

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Your new Bad Cat amplifier is designed for many years of professional trouble free operation. Common sense will tell you that if you notice any severe abnormalities in operation like burning smell, smoke, etc.; you need to shut down the amp immediately. Always consult your Bad Cat dealer if you are unsure of the problems that you are dealing with; i.e., take your amp to where you purchased it.

## HELP SECTION

### Amp Will Not Turn On

Check the power to the amp. Check for tripped circuit breakers, unplugged extension cords or power-strip switches that may be turned off. Check the fuse. If a dark brownish color or no wire can be seen within the glass tube, then replace. The amp may be perfectly fine but occasionally a fuse may blow because of high AC voltage surges. After the fuse has been replaced with the proper Slow Blow value and if the fuse fails again, the amp will require servicing.

### Weak or No Output Level

Verify the signal output from your instrument first. Check guitar's controls and that the cables are working properly. Also, check any effects pedals that may be connected in between the guitar and the amplifier.

### No Output with Power light On

Tubes damaged in shipping will be the primary reason for your amp to not function properly. Please give us a call to help guide you through this simple repair.

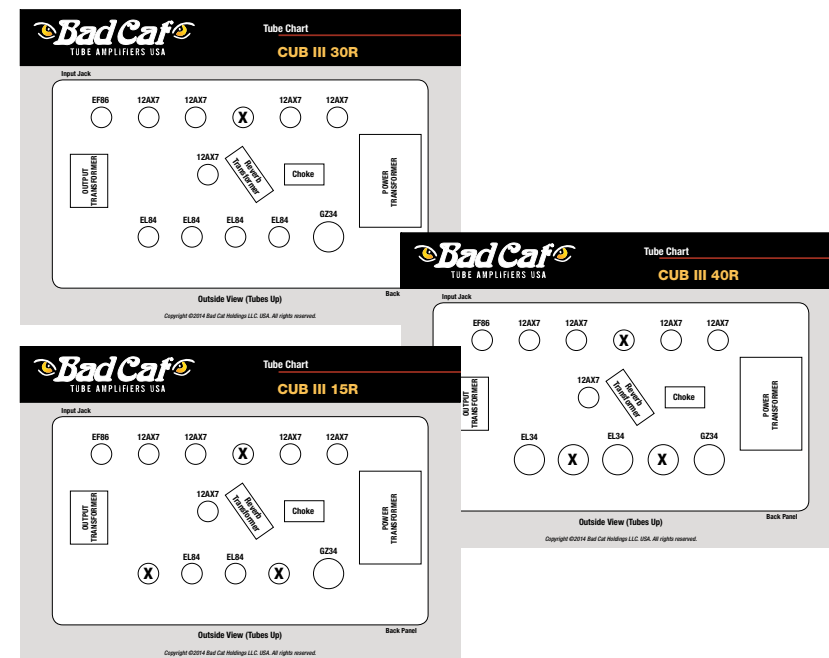
### Keep Your Amp Looking New

Use a damp cloth to wipe the controls on the front & rear chassis panels. Wipe the black vinyl covering with a damp cloth.

### Adverse Sounds-Hum, Whistle, Loss of Dynamics, Feedback, Howling

Check loudspeaker cones, frayed guitar cables, controls on your instrument, the guitar's pickups and any other devices that many be connected to your amplifier such as effects pedals or rack processors. Some of these devices are "amplifiers" in their own right with gain and boosted volume levels and they may cause hissing and unwanted feedback if set too high in front of the amp. Shut down the amp and check the tubes. Wait for the amp to cool down. Remove the back panel of the amplifier. Avoid handling hot tubes as they can cause severe burns. Check the larger output power tubes first by carefully removing the tube shields or loosening the clamps, and then unseat the tubes from their sockets but note from which sockets you removed the tubes. Inspect the integrity of the filaments in the tubes. If one or more of these tubes are bad, you will need to replace the entire set of the power tubes. If all the tubes are OK, you can eliminate the adverse sounds by swapping the location of these tubes. If this fails to fix the problem, you may need to replace the entire set of power tubes with a new matched set. Use of inferior quality (unrated) tubes may cause damage to your amplifier. You should also check the preamp tubes, especially the first input stage tube (far right if you're looking at the amp from the back). Microphonics (feedback noise that cannot be controlled by turning down the volume pot on you guitar) indicates a bad preamp tube(s). You may want to swap the position of preamp tubes to see if this will fix the microphonics problem. Preamp tubes can go bad without warning but can also last many years without any problem whatsoever.

