

# *Bad Cat*

## Hot Cat Owner's Manual

Bad Cat Amps  
Costa Mesa, California

For the latest information go to: [www.badcatamps.com](http://www.badcatamps.com). Whilst the information contained herein is correct at the time of publication, due to our policy of constant improvement and development, Bad Cat Amps reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. SAVE ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE! NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE INTERIOR OF THE PRODUCT. REFER ALL SERVICING TO AUTHORIZED BAD CAT SERVICE CENTERS.

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with a dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings.
8. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
9. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
10. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
11. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
12. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
13. Turning off the power switch does not completely isolate this product from the power line so remove the plug from the socket if not using it for extended periods of time.
14. Install this product near the wall socket and keep the power plug easily accessible.
15. WARNING—This apparatus shall be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.
16. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
17. Do not install this equipment on the far position from wall outlet and/or convenience receptacle.
18. Do not install this equipment in a confined space such as a box for the conveyance or similar unit.
19. Excessive sound pressure from earphones and headphones can cause hearing loss.
20. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/ apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
21. This apparatus is for moderate climates areas use, not suitable for use in tropical climates countries.
22. The ventilation should not be impeded by covering the ventilation openings with items, such as newspapers, table-cloths, curtains, etc.
23. No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operation and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



All electrical and electronic products should be disposed of separately from the municipal waste stream via designated collection facilities appointed by the government or the local authorities

## Introduction

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing a tube amplifier from Bad Cat. As with all Bad Cat products, your amplifier is designed from the ground up to provide the very best tones possible in a rugged, reliable package. Each one of our models is constructed with Bad Cat's commitment to making the highest quality amps, designed and built in Costa Mesa, California. Our users benefit from our passion every time they plug in and crank up their favorite Bad Cat amp. Since we also play what we build, it is truly gratifying for the Bad Cat Team to be a part of bringing each amp to life and welcome you to the Bad Cat den.

## Features

The award-winning Hot Cat was introduced in 2005 with great accolades. It was the first commercially available, high-gain cathode biased amplifier. As the years went on, subtle refinements were made, and the awards kept coming. As pleased as we are with the original, the time has come for a whole new Hot Cat. We took everything we have learned over the last 20 years and applied it to this cutting edge reimagining of the Hot Cat.

Channel 1 features the signature Bad Cat sparkling clean tone with brilliant highs and abundant lows. Channel 2 is a flame throwing high-gain channel with extraordinary string-to-string note definition and loads of harmonic content. We added a Lo/Hi selectable gain switch allowing the Channel 1 to offer huge amounts of clean headroom or drive into 70's-like crunch tones and everything between. In Channel 2, you now have the ability to toggle between two distinct flavors of gain from crunchy blues to metal. The gain combinations on the new Hot Cat are virtually limitless.

Also new to the Hot Cat is studio quality reverb custom-tuned to work flawlessly with each channel. Additionally, we have added a completely transparent, buffered effects loop that will work with both digital rack effects and analog effects. The new two button footswitch allows toggling between channels and the Lo/Hi gain mode settings, offering four distinct tones all from one footswitch.

We are excited and proud to introduce the new Hot Cat, one of the most versatile amps we've ever made.

Thank you,

The Bad Cat Team

## Front Panel (from left to right)

### **Input**

Plug your guitar in here. Always use a good quality screened guitar lead.

### **Gain 1**

Controls the amount of gain or distortion in Channel 1. To keep a cleaner signal keep this control lower. To get higher gain or more distortion, run this control higher.

### **Gain 2**

Controls the amount of gain or distortion in Channel 2. To keep a cleaner signal keep this control lower. To get higher gain or more distortion, run this control higher.

### **Bass**

Controls the amount of low frequency in the preamp. Counterclockwise decreases the amount of low frequency and turning the control clockwise will increase the low frequencies.

### **Mid**

This control is very important in the shaping of the overall amplifier tone. Full counter-clockwise will scoop out the midrange frequencies emphasizing the bass and treble frequencies. Pushing this control clockwise will increase the amount of midrange in the amplifier. It is normal that this control seems to increase the overall volume level of the amplifier when in settings past noon.

### **Treble**

This control manages the treble frequencies. Turning to the right, past noon will brighten the signal adding more high frequencies and attack. This control is designed so that generally keeping it at the noon position is a good starting point. Turning this control counter-clockwise can also allow in more midrange frequencies.

### **Volume 1**

Controls the room volume or amplitude of channel 1. Use this to control the overall volume of the amplifier in the room. You can run this control at a lower setting with the Gain set higher to get low volume distortion tones. Or set the gain setting low and push the Volume control up for loud clean tones.

