



*- Amps That Sing -*

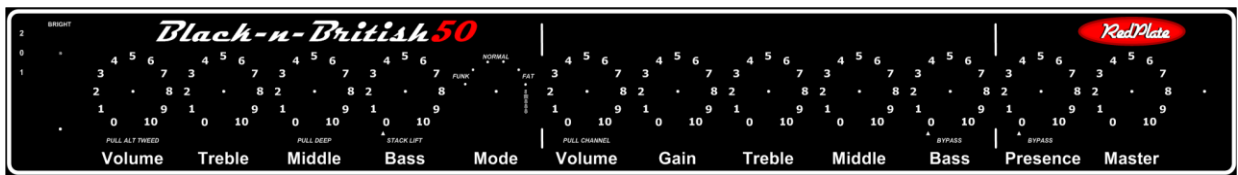
# **Black-n-British Operations Manual**

Welcome to the RedPlate Family, thank you for your purchase of a RedPlate Black-n-British amplifier. Please take a moment and review this manual for an understanding of all the available features (or just put all the knobs at noon and play). This Manual applies to Black-n-British models produced after 02/01/2012.

### Signal Path Block Diagram:

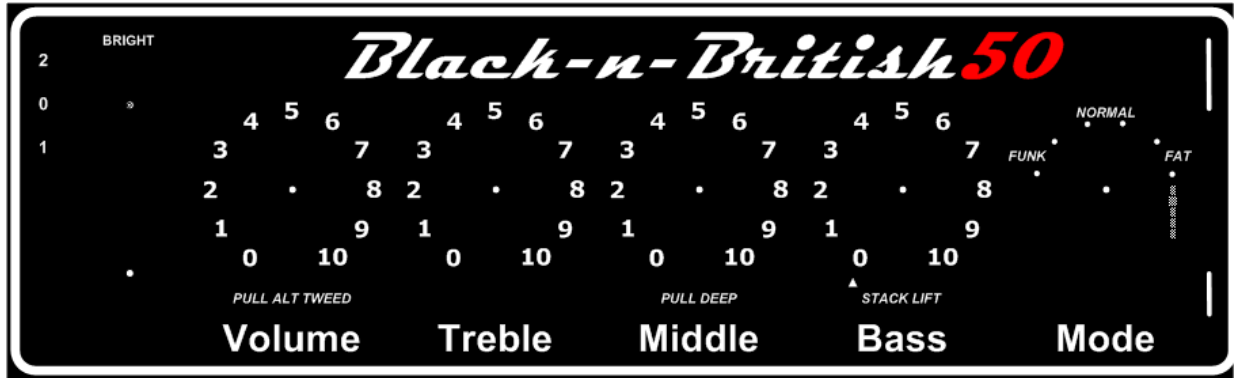


### FRONT PANEL:



**Input Jack** – Typical High impedance input to the amplifier. Designed to be “Pedal Friendly” in case you want to use a boost to push the British channel.

### **BLACK PREAMP SECTION**



The Black preamp is a clean Preamp is designed to imitate (and surpass) all of the “classic” American preamps. This section of the Black-n-British gives the player the ability to do two unique things:

1. Shift the midrange center point frequency.
2. Select the amount of Bass gain appropriate to your guitar choice (via Humbucker/Single coil switch covered in the **Rear Panel** Section of this manual).

**Bright Switch** – (3Way) Center = OFF, Down = sound of new strings, Up = Full Bright.

**Volume** – Typical setting is between 3 and 5 but experimentation is encouraged. Pulls to switch the intensity of the Tweed/Mid Boost (this topic is covered in the **Other Features** Section of this manual).