As you can see when handling tubes, they are sensitive, fragile and somewhat prone to inconsistencies. Please handle your amp with care when transporting it. Although your Bad Cat amp is sturdily built and designed to take years of rugged use, the tubes are not. It's always a good idea to keep extra tubes (both preamp and output power tubes) handy, especially for performance situations. An overwhelming majority of minor problems on tube amps are tube-related and it's just a matter of swapping one or more out to have your amp performing like brand new again.



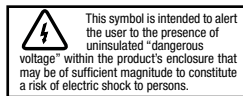
**IMPORTANT!**  
FOR YOUR PROTECTION, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:  
**WATER AND MOISTURE:** Appliance should not be used near water (near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc.). Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.  
**POWER SOURCES:** The appliance should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the unit.  
**GROUNDING OR POLARIZATION:** Precautions should be taken so that the grounding or polarization means of an appliance is not defeated.  
**POWER CORD PROTECTION:** Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the appliance.  
**SERVICING:** The user should not attempt to service the unit beyond that described in the operating instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.  
**FUSING:** If your unit is equipped with a fuse receptacle, replace only with the same type fuse. Refer to replacement text on the unit for correct fuse type.

### LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Bad Cat Amplifiers has a limited lifetime warranty on select amps and cabs against workmanship or defect. The warranty excludes pedals, the Unleash and accessories. The warranty does not cover tubes, speakers or cosmetic damage, wear and tear, or abuse. This warranty is transferable. Modifying or altering the amp in any way voids the warranty. Shipping to and from the warranty repair center is the responsibility of the customer.

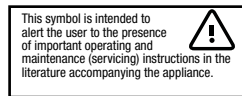
We have a new Lifetime Warranty on all new amps leaving the factory. We are extending the Limited Lifetime Warranty to all of our pre-acquisition amps for \$349. Simply send the unit back to us with an approved RMA number, and we will have one of our technicians go through it from the ground up. Shipping to and from the warranty repair center is the responsibility of the customer. For more information please contact us at sales@badcatamps.com or directly at 1-800-730-0966.

When returning merchandise to the factory, you must call for a return authorization number (RMA). Any items arriving without a proper RMA number will be rejected at customer's expense. Bad Cat Amps may update its warranty from time to time. When we change the warranty in a material way a notice will be posted on our website along with the updated warranty.



**CAUTION**  
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DO NOT OPEN

REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL!  
THIS UNIT CONTAINS HIGH VOLTAGE INSIDE!



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**Bad Cat**  
TUBE AMPLIFIERS USA

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## Operating Manual

## CUB III SERIES

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing a professional 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 pro quality models is constructed with Bad Cat's commitment to making the highest quality, hand-built, American-made amplifiers.

### CAUTION

With a little care and caution, your Bad Cat amplifier should provide you with years of trouble-free operation and enjoyment. Please avoid damp areas and moisture during operation of the amp and in storage. This includes placement of beverages near or on the amp that could spill into the amp's chassis. Liquids can easily damage tubes, switches and other parts. Immediately disconnect the amp from power source should a spill occur and dry the amp thoroughly prior to switching on the amp again. Drying may require the complete removal of the chassis from the cabinet and the removal of the tubes for cleaning. Avoid tipping the amp, using it in unbalanced positions, or lifting it unassisted to awkward heights. A little common sense will go a long way in making sure the amp does what it's supposed to do: provide you with dependable operation and great tone on a consistent basis.

### GROUNDING

Please check thoroughly that the ground tip on the power cord plug is connected to true ground prior to operation of your Bad Cat amp. Using unfamiliar junction boxes can cause potentially dangerous floating grounds. Please do not cut or defeat the ground tip.

