Pipeline' heaven! It's most effective when the MIDDLE control is set between 1 & 7. The Blackface switch is situated between the TREBLE and BASS controls on the front panel.

Sound Charts: We do not publish suggested sound set-up charts due to the high number of different guitars on the market. There is no longer a guitar which can be described as 'standard' and any attempts would be wildly inaccurate.

Music Genres: Although BluesBaby™ was developed for classic blues-rock styles, it can be used for all kinds of music including country, jazz, folk... you name it!

Early instrumentals (Shadows, Ventures & Cougars) right the way through to Heavy rock or Metal, providing suitable distortion pedals are utilised in front of the INPUT socket.

Modifications: We are happy to consider this for players who require simple changes. We cannot, however, carry out major 're-designs'. Please email us with your ideas and we'll let you know if it can be supported by the existing circuitry.



Est. 1979

Made In Britain by Award-Session, RG24 8GB, UK

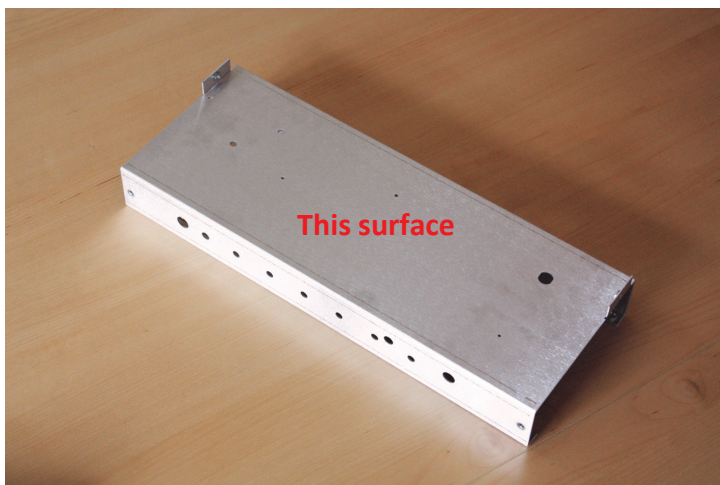
Email: info@Award-Session.com

Award-Session reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice

Attention!

NEVER cover the large flat area on the chassis!

Air must be allowed to flow across the chassis surface. This surface acts as a heatsink for the power amplifier and enables it to run cool. Obstructing the airflow will cause permanent damage... which is NOT covered under warranty!



Heat is the biggest killer of components in all amplifiers... so please be kind to your amplifier. Always allow plenty of cool air circulation. **Do not** attach any stickers or labels of any kind.

BluesBaby BB22

BluesBaby BB45 (& HH Version)

Thank you for investing in our products, we really appreciate it!

For installation and use help, you can download the manual from our website Manuals page here:

http://www.award-session.com/award-session_manuals.html

Powering up your amplifier when it is not installed into a cabinet...

1. **Firstly, this amplifier must ONLY be used on an AC supply that has a EARTH/GROUND facility!**
2. **Please be aware that there are lethal voltages inside the chassis.** On no account put your hands anywhere inside the chassis when it is connected to the mains. **Unplug the chassis from the mains before you put your hands inside the chassis!**
3. **REMEMBER... Certain parts are still 'live' even when the chassis is switched off!**
4. A high pitched squealing sound might be heard if the reverb connectors are allowed to touch each other. **This is NOT a fault.** Please ensure they are plugged into a reverb pan before switching on the amplifier!
5. Standing within 3 feet of the amplifier, whilst it is set to high gain and holding a guitar with its volume turned up, may cause a high pitched squeal. **This is not a fault.** Please move away.
6. Do NOT allow the black & white speaker wire ends to touch each other or the chassis metalwork. It could damage the power amp.
7. Your amplifier is under warranty for 12 months from the day you receive it. We have taken great care to design it so that a warranty claim is never required. But if you do need to contact us at anytime, please drop us an email for advice. Our email address is on our website.
8. **Reverb unit—Only reverb type 8EB2C1B may be used with BluesBaby. Damage cause by use of an incorrect reverb unit is not covered by our warranty.**

Thank you for being very careful and installing your amplifier properly. We DO NOT want to hear that you have injured yourself by electric shock!

Please do not try phoning us... we no longer offer telephone support. Email only.

Thank you.

Stewart Ward—Owner/Designer
Award-Session.com