

AWARD-SESSION

Getting
To
Know
The
Sessionette:75
Guitar
Amplifier

Combo: S75R112
Head: S75RH

SESSIONETTE:75

UK Designed & Made

SESSION

The SESSIONETTE:75 Story

Back in 1976, the Sessionette:75 concept was designed for my own used. Later in 1980, we released it onto the market as a compact combo providing the working tones that modern guitarists needed for both live and recording applications. At that time it was VERY small, 43.5 x 37.5 x 25cm, about the size of a 14" portable TV and weighed just 16kg! Originally SESSION made valve amps which were quite a bit larger, so you can imagine the response when I took a solid state prototype to Chandler Guitars in Kew. Charlie Chandler exclaimed "It's a Sessionette" and this name was adopted, the first SESSIONETTE:75 amplifier was sold in April 1981. It remained in production until October 1988, during which time over 50,000 were made, with 1 x 12", 2 x 10", 2 x 12" and 1 x 15" variants sporting black, beige or grey covering. I still have the first, S/N75001.

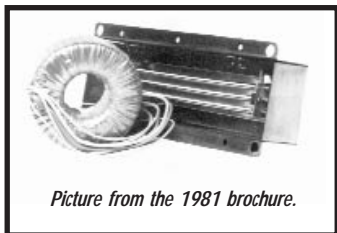


An original 1980s Sessionette:75

It seemed in those days that everywhere you went - concerts, pub's, clubs, dinner dances, London West End theatres, etc. - you'd find at least one Sessionette:75. Used by Roy Buchanan, Jan Ackerman, Mick Jagger, Rory Gallagher, Alan Murphy, Mick Ralphs (Bad Company) and Geoff Whitehorn (Marshall demonstrator). It was the envy of many of the big name makers and predictably, it was not long before the magic '75' suffix was added onto the names of their products: The Marshall Reverb 75, Peavy Bandit 75... to name but a couple. I was very proud of it's achievements, but that was a long time ago and today's music has changed a lot. But you know, Paul Day (author of many guitar books) and Richard Riley (Total Guitar) still use their originals, as do many pro players.

For a long time people tried to persuade me to re-make that combo, but I was unhappy about re-releasing 'past hits'... the past should remain as fond memories! Now, after 9 years rest from building amps, I have come up with an 'all new' (as the marketing men say!) Sessionette:75 - fit for today's needs. I've listened to the critics as well as the 'Sessionette Fans' (including you Tony N) and have kept some of the ideas that made the original so popular. I think I'm now ready to put my name on the results.

The new Sessionette:75 shows that solid state designs can at least match, if not surpass, the performance of valve equipped rivals. I started designing guitar amplifiers in my sixties school days and used valves, so I know a thing or two about them. But, after hearing the Sessionette:75, I think you'll understand why we don't use valves anymore. It's not technology that makes great sounds, but the designers knowledge and how he applies it. Give ten artists the same view and paints, and you'll see ten different pictures. To credit valves or transistors alone is a gross over simplification of OUR art. I challenge anyone to prove beyond doubt that valves sound better.



Picture from the 1981 brochure.

Just like the original, the Sessionette is fitted with the same kind of toroidal power transformer that is more efficient, cooler running and radiates far less hum, which is what your guitar usually picks up. The same tried and tested power output stage design is employed, and it's even the very same triple spring reverb unit too! The Sessionette:75 is high in quality, value and performance, because traditionally, SESSION customers are working musicians who depend on their amps... as I do!



Stewart Ward
Designer.

SESSION

SESSIONETTE:75 Main Features

Distortion channel:

- Drive Level control.
- Crunch or Heavy distortion voice selector.
- PAFtone™ Humbucker Emulation selector.
- Super-T™ enhanced classic three-band valve amp EQ.
- Volume control.

Clean Channel:

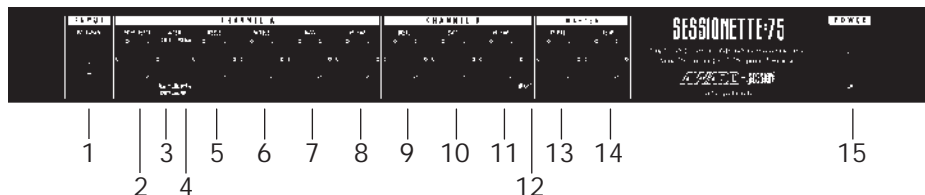
- Classic-T™ two-band valve amp EQ.
- Bright selector.
- Volume control.