Last updated: March 12, 2014 - Rev. 08



### 15-WATT

2-EL84  
CATHODE BIASED  
NEW K MASTER® CIRCUIT  
FOOT SWITCHABLE EF86 OR  
12AX7 PRE-AMP  
EFFECTS LOOP  
FOOT SWITCHABLE BOOST CIRCUIT

### 30-WATT

4-EL84  
CATHODE BIASED  
NEW K MASTER® CIRCUIT  
FOOT SWITCHABLE EF86 OR  
12AX7 PRE-AMP  
EFFECTS LOOP  
FOOT SWITCHABLE BOOST CIRCUIT

### 40-WATT

2-EL34  
CATHODE BIASED  
NEW K MASTER® CIRCUIT  
FOOT SWITCHABLE EF86 OR  
12AX7 PRE-AMP  
EFFECTS LOOP  
FOOT SWITCHABLE BOOST CIRCUIT  
MODELED & IMPROVED FROM THE  
LUCA/STELLA

Bad Cat raises the bar and offers an update on the classic Cub circuit. The all new Cub III features a switchable A or B valve in the first position pre-amp. You can select between 12AX7 or EF86 pre-amp tube by a toggle or foot switch. This new feature is drastically different sonically in gain structure, and character from any previous Cub models. We have added a selectable gain on the bass and treble tone stack to run hotter, or choose to stay in standard Cub mode. This feature can be used as a classic gain boost. Combine this with the EF86 pre-amp and now you're in territory previously unavailable from older Bad Cat Cub models. We have refined the reverb circuit to get a deeper, fuller and more plate-like reverb. A two button foot switch is included. Button one controls the selection of the EF86 or 12AX7 pre-amp. The second button offers the ability to punch in the added gain on the tone stack. With the foot switch you can go from chiming clean to crunch, and all the way to the wide open.

### Patent Pending K Master®

Gain up the power amp section while leaving the pre-amp sparkling clean? Yes. Imagine getting a full 15 watts of clean headroom out of a 15 watt amp, or a full 30 out of a 30. Turn down the master volume to bedroom low all while maintaining your tone intact. Not only is this possible it's also useful for guitar players.

Power amp gain is different than pre-amp gain. It feels, sounds and even looks different. Master volume has always been misnamed. It should have been called master attenuation. Until now master volumes were unable to do anything, but attenuate. The drive to the power section was always dependent on the drive coming from the pre-amp.

Now Bad Cat has figured out a way to separate the pre-amp from the power amp gain, and calling it the K Master®. Before this you couldn't drive the power amp hard without pushing the pre-amp into saturation. The K Master® patent pending technology has allowed us to re-invent the concept of the master volume. Bad Cat is now offering the K Master® in the Cub III Series.

**Available with or without reverb.**

### ELECTRONICS

Power: 15 Watt Class A, 30 Watt Class A, 40 Watt Class A

Channels: One

Controls: Volume, EF86/12AX7 Toggle, Tone, Bass, Treble, Boost Switch, Reverb, Presence, K Master

### HARDWARE

Available Configuration: Head Shell, 1x12 Combo

Cabinet Material: Head - Italian Poplar, Combos - 13 Ply Baltic Birch

Speaker Description: Head Shell: N/A Combo: 12" Bad Cat Proprietary Celestion Speaker

Impedance: Selectable 4, 8, 16 ohms

Power Tubes: 15 Watt - 2 EL84, 30 Watt - 4 EL84, 40 Watt - 2 EL34

Pre-Amp Channel 1: 12AX7 or EF86

Rectifier Tube: 15 Watt - GZ34, 30 Watt - GZ34, 40 Watt - Solid State

FOR YOUR RECORDS, YOU MAY WISH TO RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ INVOICE DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## Front & Rear Panel Controls

### CUB III SERIES

#### OPERATION

If this is your first all-tube amplifier, please become familiar with a few issues that differentiate your amp from solid-state or hybrid amp products. Only a few precautions are required but they will insure that you will get the most of your new all-tube amplifier. Vacuum tubes are “old world” thermal devices that require more attention than transistors, but that’s the reason they sound so much sweeter and more musical than integrated circuits and other solid-state components. A little heads-up on the following points will ensure maximum performance from your Bad Cat amp.

1. Place the amp at least 6 inches away from any wall or obstacle to provide adequate ventilation around the amp. Good airflow around the amp will go a long way in preventing the amp from overheating, especially the tubes. Do not place covers, clothing, or any other materials on or in the amp that can obstruct the free venting of the chassis to the outside air. Trapped heat in the chassis may cause a condition known as thermal runaway. To put it simply, to warm or cook the tubes is good, to heat-cycle or fry the tubes is extremely dangerous and will also shorten the life of the tubes considerably.

