

# V100H Tube Guitar Amplifier with Reverb





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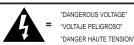




#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- READ, FOLLOW, HEED, AND KEEP ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.
- DO NOT OPERATE NEAR ANY HEAT SOURCE AND DO NOT BLOCK ANY VENTILATION OPENINGS ON THIS APPARATUS. FOR PROPER OPERATION, THIS UNIT REQUIRES 3" (75mm) OF WELL VENTILATED SPACE AROUND HEATSINKS AND OTHER AIR FLOW PROVISIONS IN THE CABINET.
- DO NOT USE THIS APPARATUS NEAR SPLASHING, FALLING, SPRAYING, OR STANDING LIQUIDS.
- CLEAN ONLY WITH LINT-FREE DAMP CLOTH AND DO NOT USE CLEANING AGENTS.
- ONLY CONNECT POWER CORD TO A POLARIZED, SAFETY GROUNDED OUTLET WIRED TO CURRENT ELECTRICAL CODES AND COMPATIBLE WITH VOLTAGE, POWER, AND FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS STATED ON THE REAR PANEL OF THE APPARATUS.
- PROTECT THE POWER CORD FROM DAMAGE DUE TO BEING WALKED ON, PINCHED, OR STRAINED.
- UNPLUG THE APPARATUS DURING LIGHTNING STORMS OR WHEN UNUSED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
- ONLY USE ATTACHMENTS, ACCESSORIES, STANDS, OR BRACKETS SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER FOR SAFE OPERATION AND TO AVOID INJURY.
- WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK OR FIRE, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.
- SERVICE MUST BE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.
- OUR AMPLIFIERS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS. CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT OR LOSS. USER CAUTION IS ADVISED AND EAR PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDED IF UNIT IS OPERATED AT HIGH VOLUME.
- WARNING: THIS UNIT REQUIRES A SAFETY GROUNDED OUTLET WIRED TO CURRENT ELECTRIC CODES HAVING THE
  LINE SUPPLY VOLTAGE, POWER, AND FREQUENCY IDENTIFIED ON THE REAR OF THE UNIT. THE OUTLET MUST REMAIN
  ACCESSIBLE TO DISCONNECT THE UNIT IF A FAULT SHOULD ARISE WHILE IN USE. THIS UNIT SHOULD BE UNPLUGGED WHEN
  NOT IN USE.

EXPLANATION OF GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS: EXPLICACION DE SIMBOLOS GRAFICOS: EXPLICATION DES SYMBÔLES GRAPHIQUES:





"IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE USER TO REFER TO THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL"
"ES NECESARIO QUE EL USUARIO SE REFIERA AL MANUAL DE INSTRUCCIONES."
"REFERREZ-VOUS AU MANUAL D'UTILISATION"

# Introduction

**Congratulations!** You are now the proud owner of a Crate V100H tube guitar amplifier. This rugged amplifier packs a whole lot of vintage tube sound and classic spring reverb into its heavy-duty cabinet, providing you with an amp that is portable and easy to operate, yet still produces incredible sounds!

The V-Series amps offer the versatility required for many different musical styles, and have the unique tonal purity of a hot-rodded tube amp. The V100H is a two-channel amplifier with channel-switching between clean and overdrive sounds, gain and master volume controls, treble/mid/bass tone controls, global boost and presence controls, and an internal spring reverb. It cranks out 100 watts from a set of four EL34 output tubes.

Like all Crate products, your V100H amplifier is designed by musicians and built using only the best components. Each amplifier is tested to confirm that it meets our specifications, and we believe that this amplifier is the absolute best that it can be.

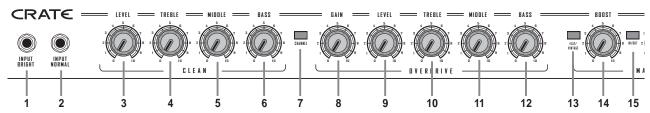
In order to get the most out of your new amplifier, please read this manual before you begin playing.

And thank you for choosing Crate.