Overall Facilities:

- Input socket.
- Reverb depth control.
- Master Volume.
- Footswitchable channel selection.

- Effects Loop (-20dBV, so OK with pedals).
- Recording Output with G12T™ speaker simulation.
- Main Amp In (-20dBV/100mV) with access to G12T, Reverb, FX Loop and Master Volume.
- Dual Extension Speaker outputs.
- 85 Watts RMS power effortlessly provided by two 30 amp power transistors mounted on a rugged 2mm thick chassis.
- Session design heavy duty British made 12" guitar speaker (combo model).
- TOROIDAL design, low hum radiating mains transformer.
- Size: 53 x 47 x 25cm.
- Weight: 20kg.
- Inclusions: Footswitch and mains lead.

Front Panel:



1. INPUT: Hi-Z input circuitry to prevent pickup loading effects.

Channel A

2. DRIVE DEPTH: sets amount of distortion.
3. ACCENT - CRUNCH/HEAVY: distortion voice selector switch which allows you to choose the type of distortion best suited to your playing style.
4. ACCENT - PAFtone™: a unique circuit which gives a guitar equipped with single coil pickups a humbucker style tonality.
5. TREBLE: adjusts the intensity of frequencies above 1kHz.
6. MIDDLE: adjusts the intensity of frequencies between 200Hz and 1kHz.
7. BASS: adjusts the intensity of frequencies below 200Hz.
8. VOLUME: adjusts the output level of Channel A.

Channel B

9. TREBLE: as for Channel A.
10. BASS: as for Channel A.
11. VOLUME: adjusts the output level of Channel B.
12. BRIGHT: treble boost for Channel B.

Master

13. REVERB: adjusts the level of reverb effect.
14. VOLUME: a master control to adjust the overall output of the amplifier without affecting your preset channel/reverb balance.
15. POWER: an LED indicator to show when the amplifier is switched on.

Rear Panel



1. Mains (Line) AC Input Socket: to connect your amplifier to the AC supply. The operating voltage of the amplifier is preset inside. On no account connect the amplifier to an AC supply voltage other than that indicated.
Correct fuses must be fitted to fully protect you in the unlikely event of a fault condition occurring and fitting makeshift fuses is gambling with your life. Fuses can fail after prolonged use even though a fault does not exist. As with any make of amplifier, repeated turning on and off is usually the cause. Always carry appropriate spares in case.
2. Mains Switch: turns the amplifier on or off.
3. Extension Speakers: allows the connection of extra speaker cabinet/s with a total load impedance of 8 to 16 ohms.
4. G12T Recording Output: enables the amplifier to be connected to a recorder or PA system and prevents the sound from sounding fizzy or unnaturally thin (See page 5).
- 5 & 6 Effects Send & Return Loop: enables the connection of almost any kind of effect pedal or processor. Use is highly recommended for improved sonic quality and lower background noise (See page 7 for more details).
7. Main Amp In: allows the connection of outboard pre-amps, digital multi-effects pedals, etc (See page 6 for more details).

Switching On For The First Time.

Connect amplifier to the mains supply via the cable provided. Ensure all controls are fully off. Then switch on the amplifier with the MAINS SWITCH. This will produce a dull thud but, don't worry, it is normal and won't harm the speaker.

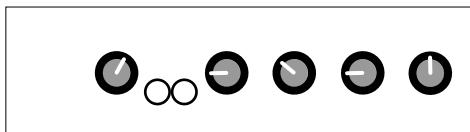
Set MASTER VOLUME to 9 o'clock. Set the FOOTSWITCH to Channel B (LED out). Play the guitar whilst setting Channel B VOLUME to mid way (12 o'clock). It's a good idea to keep the latter as your normal 'B' reference and match everything else to this level. Turn up the MASTER VOLUME to a comfortable level and adjust the EQ controls to suit. Now set FOOTSWITCH to Channel A and adjust the controls to obtain your sound. Balance Channel A VOLUME to Channel B. Now you are ready to add REVERB as required.

For stage performance expect to set MASTER VOLUME at about the 1 o'clock position.

