

SP75 Operating Instructions

A Message From The Designer

The SP75 Sessionette is the third in line of a new breed of 'super-pedals' designed to provide many of the 'standard, everyday' working tones that guitarists need to have at their fingertips. This version is aimed at live use and has been given extreme tonal capabilities. I make no apology for the time it will take you to master them. But I know you'll get there in the end.

I started designing guitar amplifiers in 1960 using tubes, so I know a thing or two about them. But, after hearing the SP75, you'll know why I do not use tubes anymore. It's not technology that makes great sounds... it's the knowledge you have and how you use it.

SP75 shows that Award-Session solid state designs can at least match, if not surpass, the performance of it's tube rivals. Because we do not use tubes, our solid state products MUST be superior... or the company would die! We believe Award-Session is the only company in the world with the knack of making solid state work for guitar players. To make great sounding tube preamps is quite easy... to make great sounding solid state preamps is a much more difficult... but to make solid state preamps that questions the continued viability of tubes is regarded impossible!

It has been a well kept secret that over the last ten years almost all of the famous tube amp makers (British and American) have gradually changed to solid state technology to create the overdrive or distortion in their products, which are advertised as 'tube or valve' amplifiers. This means you are probably hearing solid state when you thought you'd bought tube. At Award-Session we are at least honest about our products. I hope the SP75 gives you many years of enjoyment.



"With rapidly diminishing tube quality, isn't it time to consider Award-Session? Our products will sound just as good in 25 years time, as they do today!"

Stewart Ward

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Unique Features

FlexiDrive™ Distortion - With the 'CRUNCH' distortion option selected, Award's FlexiDrive™ eliminates sudden changes between clean and overdrive. It's kind of touch sensitive and stretches out the transition, ideal for blues, country rock and 'grungy' rhythm styles. Heavier rock through to mega overdrive and Metal Thrash styles are easily achieved by selecting the 'HEAVY' distortion voicing option.

PAFtone™ Humbucker Emulation - Award have invested a great deal in developing the PAFtone™ circuitry. It means a whole new dimension for players of single coil pickup equipped guitars. Single coils have a great tone, but there are times when the tone is just too bright for say, jazz or standards. PAFtone™ comes into full strength when small amounts of overdrive is being used, and right up to 'battleskull bombastica' OTT distortion. It removes those nasty fizzy harmonics above 3kHz (often called the transistor sound) from the sustained tone. Words alone are unable to do justice to it's effect, but any experienced guitarist will instantly hear the benefit.

Super-T™ Classic EQ - At the heart of just about all vintage 'tweed' tube guitar amps is a three band EQ circuit known as a 'bridged tee network'. You know, the Bass, Middle and Treble controls. That circuit is still at the heart of most modern amps too... clearly because it works well and sounds right! We've used this circuit inside the SP75 as well, but slightly modified to give much more MID' boost... and importantly, without affecting the tone quality of this classic circuitry which gives guitars the tone we all instantly recognize.

ABC™ Bypass - Ask any guitarist, most pedals make the guitar tone sound muddy when in bypass mode. Not the SP75. The 'Active Bypass Circuitry' drives cords up to 100 metres long and totally eliminates guitar tone or volume loss in bypass mode. Guaranteed!

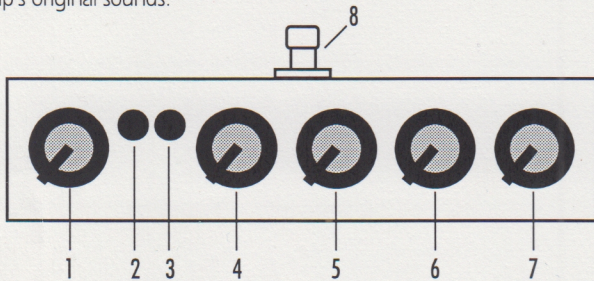
AutoSense™ - Your battery has died or your AC adapter has broken... what do you do? Try any old AC adapter that might be to hand? If it's the wrong type your pedal might be killed too! AutoSense™ enables you to use almost any AC adapter with either a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE output between 9 to 30 volts DC, WITHOUT ANY RISK OF HARM TO YOUR PEDAL... AND IT WILL WORK PERFECTLY! Gig saved.

There are other innovations which are closely guarded secrets. For example, you will notice how the SP75 can 'pump' plenty of bottom end... but without the overdrive or distortion breaking up like most other pedals. How about the very low background noise? We think enough has been said!

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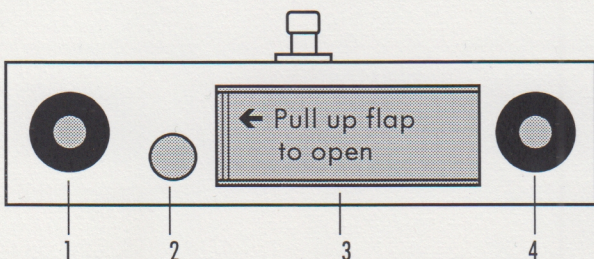
Front Panel Facilities

1. DRIVE DEPTH - sets amount of distortion.
2. HEAVY/CRUNCH - overdrive voicing selector.
3. PAF/NORM - to activate humbucker emulation.
4. TREBLE - to boost frequencies above 1kHz.
5. MIDDLE - to boost frequencies centred at 250Hz.
6. BASS - to boost frequencies below 100Hz.
7. OUTPUT LEVEL - to set output volume or match signal to amp.
8. BYPASS - footswitch for use during live performance to access your amp's original sounds.



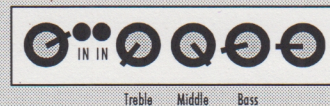
Rear Panel Facilities

1. OUTPUT - Lo-Z to drive long cables without tone/volume loss.
2. POWER CONNECTOR - for connecting an external AC Adapter.
3. BATTERY COMPARTMENT - for 9V type PP3, 6F22R or equivalent.
4. INPUT - Hi-Z circuitry to eliminate pickup loading.



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The Classic Sessionette 75 Lead Sound - There was one tone setting on this amplifier which enabled guitarists to get a smooth, creamy sustained lead distortion sound... rather like Carlos Santana. This was the 'EQ SET' setup. The setting below will allow you to recreate this very popular tone.



Treble Middle Bass

Use Of Effects Pedals/Processors - Overdrive and wah pedals should be used between the guitar and SP75. It is best to try and connect chorus, echo, reverb or other time delay effects between the output of SP75 and the input of the amplifier, PA, recorder or Hi Fi. Generally this produces a more pleasing sound. However, this is not a firm rule and you may prefer the results with all effects units between guitar and SP75. Don't be afraid to experiment. Whichever sounds best to you is right! When you have a good sound... you naturally play well too!

AC Adapter Operation - SP75 runs on a standard 9V Alkaline battery, alternatively ANY adapter giving a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE output between 9 and 30 volts DC. SP75 is equipped with AutoSense™ circuitry that senses the voltages and AUTOMATICALLY adjusts itself internally. NO HARM CAN BE DONE BY USE OF INCORRECT AC ADAPTERS, providing the above guidelines are adhered to.

THANKS FOR BUYING OUR PRODUCTS.

WE APPRECIATE IT!



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