Here are some of the features packed into your new V100H Guitar Amplifier:

- Four EL34 power vacuum tubes for smooth overdrive sound
- Four 12AX7 preamplifier vacuum tubes
- 100 watts rms power output
- 50 watt/100 watt switch to adjust output power
- Two-channel operation (Clean and Overdrive)
- 3-band EQ per channel
- Boost control with vintage or flat boost selection
- Proprietary Presence control adds punch to the output
- Reverb control
- Effects loop
- Two speaker output jacks
- Output impedance switch to match total speaker impedance (4 ohm, 8 ohm, 16 ohm)
- Footswitch jack for remotely selecting channel (Clean and Overdrive)
- Footswitch jack for remotely turning Boost and Reverb on and off

# **The Front Panel**



- BRIGHT INPUT: Use this jack to connect your guitar to the amplifier using a shielded instrument cable. It provides a high-frequency boost compared to the Normal input for a brighter, punchier sound.
- 2. **NORMAL INPUT:** Use this jack to connect your guitar to the amplifier using a shielded instrument cable.

#### **CLEAN Channel**

- **3. LEVEL:** Use this to adjust the volume of the Clean channel.
- **4. TREBLE:** Use this to adjust the output level of the high frequencies. The adjustment range is 12 dB at 6 kHz.
- **5. MIDDLE:** Use this to adjust the output level of the mid frequencies. The adjustment range is 10 dB at 1 kHz.
- **6. BASS:** Use this to adjust the output level of the low frequencies. The adjustment range is 8 dB at 150 Hz.
- **7. CHANNEL Select:** Push in this switch to activate the Overdrive channel. The Clean channel is active when the switch is in the out position.

**Note:** The footswitch also controls this function.

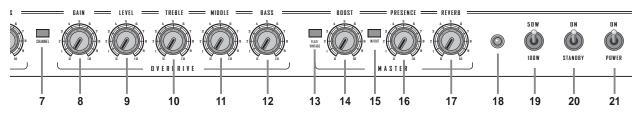
#### **OVERDRIVE Channel**

- **8. GAIN:** Use this to adjust the gain for the Overdrive channel. With the control turned counter-clockwise, the gain is low and very little distortion is present. As you rotate it clockwise, the gain increases, producing more overdrive distortion, and a higher output volume level.
- **9. LEVEL:** Use this to adjust the output level of the Overdrive channel.
- **10. TREBLE:** Use this to adjust the output level of the high frequencies. The adjustment range is 12 dB at 6 kHz.
- **11. MIDDLE:** Use this to adjust the output level of the mid frequencies. The adjustment range is 10 dB at 1 kHz.
- **12. BASS:** Use this to adjust the output level of the low frequencies. The adjustment range is 8 dB at 150 Hz.
- 13. FLAT/VINTAGE: Push this switch in (Vintage) to give the boost circuit a punchier sound, with a midrange boost at 900 Hz. Leave the switch out (Flat) for the boost control to affect all frequencies.
- **14. BOOST:** This controls the amount of Flat or Vintage boost that is applied to the signal. Turn the control clockwise for more boost.
- **15. IN/OUT:** This turns the boost circuit on and off. Push the switch IN to turn on the boost circuit.

**Note:** The footswitch also controls this function.

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# **The Front Panel (continued)**



- **16. PRESENCE:** This controls the overall brightness and punch of the output signal.
- **17. REVERB:** Use this to adjust the amount of reverb. Fully counter-clockwise is "dry" (no reverb). Rotate clockwise to increase the amount of reverb.
- **18. LAMP:** This illuminates when the amplifier is turned on.
- 19. 50W/100W SWITCH: This switch changes the output power of the amplifier. Using the 50W position gives you a little less power (–3 dB), but allows you to get that overdrive sound without the high volume of the 100W position.

**20. ON/STANDBY Switch:** Use this switch to activate the amplifier after the On/Off switch [21] is turned on.

Always turn this switch to STANDBY first, and ON last! Turn the On/Off switch [21] on at least 30 seconds before turning on the Standby switch.

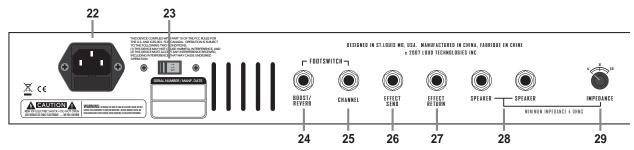
During short breaks, you should turn this switch to STANDBY, and leave the On/Off switch on. This will help prolong the life of the amplifier tubes.

**21. ON/OFF SWITCH:** Use this switch to turn the amplifier on and off.

Always turn this switch ON first and OFF last! Turn the Standby switch [20] on at least 30 seconds after turning on the On/Off switch. Turn the Standby switch to STANDBY before turning off the On/Off switch.