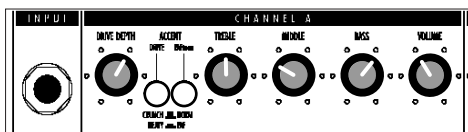
Settings To Get You Started

Switch settings: OUT IN

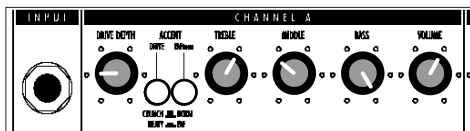
Strat' pickup selections (1=neck 2=middle 3=bridge)



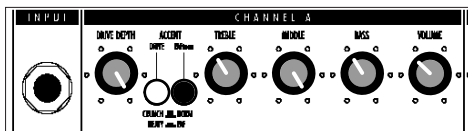
1: DIRTY (AC) THIRTY



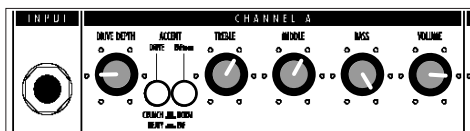
7: ROY BUCHANNAN OR COUNTRY GRIT (3)



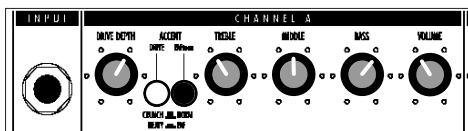
2: VINTAGE TWIN



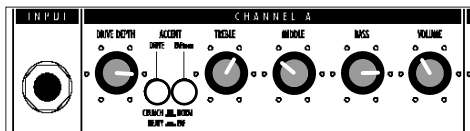
8: DIRTY BUCKER - (1 OR 3)



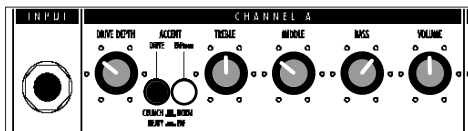
3: VINTAGE STACK - CLEAN



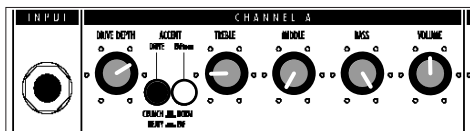
9: PAUL KOSSOFF - All Right Now (3)



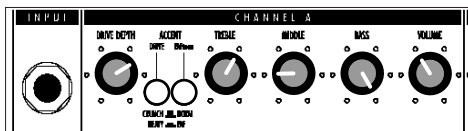
4: VINTAGE STACK - DRIVEN



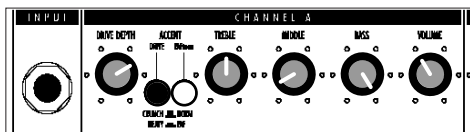
10: DARK SIDE OF DAVE GILMOUR (1)



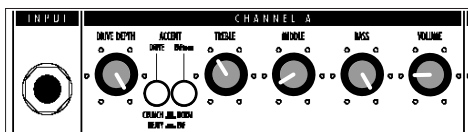
5: FAT STACK - DRIVEN



11: SRV OR BUDDY GUY (1+2)
SWEET ALABAMA (2+3)



6: SCOOPED METAL



12: PETE TOWNSEND - I Can See For Miles (3)

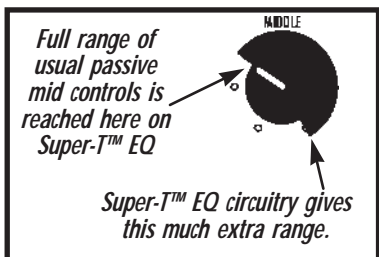
Features That Make The SESSIONETTE Very Different

FlexiDrive™ 'Touch Sensitive' Distortion

Ask any guitar player, they'll say that solid state amps and overdrive pedals suddenly change from clean to distortion. This is not to do with the fact that they're solid state, but due to primitive design.

In ACCENT-CRUNCH setting, Flexidrive mimics how a valve amp works and eliminates sudden changes between clean and overdrive, stretching out the transition for a touch sensitive style that's ideal for blues, new country and 'grungy' playing.

Heavy rock through to to mega distortion, metal thrash sounds are easily achieved by selecting the ACCENT-HEAVY setting. When combined with the effect of the PAFtone™ circuitry, you'll find a myriad of tones you thought only possible from very expensive 'boutique' amps.



Super-T™ Classic EQ - Channel A

Super-T™ is an enhanced version of the EQ used in nearly all well known valve and solid state guitar amps. It is 'borrowed' from the designs of the fifties 'tweed' era.