2. Vacuum tubes will last longer and sound more musical when they are allowed to warm up prior to introducing an input signal from your guitar. A full flow of electrons from the cathode can only be achieved when the tube is heated. This requires some time. Please allow at least one minute of warm-up time before playing through the amp.

3. Avoid long idle periods with no input signal. The vacuum tubes prefer to see a signal present. When taking a break between practice sessions or in between sets of a performance, use the standby switch or turn off the amp.

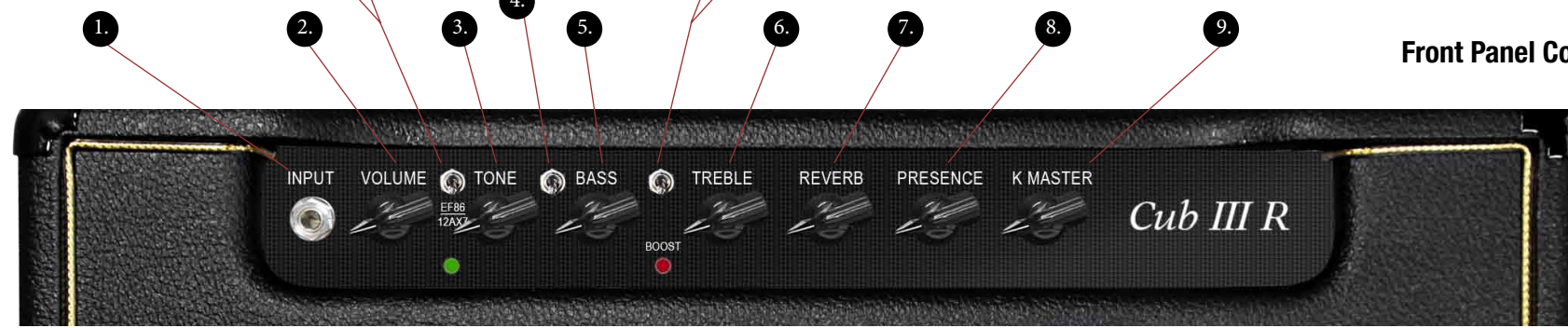
4. Avoid unverified impedance loads. In other words, do not clip on or otherwise attach additional speakers unless you know the system impedance. Tube amplifiers are very sensitive to speaker impedance matching. This is due to the relationship between the internal resistances of the output transformer, the output power tubes and the load that is required to drive them. Unbalanced loads can cause destructive arcing; the transformer and the tubes may actually burn themselves out. This is not covered by our warranty.

With proper impedance matching, multiple speaker configurations will work fine. If you are not familiar with “Ohm’s Law”, please consult with a dealer or a qualified amplifier technician. Do not attempt to operate the amp if you cannot verify system impedance after connecting the speakers. Never operate your Bad Cat amp at 2 ohms or less.

5. Avoid unapproved “Power Soak” devices or attenuators that are not recommended by Bad Cat as they can shorten the life of your power tubes considerably. Attenuators burn out tubes prematurely because they require the power tubes to overwork continuously. Also, please note that power tubes are best replaced as a matched full set whenever any of them fail.

Switch between 12AX7 and EF86 preamp tube. You will find the EF86 to be more dynamic with a much higher amount of gain. The 12AX7 will be lower gain with more mid frequencying.

Switch for bass and treble tube booster circuit. Adds gain to the bass and treble tube.  
*Note: This only works when you are in the bass and treble mode.*



#### FRONT PANEL

##### 1. Input Jacks

Plug instrument here.

##### 2. Volume

The first knob on the left when you face the amp’s front panel is the volume control. The Volume acts as a gain knob for overdrive and distortion sounds.

##### 3. Tone

This is a 5-position knob used for instant access to your favorite sounds. Turn it clockwise for increasingly darker, thicker tones. Turning the knob counterclockwise gives you more treble and bite. The 5-position switch gives you a distinct advantage in being able to recreate the tone you want time after time.

##### 4. Tone Switch

This switch gives you the option of using the 5-position tone knob above or using the bass and treble knobs that follow. Switched in the left position gives you the 5-position knob. Switched in the right position gives you the bass and treble knobs. The amp uses either the 5-position or the bass and treble knobs for tone; they are not used in conjunction with one another.

