

Fender 5550113548

Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS Medium Quartet Amplifier Tube User Manual

Model: 5550113548

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS Medium Quartet Amplifier Tubes. Please read these instructions carefully before installation and operation to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your amplifier tubes.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS are power amplifier tubes designed to deliver a distinct tonal character. These tubes are known for their pronounced mid-range punch, tight low end, and crisp top end, making them suitable for various amplifier applications, particularly those seeking a classic British sound profile. They typically provide an output between 20 and 25 watts.

Key Features:

- Quartet of GT-E34L-S tubes
- Available in matched ratings: R1-R3 (Low), R4-R7 (Medium), R8-R10 (High)
- Designed for robust performance and tonal clarity

What's in the Box:

- 4 x Medium GT-E34L-S Tubes



Image showing a quartet of Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS amplifier tubes, packaged for use in musical instrument amplifiers.

3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

WARNING: Amplifier tubes operate at high voltages and can become extremely hot. Always ensure the amplifier is turned off, unplugged from the power source, and allowed to cool completely before handling tubes. Improper handling can result in severe injury or damage to the equipment.

1. **Power Down and Cool:** Turn off your amplifier and unplug it from the wall outlet. Allow at least 15-30 minutes for the amplifier and tubes to cool down to a safe temperature.
2. **Access Tubes:** Carefully remove the amplifier's back panel or chassis cover to access the tube sockets, following your amplifier's specific instructions.
3. **Remove Old Tubes (if applicable):** Grasp the old tube firmly at its base (not the glass envelope) and gently rock it side-to-side while pulling straight up. Avoid twisting, which can damage the tube pins or socket.
4. **Install New Tubes:**
 - Align the pins of the new GT-E34LS tube with the corresponding holes in the socket. Note that the pins are often keyed, meaning they will only fit in one orientation.

- Gently push the tube straight down into the socket until it is fully seated. Do not force it.
- Ensure all four tubes in the quartet are installed correctly.

5. **Tube Matching (Bias Adjustment):** The GT-E34LS tubes are supplied as a matched quartet. For optimal performance and to prevent damage, it is highly recommended to have a qualified technician check and adjust the amplifier's bias settings after installing new power tubes. This ensures the tubes operate within their safe parameters and deliver the best sound. Groove Tubes are rated R1-R3 (Low), R4-R7 (Medium), R8-R10 (High) to indicate their current draw, allowing for precise matching.
6. **Reassemble Amplifier:** Once tubes are securely installed and bias is set (if applicable), reattach the amplifier's cover or back panel.

4. OPERATING GUIDELINES

Proper operation extends the life of your amplifier tubes and ensures consistent performance.

- **Warm-up Period:** Allow your amplifier to warm up for a few minutes after turning it on before playing at high volumes. This allows the tubes to reach their optimal operating temperature.
- **Cool-down Period:** After use, allow the amplifier to cool down for several minutes before moving it or turning it off completely. Sudden temperature changes can stress tubes.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure your amplifier has adequate ventilation to prevent overheating, which can significantly shorten tube life.
- **Avoid Excessive Vibration:** Tubes are sensitive to physical shock. Avoid dropping or subjecting your amplifier to excessive vibration, especially when hot.
- **Speaker Load:** Always connect your amplifier to a proper speaker load before turning it on. Operating a tube amplifier without a speaker load can cause severe damage to the output transformer and tubes.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular, simple maintenance can help preserve the performance and lifespan of your GT-E34LS tubes.

- **Cleaning:** Gently wipe the glass envelopes of the tubes with a clean, dry, lint-free cloth when the amplifier is off and cool. Avoid using cleaning solutions directly on the tubes.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect tubes for any visible signs of damage, such as cracks in the glass, loose internal components, or excessive getter flash (silver coating turning white).
- **Storage:** If removing tubes for storage, keep them in their original packaging or in a protective, padded container in a cool, dry place.
- **Replacement:** Tubes have a finite lifespan. Replace tubes when you notice a significant degradation in sound quality, loss of power, or if they exhibit signs of failure (e.g., red plating, excessive noise, microphonics). Power tubes typically require replacement more frequently than preamp tubes.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your amplifier after installing new tubes, consider the following basic troubleshooting steps. For complex issues, consult a qualified amplifier technician.

- **No Sound or Low Volume:**
 - Ensure tubes are fully seated in their sockets.

- Check all cable connections (instrument, speaker, power).
 - Verify amplifier settings (volume, gain).
 - A faulty tube can cause this; try swapping tubes one by one if you have spares (only if you know how to safely do so).
- **Distorted or Unclear Sound:**
 - This can indicate a failing tube or an improperly biased amplifier.
 - Ensure the amplifier is not being overdriven beyond its intended limits.
 - Consult a technician for bias adjustment.
- **Excessive Noise (Hum, Hiss, Squeal):**
 - Check for microphonic tubes (tubes that produce a ringing sound when tapped gently with a non-conductive object while the amp is on).
 - Ensure proper grounding and power supply.
 - Try isolating the noise by removing tubes one by one (if safe to do so for your amp type).
- **Red Plating:** If the internal metal plates of a power tube glow bright orange or red, immediately turn off the amplifier. This indicates a serious issue, likely improper bias or a faulty tube, and requires immediate attention from a qualified technician to prevent amplifier damage.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Model Number	5550113548
Item Weight	8.5 ounces (approx. 241 grams)
Product Dimensions	5.5 x 5.25 x 7.38 inches (approx. 13.97 x 13.34 x 18.75 cm)
ASIN	B000H2D9GS
Body Material	Stainless Steel (internal components)
Connector Type	GT-E34LS
Material Type	Stainless Steel (internal components)
Size	Medium

8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS amplifier tubes include a limited warranty. Specific warranty terms and duration may vary. Please retain your proof of purchase. For detailed warranty information, including coverage and how to make a claim, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or visit the official Fender website.

9. SUPPORT

For technical assistance, service, or further inquiries regarding your Fender Groove Tubes GT-E34LS amplifier tubes, please contact Fender Customer Support.

Fender Official Website: www.fender.com

You can also visit the Fender store on Amazon for more product information:[Fender Store](#)