Even then, guitarists complained that the mid control did not provide enough effect and surprisingly, many amps are short on mid still. So, we've taken note and given it three times the range. Problem fixed.

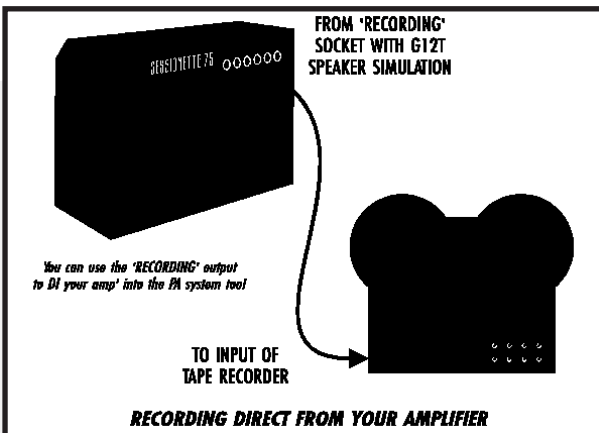
PAFtone™ Humbucker Emulation

The Sessionette is the world's first amplifier to be equipped with HUMBUCKER EMULATION. At the press of a switch, you can make your single-coil pickups sound close to humbuckers. Of course, this won't turn a Fender into a Gibson - as both are unique instruments - but, PAFtone provides very useable emulation plus an expanded range of new tones not previously available.

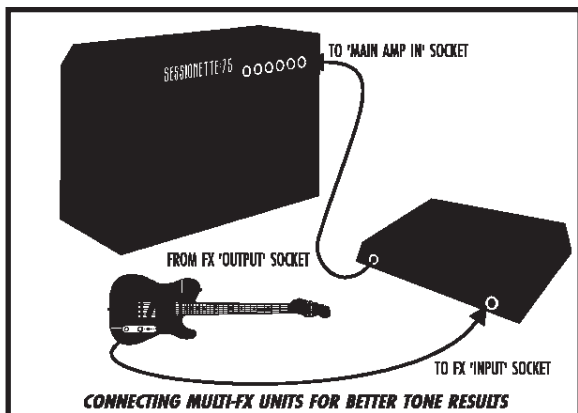
G12™ Speaker Simulation

First incorporated in Jerry Donahue's (HELLECASTERS member) JD10 recording 'pre-dal', as we call it, G12T has become a standard relied upon by many studios and session guitarists as a very quick way of obtaining great guitar recordings direct to tape.

It's built in, at no extra cost. Just plug the G12T output into a four-track and record at home or DI your live sound straight into a PA system without the drawbacks and cost of using mics. You'll never know the difference!



Much More Than Just A Guitar Amp

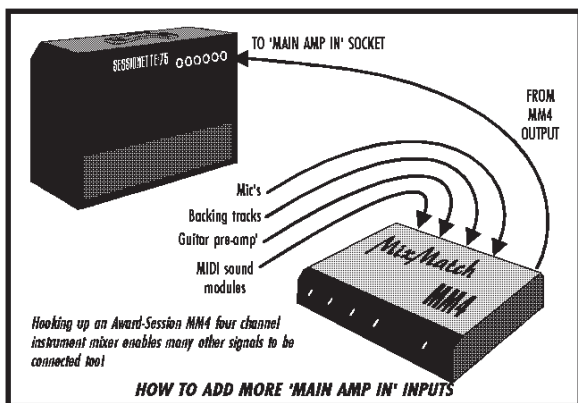


Better Tone From Digital Multi-FX Pedals

Digital effects pedals can sound thin and tizzy when plugged into an amp's instrument input. To cure this problem we have provided a special MAIN AMP IN input on the back panel. The signal enters the amplifier post EQ, but pre Master Volume, Reverb, G12T and FX loop.

By plugging your multi-FX into the MAIN AMP IN socket, the INSTRUMENT input is left free to be used by another guitarist for practice or song writing sessions. Both signals will be mixed together and heard via from the speaker simultaneously. You can also record your performance onto a cassette or multi-track recorder via the G12T recording socket.

