

Sessionette, Rockette & Duette Series - Channel Switching Problems

How their switching works:

The above mentioned models' channel switching operates by a very simple method of shorting the signal NOT required to ground. This action is carried out by the three position CHANNEL selector switch on the front control panel or the footswitch supplied with the amp. In all cases when you want a clean sound, the DISTORTION signal is shorted to ground by the panel switch or footswitch. Conversely, when you want a DISTORTION sound, the CLEAN signal is shorted to ground.

None of these amps employ any form of 'electronically controlled switching.'

This is an entirely passive method, so its effectiveness is rather dependant on the switches having a VERY low contact resistance. As long as that's the case, all works extremely well.

If the switches are old or worn, they can develop higher contact resistance and this allows 'breakthrough' of the signal that is NOT required being heard in the background. This is sometimes mistaken as distortion in the power amp when the CLEAN sound is selected, but that is often not the true reason!

When the control panel three position CHANNEL switch is set to its centre position, that is the intended position for when the foot switch is plugged in and takes over complete switching control.

When that position is selected and the footswitch is NOT plugged in, BOTH channels will operate simultaneously and it is possible to BLEND the two channels, using the two channel VOLUME controls, for a creative CLEAN/DIRTY sound. Later models of Sessionette were supplied with a triangular footswitch housing equipped with an extra footswitch which enabled that extra facility to be foot-selectable.

Possible problems with the switching & suggested fixes:

- The signals do not change using the three position control panel switch: Replace the switch with a new one - Some models do not have this panel switch.
- Switching is intermittent: Replace the switch with a new one.

- A small amount of DISTORTION signal can be heard when a CLEAN sound is selected: Replace the switch with a new one.
- A small amount of CLEAN signal can be heard when DISTORTION sound is selected: Replace the switch with a new one.

All of these faults can be created by the footswitch too! So follow the instruction below if that's the case:

- CHANNEL or REVERB switching does NOT work when using the footswitch, but works OK with the control panel three position switch: Check for breaks in the footswitch cable or check the footswitches with a DMM (Digital Multi-Meter) and replace if necessary. Check also the condition of the soldered connections inside the DIN PLUG used to connect the footswitch to the amp - where used.
- CHANNEL or REVERB switching is intermittent: Same cure.

There is nothing complicated about these issues and can often be cured simply. It's also sensible to have your amplifier checked over once a year, so all these problems can be picked up beforehand and prevent 'on-stage' break downs!

Most switches can become 'lazy' or slightly oxidised inside by the environment. In these cases, it's a good idea to give them some **vigorous** exercise by rocking them back and fourth twenty or thirty times or operating the footswitch in a similar way. This will help clear their tarnished contacts so that the switch will operate normally once again. If this does not help, then the switch should be replaced with a new one.

Regular use of the switches and other electromechanical components will ensure good operation. Please don't just set your amp up on one sound and then never use the controls. That will cause intermittent early problems! It is also the biggest cause of the pots becoming scratchy when operated. Use them... or lose them!

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7th May 2019