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Blackstar HTV40MK3

Blackstar HTV-40 MK III Guitar Tube Combo Amplifier User Manual

Model: HTV40MK3

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Blackstar HTV-40 MK III Guitar Tube Combo Amplifier. This amplifier is designed to provide versatile tone and reliable performance for guitarists. Featuring a 40-watt tube amplifier, a 12-inch Celestion speaker, dual channels, and Blackstar's patented ISF control, it offers a wide range of tonal possibilities suitable for various musical styles and environments. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation of your amplifier.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Read all instructions:** Before operating the amplifier, carefully read and understand all safety and operating instructions.
- **Retain instructions:** Keep this manual for future reference.
- **Heed warnings:** Follow all warnings on the amplifier and in the operating instructions.
- **Water and moisture:** Do not use this apparatus near water. Avoid exposure to rain or moisture.
- **Heat:** Do not place near heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- **Power supply:** Only use the power supply specified by the manufacturer. Ensure the power cord is protected from being walked on or pinched.
- **Servicing:** Do not attempt to service this product yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper ventilation. Do not block any ventilation openings.

SETUP

Unpacking

Carefully remove the amplifier from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during transit. Retain the original packaging for future transport or storage.

Placement

Place the amplifier on a stable, level surface. Ensure there is adequate space around the unit for ventilation. Avoid placing the amplifier in direct sunlight or near sources of excessive heat or moisture.

Connecting Power

Connect the supplied AC power cord to the MAINS INPUT on the rear panel of the amplifier and then to a suitable grounded wall outlet. Ensure the amplifier's power switch is in the 'OFF' position before connecting.

Connecting Your Instrument

Plug your guitar into the INPUT jack on the front panel using a high-quality instrument cable.

Initial Power-On

After all connections are made, switch the POWER switch to 'ON'. Allow a few moments for the tubes to warm up, then switch the STANDBY POWER switch to 'ON'. The amplifier is now ready for use.



Figure 1: Front view of the Blackstar HTV-40 MK III amplifier, showing input, controls, and speaker grille.

OPERATING THE AMPLIFIER

Front Panel Controls Overview



Figure 2: Close-up of the amplifier's front panel controls, including input, clean channel, overdrive channel, OD equalization, reverb, and master power section.

- **Input:** Connect your guitar here.
- **Clean Channel:** Controls for the clean tone.
- **Overdrive Channel:** Controls for distorted tones.
- **OD Equalisation:** EQ controls specific to the overdrive channel.
- **Reverb:** Adjusts the amount of built-in reverb effect.
- **Master Power:** Overall volume control.
- **Standby Power:** Engages or disengages the amplifier's power stage.

Clean Channel Operation

The Clean channel provides a range of pristine to slightly overdriven tones. Use the **Volume** knob to adjust the channel's output level. The **Bass**, **Middle**, and **Treble** controls allow you to shape the tonal characteristics of the clean sound. The 'Voice' switch on the Clean channel alters the preamp voicing for different clean characteristics.

Overdrive Channel Operation

Engage the Overdrive channel for classic rock to modern high-gain sounds. The **Gain** knob controls the amount of distortion. **Volume** adjusts the channel's output level. The 'Voice' switch on the Overdrive channel provides different overdrive voicings. The dedicated **OD Equalisation** section (Bass, Middle, Treble) allows for precise tone shaping of your distorted sound.

ISF (Infinite Shape Feature) Control

The patented ISF control works in conjunction with the Tone controls. Turning it fully counter-clockwise gives a more American characteristic with a tight bottom-end and more aggressive middle. Turning it fully clockwise gives a British characteristic which is more 'woody' and less aggressive. Experiment with the ISF control to find your desired tonal blend.

Power Reduction Switch

The Power Reduction switch allows you to attenuate the amplifier's output down to 10% of its full wattage (from 40W to 4W). This feature is ideal for achieving cranked tube tones at lower volumes, making it suitable for home practice or recording without compromising tone.

CabRig Speaker Simulation

The built-in CabRig speaker simulation provides authentic cabinet emulation for direct recording or live sound. Connect to the XLR or USB output to utilize this feature. The CabRig software allows for deep customization of virtual cabinets, microphones, and room environments.

USB Output for Recording

The USB output allows for direct recording of your amplifier's sound to a computer or audio interface. This output includes the CabRig speaker simulation, providing a studio-quality tone directly to your DAW.