The only limiting factor of the MAIN AMP IN socket is that there is only one! What if you'd like to connect other instruments or pre-amps at the same time? Simple... just add a MixMatch (MM4) instrument mixer. This can accept ANY kind of pickup system currently known. Piezo or magnetic, ultra high, high or low impedance. **Yes, that's what we said... ANY kind of pickup.**



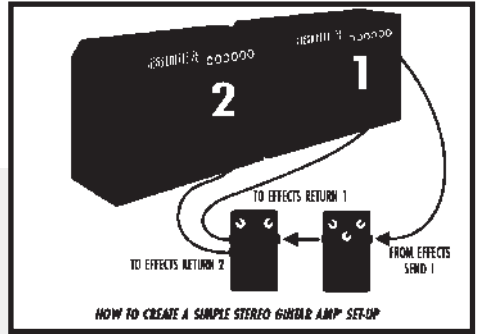
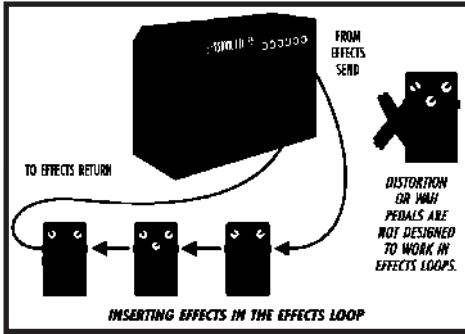
Sessionette - An Acoustic Amp Too

If you also play acoustic guitar, you can plug one of our Gordon Giltrap (GG10) acoustic guitar 'pre-dals' into the MAIN AMP IN socket. Simply connect a GG10 as in the MM4 set up above. The controls on the front of the amp (except MASTER VOLUME) do not affect the MAIN AMP IN signal and the Sessionette's pre-amp still works as normal. Both guitars will be heard via the speaker simultaneously.

The addition of a GG10 enables Sessionette to double as an acoustic guitar amp - this makes more sense than lugging two amps around and saves money too!

Why not find out more about the Award-Session MM4 MixMatch and GG10 acoustic Pre-dal. Call us, we're always pleased to offer free and friendly advice.





Better Hook-up For Effects Pedals

Effects pedals are designed to work best when connected between the guitar and amplifier INSTRUMENT input. The signal strength from a guitar is low and will not overload any pedal. But, the signal strength in many effects loops can be ten or twenty times bigger than a guitar output, causing severe unintended distortion inside the pedals. The Sessionette effects loop has been designed so that you can safely use even budget pedals.

Chorus, flanger, echo, reverb, graphic EQs and most rack mounted units should be inserted in the FX loop for a more pleasing sound, which usually results in much lower background noise too. However, distortion, overdrive and wah devices will work best when connected between the guitar and the amplifier INSTRUMENT input.

Power Doubling

For this you will need two SESSIONETTE amps. Use the FX SEND on amp 1 and connect it to amp 2 FX RETURN to link the two amplifiers for power doubling. Alternatively, connect stereo effects as shown in the setup above right. The main front controls on amp 1 will affect both.

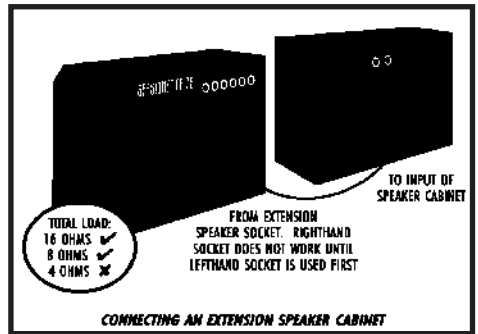
Connecting Extension Cabinets

Award-Session make a matching 8 ohm speaker cabinet for the Sessionette:75. To order quote model number G100-112

Two extension speaker outputs are provided to enable two cabinets to be hooked up. The left hand output has priority and should always be used when only one cabinet is connected.

For maximum reliability, follow the guidelines in the setup opposite and do not connect loads lower than 8 ohms.

It has been great fun designing this amplifier and all at AWARD-SESSION hope you will enjoy it.



Thanks for buying our products... we really appreciate your support.

FlexiDrive, Super-T, G12T and PAFtone are trade marks of AWARD-SESSION

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We reserve the right to alter specifications without prior notice

If you have need for information regarding this, or any other product, you should contact:

AWARD-SESSION, BASINGSTOKE, RG24 8GB, UK - www.AWARD-SESSION.com

Tel. 0044 (0)1256 477 222 : Email. info@Award-Session.com