### **Channel 1 and Channel 2 Toggle Switch**

Use this switch to toggle between Channel 1 and Channel 2.

### **Volume 2**

Controls the room volume or amplitude of channel 2. Use this to control the overall volume of the amplifier in the room. You can run this control at a lower setting with the Gain set higher to get low volume distortion tones. Or set the gain setting low and push the Volume control up for loud clean tones.

### **LO/HI Toggle Switch**

Each channel has two modes, LO and HI, whereas HI adds gain stages to each channel and offers substantially more distortion and compression.

### **Master**

The Master is a global volume/output level control. Use the Channel 1 and 2 Volume controls to balance the volume between the two channels and raise or lower the amplifier volume while keeping the ratio and balance between Channel 1 and Channel 2.

### **Presence**

The Presence knob is a global control of the higher mid and treble frequencies after the RETURN stage of your amplifier. Use it to set the overall brightness of your amplifier.

### **Reverb**

Controls the wet/dry ratio between the unaffected dry signal and the wet, affected reverb signal. Turning this control to full counterclockwise will remove the reverb from the circuit. Turning the control clockwise will gradually increase the amount of reverb in the circuit. Set it where you feel it suits your playing style and circumstances best.

## Rear Panel (from left to right)

### Power Input

This is where you connect your power cable. Use IEC power cable only. The cable should only be connected to a power outlet that is compatible with the voltage, power and frequency requirements stated on the rear panel.

### Power Switch

When engaged voltage is applied to all internal circuits except for the high voltage for all signal amplifying audio stages.

### Standby Switch

Applies the high voltage to all signal amplifying audio stages.

### HT Fuse

The value of the H.T. Fuse is specified on the rear panel. Never use a fuse of the incorrect value or attempt to bypass it.

### Footswitch

The supplied 2-button footswitch is connected here. The footswitch enables you to switch between Channel 1 or Channel 2 and LO or HI mode.

### FX Loop Send

This output jack sends a -10dB low impedance signal to your effects devices, regardless if it is a pedal, a rack unit or an entire chain of effects. Use a shielded instrument cable.

### FX Loop Return

High Impedance input to the recovery stage of the FX Loop and a direct input to the power amp. This jack disconnects the preamp signal from the power amp when used in case you want to utilize the power amp only. Plug a shielded instrument cable into this jack and connect to the effects.

### Speaker Outputs

There are overall 5 speaker outputs, 1x 16 $\Omega$ , 2x 4 $\Omega$  and 2x 8 $\Omega$ . Both 4 $\Omega$  as well as both 8 $\Omega$  are wired in parallel. In case you want to use two cabinets at the same time, 2x 16 $\Omega$  cabinets should be connected to the two 8 $\Omega$  jacks, 2x 8 $\Omega$  cabinets should be connected to the two 4 $\Omega$  jacks. NOTE: Always be sure that your amplifier is connected to a proper load or a speaker cabinet before the amplifier is switched on.

### Line Out

Non frequency compensated output with a tenth of the output level to drive post effects or external power amps when running a wet/dry system or a speaker simulation device such as IR loaders.

## Bad Cat Hot Cat Technical Specifications

- Designed and Built in Southern California
- Hand-wound Bad Cat Transformers
- 45 Watts
- 2 - EL34 Power Tubes
- 4 - 12AX7 Tubes
- 2 Channels
- Lo / Hi Gain Switch
- Two Button Footswitch: Channel and Lo/Hi Switches
- Independent Gain and Volume per Channel
- Shared Bass, Mid, Treble
- Global Master Volume and Presence
- Studio Quality Reverb Independently Tuned for Each Channel
- Buffered FX Loop
- Custom UK 12" Celestion speaker (Combo)
- Individual Speaker Outputs (4, 8, 16, 2x4, 2x8 ohms)
- Line Out
- Baltic Birch Cabinet
- 5-year Limited Warranty
- 20.75" Width x 10.375" Depth x 10" Height (Head Dimensions)
- 31 lbs Head Weight
- 23.75" Width x 10.375" Depth x 19" Height (Combo Dimensions)
- 48 lbs Combo Weight
- Two Button Footswitch Included

### Bad Cat Manufacturer Warranty

Every Bad Cat amp is backed by a 5 year non-transferable warranty. Registration and proof of purchase is required for Manufacturer's Warranty coverage. To learn about the warranty and to register your amp, please visit

**[www.badcatamps.com/support](http://www.badcatamps.com/support)**  
and fill out the registration form.

# Hot Cat Tube Chart