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## The Rear Panel



22. AC Socket and Fuse: This is where you connect the included power cord. The grounded power cord should only be plugged into a grounded power outlet that meets all applicable electrical codes. Make sure the Voltage Select switch [23] is set for the correct voltage.

The fuse is located behind the fuse cover, at the bottom of the AC socket. See the "Service Information" section on page 14 for information about replacing the fuse.

Do not attempt to defeat the safety ground connection.

**23. Voltage Select Switch:** Set this switch to "115" for 100-120 VAC mains, and to "230" for 220-240 VAC mains.

With the amplifier power cord unplugged, use the tip of a small flatblade screwdriver to slide this switch to the proper position.

24. BOOST/REVERB FOOTSWITCH Jack:

Use this 1/4" TRS jack to connect one of the footswitch cables to the three-button footswitch (optional). This allows for remote control switching of the boost effect and the reverb (Tip = boost on/off, Ring = reverb on/off). **Note:** The footswitch overrides the Boost In/Out switch [15] on the front panel.

25. CHANNEL FOOTSWITCH Jack:

Use this 1/4" TS jack to connect one of the footswitch cables to the three-button footswitch (optional). This allows for remote control of channel switching (Clean/Overdrive).

**Note:** The footswitch overrides the CHANNEL Select switch [7] on the front panel.

**26. EFFECT SEND:** Use this 1/4" TS jack to send the signal to an external effects box.

**Note:** The Effect Send jack can be used as a line-level output from the preamplifier stage of the V100H to a mixer or recorder. The signal comes after the EQ and Boost stages but before the reverb stage.

**27. EFFECT RETURN:** Use this 1/4" TS jack to return the signal from an external effects box.

**Note:** The Effect Return jack disconnects the signal from the preamplifier stage of the V100H, so only the signal at the Effect Return jack is sent on to the power amplifier.

- 28. SPEAKER Outputs: Use these 1/4"
  TS jacks to connect the amplifier to one or more speaker cabinets, like the Crate V412. Be sure the Impedance switch [29] setting matches the total impedance of all the speakers connected to these two parallel jacks.
- **29. IMPEDANCE Switch:** Set this switch to the same impedance as the total load of the speakers that are connected to the Speaker Output jacks.

# **SPEAKER CABINET IMPEDANCE** divided by **NUMBER OF CABINETS = TOTAL LOAD**

 $1 \times 16$  ohm cabinet = 16 ohms

 $2 \times 16$  ohm cabinets = 8 ohms

 $2 \times 8$  ohm cabinets = 4 ohms

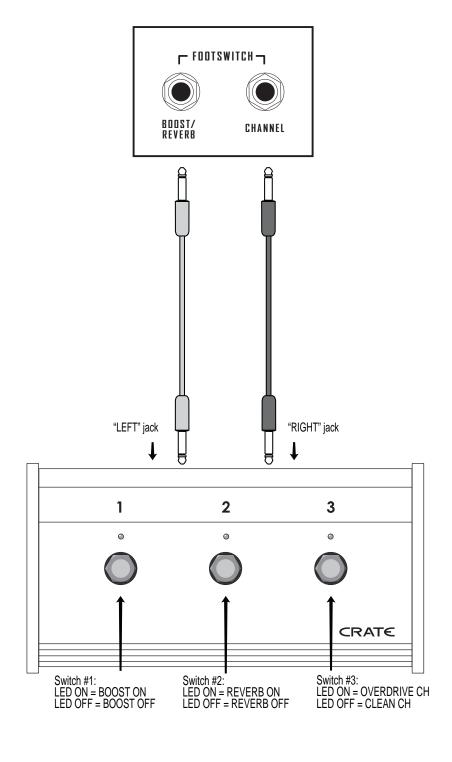
DO NOT USE A COMBINATION WITH A TOTAL IMPEDANCE BELOW 4 OHMS!

# Using the Footswitch with the V100H

The Crate three-button footswitch can be purchased from your Crate dealer. Using the footswitch allows you to switch between the Clean and Overdrive channels, and turn the Reverb and the Boost circuits on and off.

Connect the footswitch to the amplifier as shown below.

**Note:** When the footswitch is connected, it overrides the front panel Channel Select [7] and Boost In/Out [15] switches.