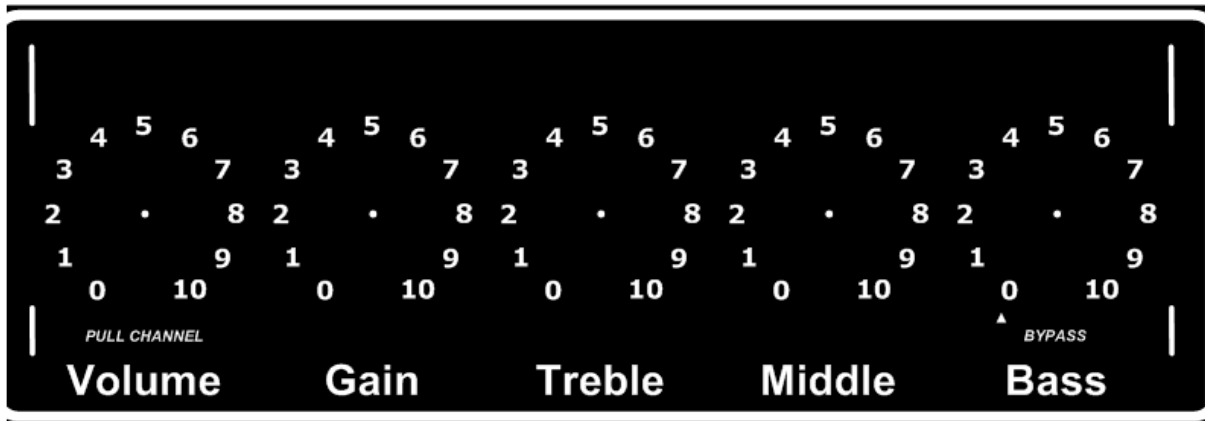
**Treble Control** - Adjusts highs (also upper midrange when the Tweed/Mid Boost is engaged).

**Middle Control** – Controls the amount of Midrange frequencies, somewhat interactive with the Bass Control. Pulls to enable “Deep” which scoops some midrange frequencies and emphasizes Bass (makes your electric sound more like an acoustic).

**Bass Control** – Sets the amount of low end. Can be rotated to zero where it clicks off for a full tone stack lift.

**Mode Selector** – A six position rotary switch, it steps through 5 progressively fatter positions of the midrange center frequency and achieves maximum fat midrange by engaging Tweed/Mid Boost in position 6 (see the **Other Features** section of this manual for details).

### BRITISH PREAMP SECTION



The British Preamp Section is a slightly hot-rodded version of the popular European Style amplifier preamp with two important differences:

1. The combination of Volume and Gain lets you adjust the character of the channel at various volume levels for consistency of tone and character in both small and large venue sizes.
2. The BYPASS feature of the Bass control bypasses the tone controls for even more “Girth”.

**Volume** – Pulls for channel selection and sets the overall volume of the British channel.

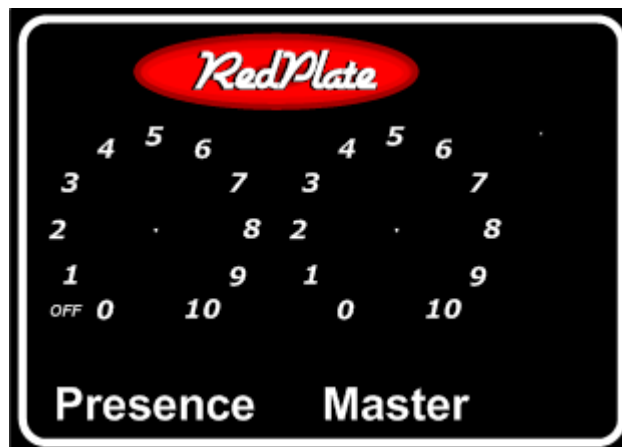
**Gain** – This control sets the amount of break up character you desire in your tone. Typical setting is between 5 and 7 but experimentation is encouraged.

**Treble Control** – Adjusts the balance of high and low frequencies.

**Middle Control** – Controls the amount of Midrange frequencies, somewhat interactive with the Bass Control.

**Bass Control** – Sets the amount of low end. Can be rotated to zero where it clicks off for a full tone stack lift (Tone Controls are Bypassed).

### MASTER SECTION

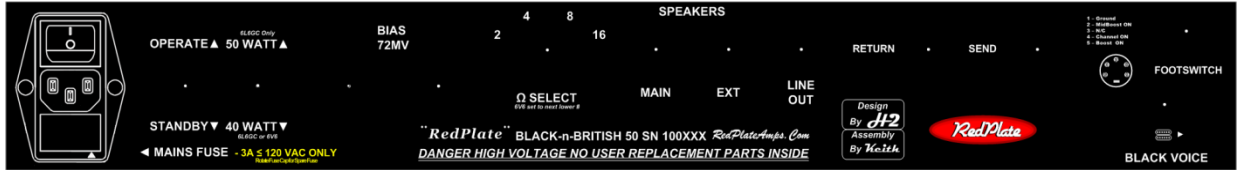


**Presence Control** – The presence circuit uses global negative feedback to remove low frequencies which frees up bandwidth for more midrange and highs. Think of it as a tone control to balance the relationship between highs and lows, especially when the amplifier is naturally producing increased low end at louder volumes. The control clicks off when rotated to zero for no presence.

