

## Ashdown LB-30-2.N

# Ashdown LB-30 2.N 30-watt Bass Amplifier Head User Manual

## INTRODUCTION

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Thank you for choosing the Ashdown LB-30 2.N 30-watt Bass Amplifier Head. This all-tube amplifier combines classic tone with modern features, including dynamic cabinet IR simulation powered by Two notes Torpedo technology. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your amplifier to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

## KEY FEATURES

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- 30-watt all-tube bass amplifier head.
- Features 3 preamp tubes and 2 power tubes for rich, dynamic tone.
- Integrated Dynamic Cabinet/Speaker Simulator with Two notes Torpedo technology.
- Pre-loaded with six variable cabinet presets (ABM-810H-EVO IV, ABM-401H-EVO IV, ABM-210H-EVO IV, ABM-115-EVO IV, RM-212-EVO II, CL-310 DH).
- Comprehensive 3-band EQ section (Treble, Hi Mid, Lo Mid, Bass).
- Dedicated FX Loop (Send/Return) for external effects.
- USB-C compatibility for advanced control and preset management.
- Speaker outputs for 4-ohm or 8-ohm cabinets.

## FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS

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This image displays the front panel of the Ashdown LB-30 2.N bass amplifier head, showcasing its controls, inputs, and the central VU meter.

## Input Section

- **ACTIVE Input:** Use this input for instruments with active pickups or preamps, which typically have a higher output level.
- **PASSIVE Input:** Use this input for instruments with passive pickups, which typically have a lower output level.

## FX Loop

- **SEND:** Connect this output to the input of your external effects unit.
- **RETURN:** Connect the output of your external effects unit to this input.

## Tone and Volume Controls

- **GAIN TRIM:** Adjusts the input sensitivity and overall gain of the amplifier. Use in conjunction with the VU meter to achieve optimal signal level without clipping.
- **VOLUME:** Controls the overall output volume of the amplifier.
- **TREBLE:** Adjusts the high-frequency response of your tone.
- **HI MID:** Adjusts the upper-midrange frequency response.
- **LO MID:** Adjusts the lower-midrange frequency response.
- **BASS:** Adjusts the low-frequency response of your tone.

## Output and Simulator Section

- **CLIP Indicator:** Illuminates when the output signal is clipping. Reduce the GAIN TRIM or VOLUME to prevent distortion.
- **OUTPUT LEVEL:** Controls the output level of the Dynamic Cabinet/Speaker Simulator.
- **PRE-SET (Dynamic Cabinet/Speaker Simulator):** A rotary switch to select one of the six pre-loaded cabinet simulation presets.

## VU Meter

The central VU meter provides a visual indication of the input signal level. Aim for the needle to fluctuate around the '0' mark for optimal signal-to-noise ratio without clipping.

## SETUP

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1. **Power Connection:** Ensure the amplifier is switched off. Connect the supplied power cable to the IEC inlet on the rear panel and then to a suitable mains power outlet.
2. **Speaker Connection:** Connect your bass speaker cabinet to the appropriate speaker output on the rear panel (4-ohm or 8-ohm). Ensure the impedance of your cabinet matches the selected output. **Never operate the amplifier without a speaker load connected.**
3. **Instrument Connection:** Connect your bass guitar to either the ACTIVE or PASSIVE input on the front panel, depending on your instrument's pickup type.
4. **Effects Loop (Optional):** If using external effects, connect them via the FX Loop SEND and RETURN jacks.
5. **USB-C Connection (Optional):** For advanced control and software updates, connect a USB-C cable from the amplifier to your computer.

## OPERATION

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1. **Power On:** After all connections are made, switch on the amplifier. Allow a few moments for the tubes to warm up.
2. **Set Initial Levels:** Start with the GAIN TRIM and VOLUME controls at their minimum settings.
3. **Adjust Gain:** Play your instrument and slowly increase the GAIN TRIM until the VU meter needle consistently moves into the '0' area, occasionally peaking slightly above. Avoid constant clipping (needle staying in the red).
4. **Set Volume:** Gradually increase the VOLUME control to achieve your desired listening level.
5. **Adjust EQ:** Use the TREBLE, HI MID, LO MID, and BASS controls to shape your tone. Experiment with these controls to find the sound that best suits your playing style and environment.
6. **Dynamic Cabinet/Speaker Simulator:** Use the PRE-SET knob to select one of the six available cabinet simulations. Adjust the OUTPUT LEVEL for the simulator as needed. This feature is particularly useful for direct recording or sending a consistent signal to a PA system.
7. **Power Off:** When finished, turn the VOLUME down, then switch off the amplifier.

## DYNAMIC CABINET/SPEAKER SIMULATOR

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The LB-30 2.N features an integrated Dynamic Cabinet/Speaker Simulator, utilizing Two notes Torpedo technology. This allows you to send a high-quality, studio-grade cabinet-simulated signal directly to a mixing console, audio interface, or headphones, independent of your physical speaker cabinet. The six pre-loaded presets offer a variety of classic Ashdown cabinet tones:

- ABM-810H-EVO IV
- ABM-401H-EVO IV
- ABM-210H-EVO IV
- ABM-115-EVO IV
- RM-212-EVO II

- CL-310 DH

Four of these presets offer additional manipulation for horns/tweeters on high frequencies. For detailed customization and access to more features, connect the amplifier via USB-C to a computer and use the dedicated Two notes software.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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- **Output Power:** 30 Watts RMS
- **Tube Complement:** 3 x Preamp Tubes, 2 x Power Tubes
- **EQ:** Treble, Hi Mid, Lo Mid, Bass
- **Inputs:** Active, Passive
- **Effects Loop:** Send, Return
- **Speaker Outputs:** 4 Ohm, 8 Ohm
- **Digital Connectivity:** USB-C (for Two notes Torpedo software)
- **Cabinet Simulation:** Integrated Two notes Torpedo with 6 presets
- **Item Weight:** 30.3 pounds (approx. 13.7 kg)
- **Product Dimensions:** 20.6 x 15.7 x 11.8 inches (approx. 52.3 x 39.9 x 30 cm)

## MAINTENANCE

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- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the amplifier's exterior. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Tube Replacement:** Vacuum tubes have a finite lifespan. If you notice a decrease in performance or unusual noise, consult a qualified technician for tube testing and replacement.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow around the amplifier to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation grilles.
- **Storage:** Store the amplifier in a dry, temperature-controlled environment away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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- **No Sound:**
  - Check all cable connections (instrument, speaker, power).
  - Ensure the amplifier is powered on and tubes have warmed up.
  - Verify GAIN TRIM and VOLUME controls are not at minimum.
  - Confirm speaker cabinet impedance matches amplifier output.
- **Distortion/Unwanted Noise:**
  - Reduce GAIN TRIM if the CLIP indicator is constantly lit.
  - Check instrument cables for damage.
  - Test with different tubes if suspected faulty.
- **Low Output Volume:**
  - Ensure GAIN TRIM and VOLUME are set appropriately.

- Check speaker cabinet efficiency and impedance.
- Verify tubes are functioning correctly.

If issues persist, contact Ashdown customer support or a qualified service technician.

## **WARRANTY AND SUPPORT**

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Ashdown Engineering products are manufactured to high standards. For warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Ashdown Engineering website. For technical support, service, or parts, please contact your authorized Ashdown dealer or Ashdown customer service directly.