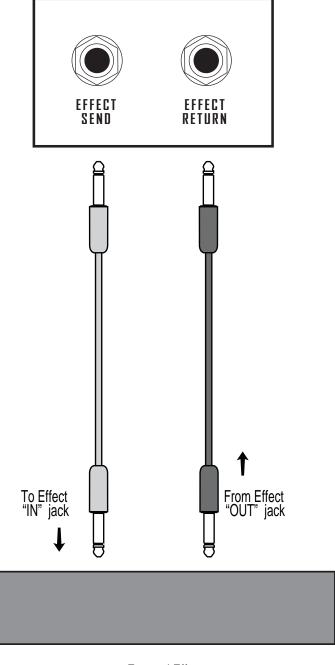


# **Connecting an External Effects Processor**

The V100H has Effect Send [26] and Effect Return [27] jacks on the rear panel that allow you to add another effect to the sound of your guitar, like a digital delay, for example.

Connect an external effects box to the amplifier as shown below.

**Note:** When a plug is connected to the Effect Send jack, it breaks the signal chain and you **must** return the signal from the external effects processor to the Effect Return jack in order to complete the circuit and have a signal at the Speaker Output jacks.



**External Effect** 

# **Important Information about Tubes and Tube Products:**

#### A Brief History Of The Tube:

In 1883, Edison discovered that electrons would flow from a suspended filament when enclosed in an evacuated lamp. Years later, in 1905, Fleming expanded on Edison's discovery and created the "Fleming Valve." Then, in 1907, Dr. Lee de Forest added a third component – the grid – to the "Fleming Valve" and the vacuum tube was a fact of life. The door to electronic amplification was now open.

During World War II, data gleaned from their intensive research on the detectors used in radar systems, led Bell Telephone Laboratories to the invention of the transistor. This reliable little device gained quick support as the new component for amplification. The death of the vacuum tube seemed imminent as designers, scientists, and engineers reveled in the idea of replacing large, fragile glass tubes with these small, solid-state devices.

However, there were (and still are) many serious listeners who realized that the sound produced by a "transistor" amplifier is significantly different from that produced by a tube amplifier with identical design specifications. They considered the sound produced by these new solid-state devices to be hard, brittle, and lifeless. It was determined that solid-state devices produced a less musical set of harmonics than tubes. When pushed past their limits, they tend to mute the tone and emphasize the distortion.

Tubes, on the other hand, produce a more musical set of harmonics, the intensity of which can be controlled by the player. This characteristic adds warmth and definition to the sound which has become the hallmark of tube amplifiers. When tubes are driven into clipping, the harmonic overtones can be both sweet and pleasing or intense and penetrating, depending on the musician's musical taste and playing technique.

Over the years, application engineers have designed a number of outstanding solid-state amplifiers that sound very, very good. Some use special circuitry which enables them to simulate the distortion characteristics of a tube amplifier. However, the tube amplifier, still held in the highest esteem by many musicians, offers a classic "vintage" sound in a contemporary market.

#### **Tube Types And Usage:**

Tube amplifiers are based primarily on two types of tubes – preamplifier tubes and power tubes. The tubes used in preamplifiers (12AX7, 12AU7, 12AT7, etc.) are smaller than the power tubes. These tubes amplify the signal from your instrument and shape the sound. They are inherently microphonic (they can mechanically pick up and transmit external noises). Since these tubes are used in the critical first stages of a tube amplifier's circuitry, it is very important to use high-quality, low noise/low microphonic tubes for this application. Although tubes of this quality may be difficult to find and typically cost more than "off-the-shelf" tubes, the improvement in performance is worth the investment.

Preamplifier tubes are also used to drive the power tubes. When used in this application, a 12AX7 will produce a more distorted tone than a 12AT7, which produces a clearer, sweeter sound. A 12AU7 is even cleaner and brighter than a 12AT7, giving more definition to the sound. (In some cases it is possible to change the sound by changing the type of preamp and/or driver tubes. When making any modification to your equipment, it is highly recommended that you consult with a qualified service center.)

Important Information About Tubes and Tube Products (continued):

The power tubes are the largest tubes used in an amplifier. These tubes convert the low-level, conditioned signal from the preamplifier into a level that is sufficient to drive the speakers. There are several types of power tubes available, each of which offers a different performance/sound characteristic. For example, the EL34 power tube produces a great classic rock sound. When an EL34 is driven into distortion, it produces a unique sound ("crunch"). When compared to the 6L6, the EL34 distorts more quickly, exhibits a "looser" low-end response and produces more harmonics at mid and high frequencies ("creamier" sound). These differences become more noticeable at higher volumes.