##### 5. Bass

This active EQ circuit boosts or cuts the bass frequencies. You will notice that this control has a much wider range of control compared to bass controls on most other guitar amplifiers. It should also be noted that it interacts with the Treble control to truly provide a wide range of tones.

##### 6. Treble

This active Treble EQ circuit boosts or cuts carefully selected treble frequencies that are critical to a great guitar tone. You will notice some dramatic tonal shifts by going from around noon on the knob setting to around 2-3 o’clock. Combine this with the active Bass circuit to dial in just the right amount of balance of firm clear lows and sweet yet cutting highs.

##### 7. Reverb (optional)

The reverb circuit is a completely new Bad Cat design that adds spatial dimension to the tone produced by the amp. Incorporating the very best 3-spring reverb tank with a newly designed reverb tone circuit, the reverb can go from subtle classic spring reverb effects to lush surf reverb to cavernous hall-like setting with a simple twist of this knob. This reverb circuit was carefully designed to be useful across the entire sweep of the reverb range. It adds a wide range of spatial effects that you just can’t duplicate with pedals and digital effects processors.

##### 8. Presence

Turning the knob counterclockwise will cut the highs, darkening the overall sound. Turning the knob clockwise will add more highs and high-mids, significantly brightening the overall sound. It’s yet another tone-shaping function on the Cub III that with careful tweaking in conjunction with the active Treble and Bass controls, gives you a range of sounds from a single-channel amp unmatched in this industry.

##### 9. Patent Pending K Master®

The K Master is a revolutionary new circuit from Bad Cat. It is designed to operate differently from ordinary master volume circuits.

The K Master allows for separate control of the power amp and pre-amp section. To demonstrate this, try turning the pre-amp down to a quiet clean sound. Now slowly turn up the K Master to achieve a level of volume not available from an ordinary master volume. Notice the extended clean headroom available. At this point you can push the power tubes into saturation while keeping the pre-amp clean.

The K Master also does an excellent job at pure attenuation. Essentially, set the pre-amp to the amount of breakup you are looking for, and tune the K Master to the level you need.

Please note, that the K Master is capable of introducing higher gain into the power section than an ordinary master volume circuit. If you experience uncontrolled feedback, try backing down a few of the panel controls.

#### Front Panel Controls

#### Rear Panel Controls

#### BACK PANEL

##### 10. A/C Plug

Plug your amp’s power cord in here first, then to the wall.

##### 11. On/Off Switch

This switch turns the amp on or off. Please make sure that the Standby Switch is in the Standby mode before turning on or off. This will help increase the life to the power tubes.

##### 12. Standby Switch

Leave this switch off when turning on the amp and let the amp warm up for a full minute before turning this switch on. It’s best to let tubes warm up before playing. Also, turn the Standby switch to Standby when you will not be playing for a while (for example, breaks in between sets of your performances, etc.).

##### 13. High Tension Fuse

(15 W & 30 W 1/2 Amp Slow, 40 W 750mA slow)

High Tension is just another way of saying High Voltage. Voltages at this point can be anywhere from 350-500 volts depending on the model so it is always a good idea to make sure the amp is “off” when installing or removing the fuse. Do not stick anything inside the fuse holder other than a fuse. This fuse is in series with the power transformer. Its function is to prevent collateral damage to the amplifier in the event of tube failure. If you replace the tubes and the fuse blows again, seek qualified technical help.

##### 14. Footswitch Jack

(Two buttons, F/S Included)

Switch between EF86 or 12AX7 preamp and footswitchable boost circuit.

##### 15. Main Speaker/Extension Speaker Jack\*

This jack is connected to the speaker in the combo. Do not unplug when operating the amp.

##### 16. Impedance Selector Switch

This switch is to select the impedance load of the output. It comes from the factory set at 8 ohm since the internal speaker is 8 ohm. If you add an extension cabinet that is 8 ohm, the switch needs to be set at 4 ohm.

##### 17. Send and Return Jacks

Connect the output of the send jack to the input of your effects device. Connect the output of your effect to the Return jack of the loop. The Send can also serve as a Line Out to drive external processors in a wet/dry/wet rig.

*\* This jack can be used to add an external speaker cabinet along with the internal cabinet. Since the internal speaker is 8-ohm, you should use another 8-ohm cabinet to run the impedance load at 4-ohms. If you only want to use an external cabinet, the speaker cab impedance should match with the impedance switch selection.*