Effects Loop

The effects loop (SEND and RETURN jacks on the rear panel) allows for easy integration of your favorite external effects pedals. Connect the SEND to the input of your effects unit and the output of your effects unit to the RETURN. This ensures your effects are placed optimally in the signal chain.



Figure 3: Rear panel connections of the amplifier, including speaker outputs, CabRig output, line out, USB, and effects loop.

Footswitch Functionality

The amplifier is footswitchable, allowing for convenient switching between channels and other functions during live performance. The included 2-way footswitch enables switching between Clean and Overdrive channels. An optional FS-14 5-way footswitch offers extended control over channels, voices, global volume boost, and Reverb on/off.

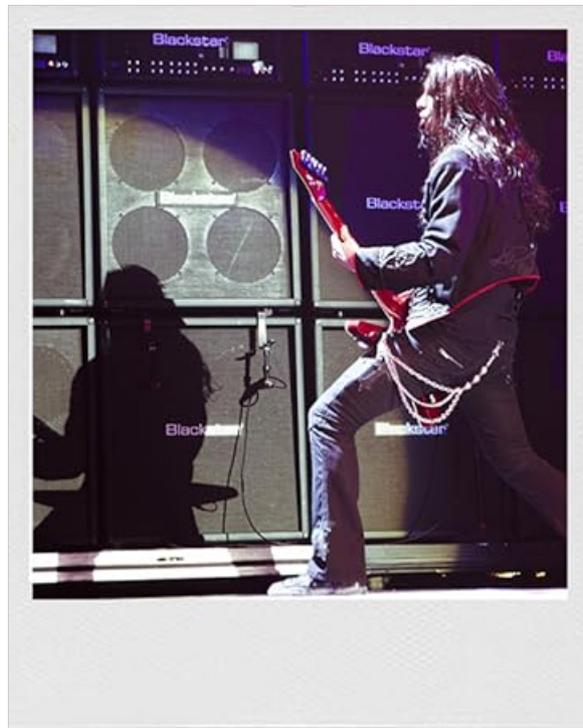


Figure 4: Example of footswitch connectivity for enhanced control during performance.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

To clean the amplifier, use a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish. Ensure the amplifier is unplugged from the power source before cleaning.

Tube Replacement

The HTV-40 MK III is a tube amplifier, and its vacuum tubes will eventually require replacement. If you notice a decrease in performance, unusual noise, or a change in tone, the tubes may need to be replaced. Tube replacement should only be performed by qualified service personnel to ensure safety and proper biasing.

General Care

Avoid exposing the amplifier to extreme temperatures, humidity, or sudden changes in environment. When transporting the amplifier, use appropriate protective covers or cases to prevent damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound	Power not connected, Standby switch off, Instrument cable faulty, Guitar volume down.	Check power and standby switches. Test instrument cable. Ensure guitar volume is up.
Weak or Distorted Sound	Faulty tubes, Incorrect impedance for external speaker, Damaged speaker.	Consult qualified service personnel for tube inspection. Ensure correct speaker impedance if using external cabinet.
Excessive Hum or Noise	Ground loop, Faulty cables, Nearby electronic interference.	Try different power outlets. Use shielded cables. Move away from other electronic devices.

If you encounter persistent issues not covered here, please contact Blackstar customer support or a qualified service technician.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	HTV40MK3
Amplifier Type	Tube
Output Wattage	40 Watts (with Power Reduction to 4W)
Speaker Size	12 Inches (Celestion Speaker)
Channels	2 (Clean, Overdrive)
EQ	Bass, Middle, Treble (per channel), ISF control
Effects	Reverb, Effects Loop
Outputs	XLR (CabRig), USB, Speaker Outputs (6.35mm Jack)
Input	6.35mm Jack
Power Source	AC adapter
Item Weight	60.94 Pounds
Material	Plastic or Composite Materials

WARRANTY

This Blackstar HTV-40 MK III amplifier comes with a 3-year manufacturer's warranty. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. The warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accidents, unauthorized modifications, or normal wear and tear of consumable parts like vacuum tubes.

SUPPORT

For technical assistance, service inquiries, or further information regarding your Blackstar HTV-40 MK III amplifier, please visit the official Blackstar website or contact your local authorized Blackstar dealer. You can also refer to the contact information provided on the product's packaging or warranty card.