The EL84 is similar to the EL34 but produces less output power. It can be easily driven into distortion and is characterized by a smooth, sweet tone with excellent touch sensitivity.

6L6 tubes produce a big low-end thump and have a very good dynamic range. They offer a more traditional "American Rock" sound. The 6V6 tubes produce a creamy sound with nice distortion. On the other hand, the KT88 produces a big low-end but sounds more like an EL34 in the mid and high frequencies.

6550 power tubes are more rugged and stay cleaner-sounding even at full power. When they do distort, the sound produced is more solid and has a tighter low end; more of a "heavy metal" type distortion with lots of power.

Some tubes are available in matched sets. These tubes have been extensively tested for optimum performance and longevity.

#### The Nature Of Tubes — Why (And When) To Replace Them:

Tubes are made up of a number of fragile mechanical components that are vacuum-sealed in a glass envelope or bubble. The tube's longevity is based on a number of factors which include how hard and often the amplifier is played, vibration from the speakers, road travel, repeated set up and tear down, etc.

Any time you notice a change in your amplifier's performance, check the tubes first.

If it's been a while since the tubes were replaced and the sound from your amplifier lacks punch, fades in and out, loses highs or lows or produces unusual sounds, the power tubes probably need to be replaced. If your amplifier squeals, makes noise, loses gain, starts to hum, lacks "sensitivity", or feels as if it is working against you, the preamplifier tubes may need to be replaced.

The power tubes are subjected to considerably more stress than the preamplifier tubes. Consequently, they almost always fail/degrade first. If deteriorating power tubes aren't replaced they will ultimately fail. Depending on the failure mode, they may even cause severe damage to the audio output transformer and/or other components in the amplifier. Replacing the tubes before they fail completely has the potential to save you time, money and unwanted trouble. Since power tubes work together in an amplifier, it is crucial that they (if there is more than one) be replaced by a matched set. If you're on the road a lot, we recommend that you carry a spare matched set of replacement power tubes and their associated driver tubes.

After turning off the power and disconnecting the amplifier from the power source, carefully check the tubes (in bright light) for cracks or white spots inside the glass or any other apparent damage. Then, with the power on, view the tubes in a dark room. Look for preamplifier tubes that do not glow at all or power tubes that glow excessively red.

Important Information About Tubes and Tube Products (continued):

Whenever you replace the power tube(s):

- Always have the amplifier's bias voltage checked by a qualified service center. Improper bias voltage will cause degradation in performance and possibly damage the tubes and/or the amplifier. (See "The Importance of Proper Biasing", below for more information).
- We highly recommend that you replace the driver tube(s) as well. The driver tube determines the shape and amplitude of the signal applied to the power tube(s) and has to work almost as hard as the power tube(s).

You can check your preamplifier tubes for microphonics by turning the amplifier on, turning up the gain and tapping lightly on each tube with the end of a pencil or a chop stick (my favorite). You will be able to hear the tapping through your speakers, which is normal. It is not normal for a tube to ring like a bell after it's tapped. If it does ring then it's microphonic and should be replaced. Remember to use only high quality, low microphonic tubes in the preamplifier section.

Even though power tubes are rarely microphonic, you should check them anyway. The power tubes can be checked for microphonics just like pre-amp tubes.

In the case of very high gain amps, you may be able to reduce the amount of noise generated by simply swapping the preamp tubes around.

#### The Importance Of Proper Biasing:

For the best performance and longest tube life, proper biasing is imperative. Bias is the negative voltage which is applied to the power tube's control grid to set the level of idle current. We cannot over emphasize the difference in warmth of tone and dynamic response that come with proper biasing. If the bias is set too high (over biased), the sound from the amp will be distorted at all levels. If the bias is set too low, (under biased) the power tubes will run hot (the plates inside the tubes may glow red due to excessive heat) and the sound from the amplifier will lack power and punch. The excessive heat greatly reduces tube life – from a few days to as little as a few hours in extreme cases. Setting the bias on your amp is like setting the idle on your car. If it's too high or hot it's running away with you and if it's too low or cold it will choke when you step on it.