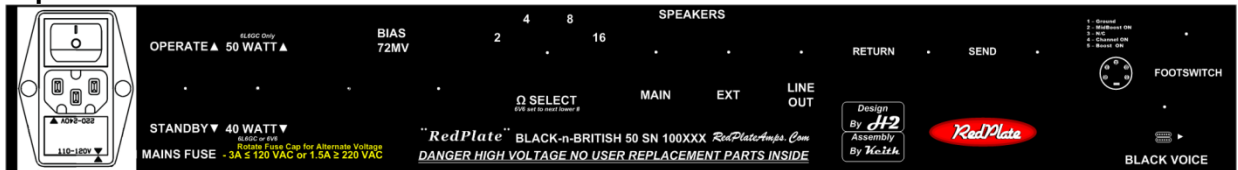
**Master Volume** – This is an active control and actually adds gain at the higher settings. The cleanest tones are achieved at settings below 7.

## REAR PANEL SECTION

### Domestic 50 Watt:



### Export 50 Watt:



**IEC Module** – contains the main power switch, power cord inlet connector and the fuse drawer which doubles as the voltage selector on export models. To access the fuse(s) use a small flat blade screwdriver in the notch at the bottom of the power cord inlet connector, the drawer snaps out in a rearward direction. The Black-n-British can accept both the larger (3AG footprint) or smaller European (5mm X 20mm) fuses. A time delay variety (SLO-BLO) is recommended. The fuse drawer can be rotated on the export models for voltage selection, make sure the correct value fuse is located on the same side of the fuse drawer as the desired selection arrow. Line up the appropriate arrow on the fuse drawer with the arrow on the bottom right of the module for the proper VAC selection.

**Standby Switch** – This switch allows the tubes to warm up before operating the amplifier. Wait 1 minute after power on to move it up to the operate position. For improved tube life and performance do not leave the amplifier in Standby position for longer than 20 minutes (better to just leave it in operate mode during performance intermissions).

**50 WATT / 40 WATT Switch** – This switch changes the bias architecture of the output tubes from fixed bias (50 WATT) to cathode biased (40 WATT).

The 40 WATT position allows the use of 6V6 tubes for lower power output (~18 Watts with 6V6).

**Bias adjustment and bias test point** – Allows external access for bias adjustment (see bias procedure in the **Maintenance** section).

**LINE OUT** – A line level signal jack derived from the speaker output which contains the whole tone of the amplifier.

**Speaker Jacks** – The MAIN and EXT jacks are wired in parallel. The MAIN jack must be used first because it has a protection device. ALWAYS HAVE A SPEAKER CONNECTED TO AVOID PERMANENT AMPLIFIER AND OUTPUT TUBE DAMAGE.

**Impedance Selector  $\Omega$**  - Set this to the total impedance of all attached speakers.

**SEND and RETURN Jacks** – The send jack connects to the input of an external effects device and the return jack connects to the output of an external effects device. The return jack interrupts the signal path so the external effects unit must mix the wet and dry signals.

