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› Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV 600-Watt Bass Head Instruction Manual

Ashdown ABM600EVOIV

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Model: ABM600EVOIV

INTRODUCTION

The Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV is a 600-watt bass amplifier head designed for professional bass players. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, setup, and maintenance of your amplifier.



Image: Front view of the Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV Bass Head, showcasing the control panel and input section.

KEY FEATURES

- **600-watt Output:** Delivers substantial power for various performance environments.
- **12AX7 Class-A Tube Preamp:** Features a Variable Valve Drive preamp section for enhanced harmonic content and tonal warmth.
- **9-Band EQ:** Comprehensive equalization with Bass, Middle, Treble controls and six precision sliders (100Hz, 180Hz, 340Hz, 1.3KHz, 2.6KHz, 5KHz).
- **Dynamic Compressor:** Integrated one-knob compressor for a powerful and even sound.
- **Sub-Harmonic Generator:** Adds an octave below the played notes for increased fullness, with independent level

control.

- **Input VU Meter:** Allows for precise input level monitoring.
- **Flexible Connectivity:** Includes Tuner output, Line out, transparent FX loop, Line Input, and Neutrik Jack/Speakon speaker outputs.
- **Output Muting:** Mutes the DI output while keeping the tuner output active for silent tuning.

SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV bass head:

1. **Placement:** Position the amplifier head on a stable, level surface, ensuring adequate ventilation around the unit. Avoid blocking the rear cooling fans.
2. **Power Connection:** Ensure the amplifier's power switch is in the OFF position. Connect the provided power cord to the IEC inlet on the rear panel and then to a grounded AC power outlet. The unit operates on 100V AC.
3. **Speaker Connection:** Connect your bass cabinet(s) to the speaker outputs on the rear panel using high-quality speaker cables. The ABM 600 EVO IV features Neutrik Jack/Speakon sockets. Ensure the total impedance of your connected cabinets is a minimum of 4 ohms. The amplifier can power a single 8 ohm cabinet, a pair of 8 ohm cabinets, or a single 4 ohm cabinet.
4. **Instrument Connection:** Connect your bass guitar to the "Instrument" input jack on the front panel using a standard 6.35mm (1/4-inch) instrument cable.
5. **Initial Settings:** Before powering on, set all volume and gain controls to their minimum positions. Set EQ controls to their center (flat) positions.



Image: Rear view of the Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV Bass Head, showing power input, speaker outputs, and other rear panel connections.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

This section details the functions of the controls and features on your ABM 600 EVO IV.



Image: Angled front view of the Ashdown ABM 600 EVO IV Bass Head, highlighting the input, EQ, and output sections.

Front Panel Controls:

- **Input Jack:** Connect your bass guitar here.
- **Passive/Active Switch:** Select "Passive" for instruments with passive pickups and "Active" for instruments with active pickups. This optimizes the input gain.
- **Input Level Control & VU Meter:** Adjust the input gain until the VU meter needle consistently swings into the yellow segment during playing, occasionally touching the red. This ensures optimal signal-to-noise ratio.
- **Variable Valve Drive:** Controls the amount of gain applied to the 12AX7 tube preamp section, adding warmth and harmonic richness.
- **Drive Switch:** Engages or disengages the Variable Valve Drive. Can be controlled via footswitch (not included).
- **9-Band EQ:**
 - **Bass, Middle, Treble:** Standard tone controls for broad frequency adjustments.
 - **Sliders (100Hz, 180Hz, 340Hz, 1.3KHz, 2.6KHz, 5KHz):** Provide precise cut or boost at specific frequencies.
- **EQ Switch:** Engages or disengages the 9-band EQ. Can be controlled via footswitch.
- **Dynamic Compressor:** A single-knob control to apply compression, evening out dynamics and adding sustain.
- **Sub-Harmonic Generator:** Adds a sub-octave to your signal. The knob controls the blend level of the sub-harmonic effect.
- **DI Output (XLR):** Provides a balanced output for connecting to a mixing console or recording interface. Switchable between pre-EQ and post-EQ signal.
- **Tuner Output:** Unaffected output for connecting an external tuner.
- **Line Out:** Unbalanced line-level output.
- **FX Loop (Send/Return):** For connecting external effects pedals or processors.
- **Line Input:** For connecting external audio sources like samplers or drum machines.
- **Output Level:** Master volume control for the amplifier's overall output.

Rear Panel Connections:

- **Power Inlet:** IEC connector for the main power cable.
- **Power Switch:** Turns the amplifier on or off.
- **Speaker Outputs:** Two Neutrik Jack/Speakon combo jacks for connecting speaker cabinets. Minimum total impedance 4 ohms.
- **Footswitch Input:** For connecting an optional Ashdown footswitch to control Drive and EQ.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your amplifier.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the amplifier. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the cooling vents and fans on the rear panel are not obstructed. Adequate airflow is crucial to prevent overheating.
- **Storage:** Store the amplifier in a dry, temperature-controlled environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Tube Replacement:** The 12AX7 preamp tube has a finite lifespan. If you notice a decrease in performance or unusual noise, consult a qualified technician for tube inspection and replacement.
- **Servicing:** Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Do not attempt to open the amplifier chassis, as it contains high voltage components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your ABM 600 EVO IV, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:**
 - Check if the power cord is securely connected to both the amplifier and the AC outlet.
 - Verify that the AC outlet is functional.
 - Check the fuse on the rear panel. If blown, replace it with a fuse of the same type and rating.
- **No Sound:**
 - Ensure the instrument cable is properly connected to both the bass and the amplifier input.
 - Verify that speaker cables are securely connected to both the amplifier and the cabinet.
 - Check that all volume and gain controls on the amplifier are turned up appropriately.
 - Confirm that the "Output Mute" function (if applicable via footswitch) is not engaged.
 - Test with a different instrument cable, speaker cable, and bass guitar to isolate the problem.
- **Distorted Sound:**
 - Reduce the "Input Level" control if the VU meter is consistently in the red.
 - Check the "Variable Valve Drive" setting; excessive drive will introduce intentional distortion.
 - Ensure the "Passive/Active" switch matches your instrument's output.
 - Verify that speaker impedance matches the amplifier's requirements (minimum 4 ohms).
- **Hum or Noise:**
 - Ensure all cables are shielded and in good condition.
 - Try plugging the amplifier into a different AC outlet, preferably on a different circuit.
 - Keep the amplifier away from sources of electromagnetic interference (e.g., fluorescent lights, power transformers).

SPECIFICATIONS

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Model Number | ABM600EVOIV |
| Output Wattage | 600 Watts |
| Preamp Tube | 12AX7 Class-A |
| Minimum Speaker Load | 4 Ohms |
| Power Source | Corded Electric |
| Voltage | 100V (as per product data, typically multi-voltage or region specific) |
| Item Weight | 34.4 pounds (approx. 15.6 kg) |
| Product Dimensions (L x W x H) | 21.75 x 15.5 x 8.38 inches (approx. 55.2 x 39.4 x 21.3 cm) |
| Material | Stainless Steel chassis, Tolex covering |
| Connector Type | 6.35mm Jack (Instrument), Neutrik Jack/Speakon (Speakers) |
| Compatible Devices | Bass Guitars, Double Bass |

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Ashdown Engineering website. Ashdown provides customer support for product inquiries, technical assistance, and service requests.

Contact Information: Please refer to the Ashdown Engineering official website for the most current contact details and support resources.