The bias is adjusted at the factory in accordance with the type of power tube(s) installed in your amplifier. It is important to point out that tubes of the same type and specification typically exhibit different performance characteristics. Consequently, whenever power tubes are replaced, the bias voltage must be checked (unless the amplifier is equipped with "self-biasing" circuitry) and readjusted to accommodate the operating parameters of the replacement tubes.

Depending on the model and amplifier type, there may be hum balance controls, trim pots, or bias adjustment controls on its rear panel. However, the bias adjustment should be performed only by qualified service personnel with the proper, calibrated test equipment.

Important Information About Tubes and Tube Products (continued):

#### **Survival Tips For Tube Amplifiers:**

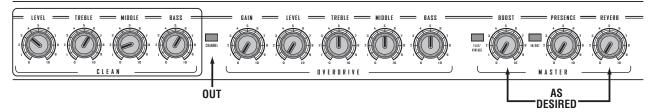
To prolong tube life, observe these tips and recommendations:

- Match the impedance of your speaker cabinet(s) to your amplifier. Improper impedance matching will contribute to early tube degradation and may cause premature tube failure.
- Make sure the speaker(s) are properly connected prior to turning on the amplifier.
- After playing the amplifier, allow sufficient time for it to properly cool down prior to moving
  it. A properly cooled amplifier prolongs tube life due to the internal components being less
  susceptible to the damage caused by vibration.
- Allow the amplifier to warm up to room temperature before turning it on. The heat generated by the tube elements can crack a cold glass housing.
- Replace the output tube(s) before the performance degrades or the tubes fail completely.
   Replace the tube(s) on a regular basis (at least once per year or as often as every 4 to 6 months if you play long and hard every day).
- Always have the bias checked after replacing the output tubes (unless the amplifier is equipped with "self-biasing circuitry"). This should be done ONLY at a qualified service center. Improper biasing could result in the tubes running too hot, which greatly reduces the life of the tubes or too cold, which results in distorted sound regardless of level settings. Do not play the amplifier if it exhibits these symptoms get the bias checked/adjusted immediately to prevent tube failure and/or other damage.
- If the locating notch on the base of a power tube breaks off, replace the tube. This significantly reduces the risk of damaging your amplifier by incorrectly inserting the tube.
- Protect the amplifier from dust and moisture. If liquid gets into the amplifier proper, or
  if the amplifier is dropped or otherwise mechanically abused, have it checked out at an
  authorized service center before using it.
- Proper maintenance and cleaning in combination with routine checkups by your authorized service center will insure the best performance and longest life from your amplifier.

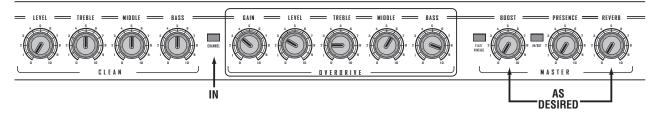
CAUTION: Tube replacement should be performed only by qualified service personnel who are familiar with the dangers of hazardous voltages that are typically present in tube circuitry.

# **Suggested Settings**

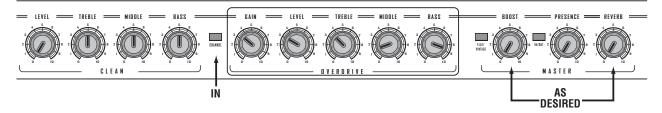
## Sweet 'n Clean:



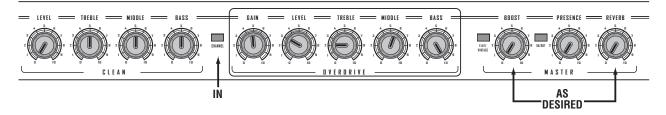
# Just a 'Lil Nasty:



## **Politely Gritty:**



## Down 'n Dirty:



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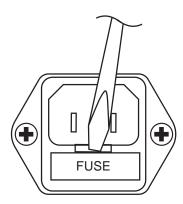
# **Service Information**

If you are having a problem with your V100H, you can go to our website (www.crateamps.com) and click on Support for service information, or call 1-800-898-3211 during business hours (7 am to 5 pm PST, Monday-Friday). If you are outside of the U.S., contact your local distributor for technical support and service.

If the V100H doesn't turn on when the Power switch is turned on, it is possible that the fuse may have blown. Try replacing the fuse following the instructions below. If the fuse blows again, there may be something more seriously wrong that will require an experienced technician to correct.

