

The Arena Reverb

by Mr. V

100% Hand Wired Point to Point Tube Reverb for Guitar

Thanks for checking out “The Arena”, our 100% Analog all tube box of awesomeness. Before you get started creating the greatest songs of yesterday, today and tomorrow, let's cover the obligatory stuff first.



The Arena is a vacuum tube amplifier/effect. Vacuum tube amps have really high DC voltages running through them. DC can be really dangerous to you if you shock yourself, so don't open the amp up and poke around in there.



NEVER EVER use one of these Ground Lifter things on your tube amplifier. You could end up with some serious injury, shock, fire, etc. Plug it into a good properly grounded outlet. Pre-test an unknown outlet first OK???

Second, TUBES GET HOT WHEN OPERATING. So keep kids and pets away from the back of the amplifier where they could burn themselves.

Ok, so now that I've covered the necessary safety stuff, It's time to Rock!.. or Jazz, or Sing the Blues... whatever you want to do.

So this thing is just an effect??

Indeed it is. This is likely the best sounding reverb you've ever had the pleasure to use. I know it's the best I've ever heard.

How does it work?... Glad you asked.

Hammond is credited for the invention. Many home organs were being sold once upon a time, and to get them to sound more like they were in a cathedral, this spring system was developed. It started hitting guitar amps by the 60's and became a mandate for Surf Music.

There's a metal tank in there that has 6 springs in there... assuming you didn't request anything else. There's also a little bitty all tube guitar amp in there that makes the springs vibrate. Then by “listening” to the vibrating springs, and blending that back with your original guitar sound, you get your guitar amp to sound like you're playing in a big room, a church, or an Arena... Fancy that!

If you got the Vibrato or Tremolo version (Get the vibrato man!!) You'll have that effect too. Tremolo is a fluctuation in VOLUME... whereas Vibrato is a fluctuation in Pitch. I like the Vibrato way better, because you don't “lose” any notes. It just sounds fantastic.

The Reason this reverb sounds better than the one in your amp now...

I'll give you two. By being in front of your guitar amp, and having its own amp, it actually hangs on to the note. The reverb isn't just an echo noise, but an actual Echo Note!

Second, It's got more springs, with a more powerful driver. If you don't drive the springs hard enough, you end up with harsh treble, and bonus noise.

This is one of the most authentic sounding reverbs you can own.



This is The Arena's Control Panel. From left to right...

Power Switch... On, Or Off.

Fuse: Put a 1A Slo-Blow fuse in there if you ever need to... but if the fuse EVER blows, get your amp fixed and let the tech (me) put one back in there OK?

Power Light.. Uses a 6.3v bulb, pretty much like a flashlight that takes 4 batteries.

Speed: If you bought the version that has Vibrato or Tremolo, this is the speed Control for that

Intensity: How much Tremolo or Vibrato do you want blended into your sound? More or Less

Dwell: Remember how I told you how a spring reverb works? This determines how much you are making the springs move... thus simulating a larger or smaller “space”

Input: Plug a guitar into this.

Mix: This is how much you are listening back to the springs

Tone: Springs sometimes have too much treble, you can cut back on it by lowering the number on this knob

Output: Put this into your amp's Input jack. (What? You don't own Braddock??)

Directions for use.

1. Check that your Arena's tubes are all properly in the sockets in the event that you moved it.
2. If you want to use the foot pedal, plug that in first
3. With the power switch in the off position, plug your amp into a pre-tested quality power source.
4. Plug your instrument or Adversary drive (What? You don't have one?) into the Input jack
5. Plug the Arena's output into the input of your Braddock amp. (or some other amp if you must)
6. Use an instrument grade ¼" cable, not a speaker cable.
7. Turn power switch to on, and verify that the power light has illuminated.
8. Wait about 1 minute for the tubes to warm up, there should be a bit of a glow from them by this point.
9. Arena's knobs to about 6.... as a starting point.
10. Assuming your guitar amp is on, and your guitar volume is up, you can now start enjoying the Arena's Awesomeness.
11. If you are using the foot pedal, the left is the On/Off for the Tremolo/Vibrato And the Right is the On/Off for the reverb. Why would you ever turn it off though???
12. If you Don't use the pedal, that's ok, Mix at 0 will provide no reverb, and intensity at zero will provide no vibrato/tremolo
13. If using the foot pedal for the Vibrato, it "creeps" into the signal... so give it a few seconds before freaking out.

Thanks for checking out the Arena!

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