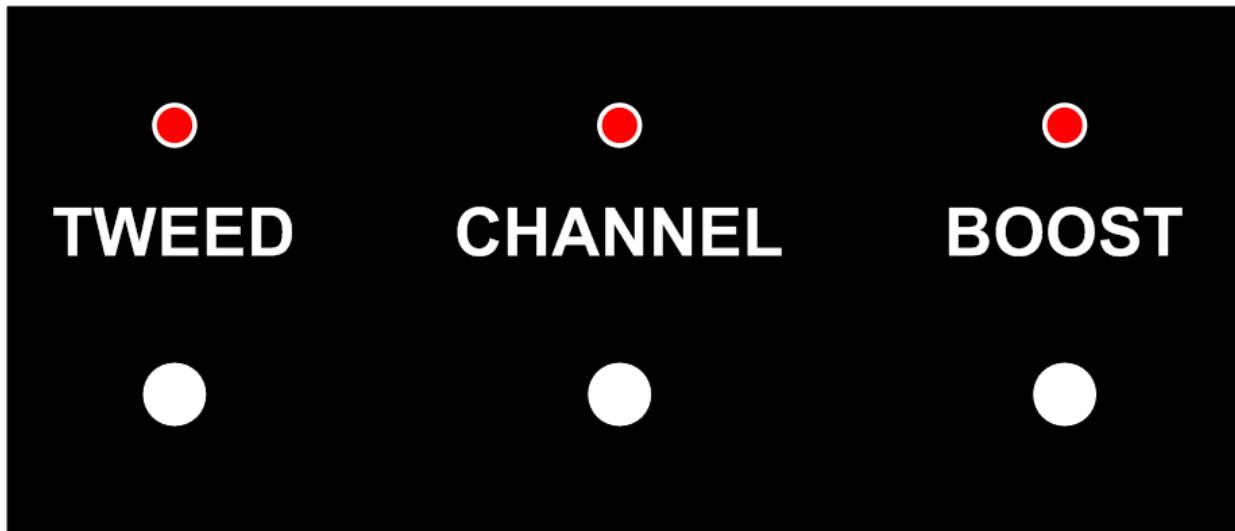
**Footswitch Jack** - This is a standard 180 degree 5 pin DIN jack for footswitch connection. If a replacement cable is needed, make sure all 5 wires are supported. The pinout is conveniently located on the rear panel for use with automated switcher conversion boxes.

**Humbucker / Single coil Switch** – (Black preamp only) Sets the amount of bass gain in the input of the clean preamp stage, useful for matching the Black preamp to the guitar pickup type.

### **OTHER FEATURES**

The Black-n-British comes complete with a footswitch and a footswitch cable. The cable used is a regular MIDI cable and is readily available in any length at most music stores.

### **FOOTSWITCH**



**TWEED** – (Black channel only) Midrange Boost feature. When engaged the size of the treble capacitor is increased to allow for more upper midrange, at the same time it does a lift of the midrange control for maximum midrange. The effect can be lessened by pulling the front panel Volume control which eliminates the midrange control lift. The footswitch button does not work when position 6 of the rotary MODE switch on the front panel is selected because it is a duplicate function.

**CHANNEL** – Selects the British channel when lit. The footswitch button does not work when the British section's Volume control is pulled because it is a duplicate function.

**BOOST** – (Both Channels) Girth Boost feature, it, adds volume and tone by doing a partial tone stack lift on the channels. The footswitch button has no effect on the selected channel if that channel's Bass control is rotated to zero (because it is a duplicate function).

### **POWER ON/OFF PROCEDURE**

1. Check the Standby switch to make sure it is toggled downward for Standby operation.

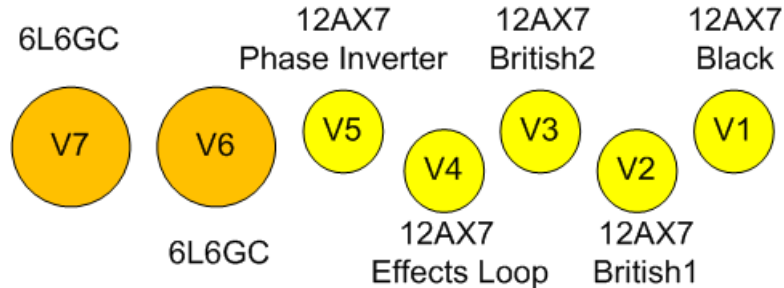
2. Toggle the main power switch to the up position (this switch is located at the top of the IEC input module). The front panel pilot light should be lit.
3. Wait one minute and then toggle the Standby switch upwards to the Operate position.
4. POWER OFF – Toggle the main power switch downward, there is no need to go into standby first although it will not hurt anything.

### **MAINTENANCE SECTION**

Your Black-n-British amp has been designed for years of trouble free operation. The vacuum tubes will need to be replaced over time. We recommend new output tubes every 160 - 240 hours and new preamp tubes every 320 - 480 hours.

The front and rear panels have a protective finish that can be easily scratched with abrasives so always use a damp soft cloth to clean them (never use paper towels). The cabinetry can be cleaned with our super secret tolex cleaner (on a paper towel - 2 squirts of WD-40 and 4 squirts window cleaner), let your keyboard player try it on his plastic keys, it replicates the feel of a brand new keyboard, also a great cable cleaner.