To remove and replace the fuse:

- 1. Disconnect the power cord from the AC socket on the rear panel.
- 2. Remove the fuse drawer by prying it open with a small screwdriver. It will slide all the way out.



3. Remove the fuse and replace it with an equivalent type fuse: 5 amp slo-blo (T5A/250V)

**Declaration Of Conformity** 

**Manufacturer:** LOUD Technologies Inc.

16220 Wood-Red Rd. NE Woodinville, WA 98072, USA

Product Name: Crate V100H
Product Type: Audio Amplifier

**Complies with Standards:** 

**LVD:** 92/31/EEC, 93/68/EEC, & 73/23/EWG

Safety: EN60065

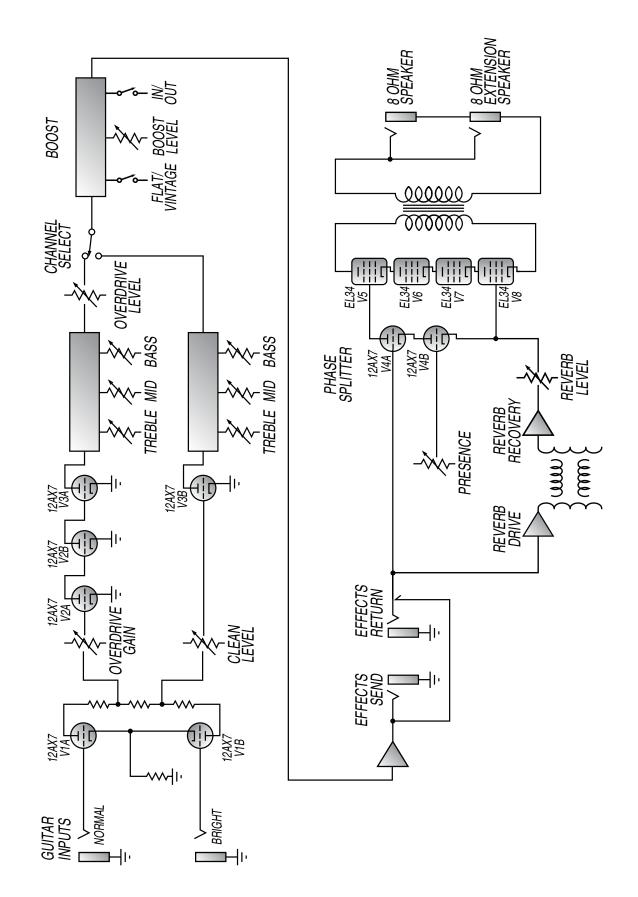
**EMC:** EN55013, EN55020, EN55022, EN55103, EN61000-3-2,

& EN61000-3-3

The official Declaration of Conformity for this product is kept on file at: LOUD Technologies Inc., 16220 Wood-Red Road NE, Woodinville, WA 98072 • Tel: 1-866-858-5832



# **System Block Diagram**



V100H TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
	100 W rms @ 10% THD, 4, 8, or 16 ohm load, 120 VAC	
	700 kohms	
	62 dB, Typical (Clean Ch only)	
Overdrive Ch	102 dB, all controls @ 10	
Clean Ch	56 dB, all controls @ 10	
EQ	Treble: 12 dB range @ 6 kHz	
	Middle: 10 dB range @ 1 kHz	
	Bass: 8 dB range @ 150 Hz	
	0-10 dB (@ 900 Hz in Vintage mode)	
	0-8 dB @ 10 kHz	
	(4) 12AX7	
	(4) EL34	
Power Requirements	90-132 VAC, 60 Hz, 150 VA	
	220-240 VAC, 50 Hz, 150 VA	
Size (H x W x D)	10.0 in/25.4 cm x 30.0 in/76.2 cm x	
	10.0 in/25.4 cm	
	43.0 lb/19.5 kg	
	Overdrive Ch	

The V100H is covered with a durable fabric-backed vinyl material. Wipe it clean with a lint-free cloth. Never spray cleaning agents onto the cabinet. Avoid abrasive cleansers which would damage the finish.

Crate continually develops new products, as well as improves existing ones. For this reason, the specifications and information in this manual are subject to change without notice.

"Crate" is a registered trademark of LOUD Technologies Inc. All other brand names mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders and are hereby acknowledged.