### **TUBE LAYOUT**



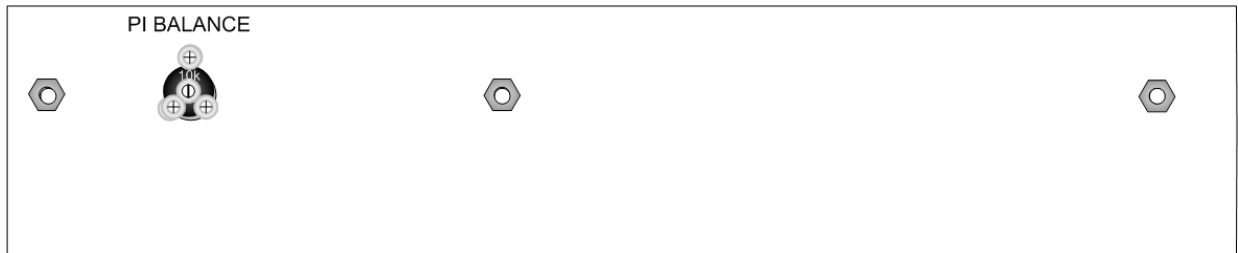
All tube brands are acceptable, a long plate is preferred in the V5 (Phase Inverter) position.

**Warning – No user serviceable parts inside so unless you know what you’re doing please refer to a qualified service person only.**

### **BIAS PROCEDURE - 50 Watt Model w/ two 6L6 tubes**

1. When new 6L6GC output tubes are installed it is important to re-bias the amp for optimal performance.
2. ALWAYS HAVE A SPEAKER CONNECTED.
3. Use a digital volt meter set to DC volts at lowest scale (MV). Make sure the black lead is the common terminal of the meter and the red lead is the DC voltage terminal of the meter.
4. Place the Amplifier in operate mode with the Master Volume set to zero.
5. Set the 50 WATT/ 40 WATT switch to the 50 WATT position.
6. Place the red meter lead in the test point hole (red tip jack) and touch (or clip) the black meter lead on one of the metal output tube retainer clips.
7. Use a small flat blade screwdriver to adjust the bias pot for the bias number as stated on the rear panel (  $\pm 5$  MV). The reading is the sum of the idle current for both tubes.
8. Recheck the reading after 10 minutes of operation, and again after a week or two of operation.

### **INTERNAL TRIM POT**



The Black-n-British has 1 internal trim pot for the PI Balance – Useful for working with unmatched 12AX7 tubes in the phase inverter position. Refer to qualified personnel for proper setting.

### **RedPlateAmps Warranty**

At RedPlateAmps we pride ourselves making products that are built to last. The workmanship in your RedPlate amplifier is warranted to be problem free for the lifetime of the original owner, or in the event of resale a onetime transfer to a new owner for coverage for 3 years from the original manufacture date (please inform us of an ownership change to insure coverage). The actual electrical components in your amplifier are warranted for a period of 3 years. Exclusions are vacuum tubes, reverb tanks, cables, speakers and cosmetics which are warranted for 30 days. Improper handling or product misuse or product abuse or unauthorized repair work or unauthorized modifications may nullify your warranty. Eligibility for coverage and covered items are at the sole discretion of RedPlateAmps.

**RedPlateAmps**

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Thanks again for joining the RedPlate Family – Henry

## ***BONUS SECTION - SETTINGS TEMPLATE***

[Check the website for future updates to this section]

Copy or print the next page to record your settings. Once you've zeroed in on your signature setting please email the completed template to [Info@RedPlateAmps.com](mailto:Info@RedPlateAmps.com) – we may include your favorite in the online version of this manual.




# Black-n-British 50

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		PULL ALT TWEED		MIDDLE DEEP		BASS RICK LIFT		MODE		VOLUME CHANNEL		GAIN		TREBLE		MIDDLE		BASS BYPASS		PRESENCE BYPASS		MASTER				

CLASSIC ONLY  
50 WATT ▲

40 WATT ▼ BLACK VOICE

TWEED CHANNEL BOOST



# Black-n-British 50

2	0	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	
1	0	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7
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		0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
		PULL ALT TWEED		MIDDLE DEEP		BASS RICK LIFT		MODE		VOLUME CHANNEL		GAIN		TREBLE		MIDDLE		BASS BYPASS		PRESENCE BYPASS		MASTER				