



BLACK STAR YJM-50™

Yngwie J. Malmsteen
Signature Electric Guitar Amplifier



Output Tube Stage
Saturation At Any
Volume!

POWERATOR™ ACTIVATED

Owners Manual

Rhino Guitar Amplification
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Congratulations you are the proud new owner of Black Star YJM-50 manufactured by Rhino Guitar Amplification.

This manual was produced to give you a quick and thorough understanding of the Black Star YJM-50. It is strongly urged that you please follow through the step by step tour of Black Star's unique features and proper operation instructions.

The Black Star YJM-50 is a milestone in guitar amplification manufacturing, with a new and radical approach to guitar amplification design. The Black Star represents an attitude that is brave and bold the spirit of Rhino Guitar Amplification Manufacturing Company. Yngwie J. Malmsteen hit the music scene like a rising storm that thundered across the horizon from east to west transforming modern rock guitar with unprecedented electric guitar mastery that fused heavy rock with the maestros of classical periods. Not only did Yngwie Malmsteen leave his mark in rock guitar history, he changed the way electric guitar is played and raised the standard to a higher level. Now once again Maestro Yngwie J. Malmsteen blazes his trail through rock guitar history with the introduction of the Black Star YJM-50. Black Star features the radical new POWERATOR developed by Rhino Guitar Amplification.

Harness the power of Rock Guitar Legend!

Many modern guitar amplifiers mimic legendary guitar amplifier tones with Digital Signal Processing chips. This may sound very good to the user in small confines and at low volume levels, such amplifiers rarely if ever deliver sonic satisfaction to the user in live situations where true guitar amplification power is needed to push your tone through when accompanied by a live band. Black Star creates its superb guitar amplification tone with its real fire breathing tube amplifier circuitry producing a huge variety of amplifier tones made famous through out rock guitar history; Black Star also gives birth to its own distinct tonal character destined to leave its mark in guitar amplification history. With its ingenious revolutionary design the Powerator activated Black Star is capable of producing luscious tube output at low volume levels. Simply said, Black Star sounds great at low volume and has more than enough power to deliver thunderous tone power when needed, whether it's your own bedroom or a large stadium, Black Star will give you many years of excellent sounding reliable service.

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Fast and Furious!

The Black Star is an electric guitar amplifier capable of wide and diverse guitar amplifier tones ranging from pristine clean to heavy super overdriven modern rock guitar tones. While many modern guitar amplifiers strive to host every possible conceivable option imaginable the end result is often a confusing control panel and an amplifier that although is capable of many channel combinations and configurations fails to exceed in any one particular area. Black Star forsakes this approach to guitar amplifier design preferring to be a lean and fast Rock n Roll machine! Black Star is more like a race car, a dragster if you will. So start your engine & get revved up, it's time to start burning rubber!

Begin by carefully unpacking your Black Star from its shipping container.

Note***

Please make note of any damage that may have occurred during shipping immediately inform the carrier provider and Rhino Guitar Amplification of any apparent physical damage that may have occurred during shipping.

Your Black Star shipping carton should contain the following items:

- 1 ea Black Star electric guitar Amplifier
- 1 ea Black Star instruction manual including the warranty product registration card
- 1 ea Overdrive foot switch pedal.
- 1 ea amplifier power cord

Note***

Please do not use the Black Star with any unapproved electrical power cords, doing so will void your warranty and may cause damage to the amplifier and severe injury or death!



Note***

Please set both the Power (green) and Standby (Amber) push button switches located on the front panel of the Black Star amplifier chassis to the out position, this sets both switches off!

Making the connections!

Place the female end of the power electrical cord into the electrical power cord receptacle located on the rear panel of the Black Star YJM-50 amplifier chassis. Connect the male end of the electrical power cord into a proper power source socket.



Note***

Please make sure that the fuse holder/voltage selector on the electrical power cord receptacle located on the rear panel of the amplifier is in the proper voltage position for proper operation of the amplifier in your geographical region.

Connect the footswitch included with your Black Star amplifier to the footswitch input located on the rear panel of the Black Star amplifier chassis.

Connect the amplifier to a properly rated speaker cabinet using a ¼ inch phono jack speaker cable. Match the ohm impedance selector of the amplifier to the speaker cabinet!



Note***

Please make sure to match the ohm selector switch located on the rear panel of the Black Star amplifier chassis to the ohm rating of the speaker cabinet to be used, failing to do so may cause catastrophic damage to the Black Star Amplifier!

Using a properly rated shielded ¼ inch phono jack instrument cable connect your guitar to the input jack located on the front panel of the Black Star amplifier chassis.



Black Star YJM-50 Front Panel

Preflight Check list!

Note***

Set your volume to 1. Let's make sure we don't have the amplifier turned way up blasting you out the moment the amplifier is powered up.

We will set the front control panel the following way to give us a quick, fun and thorough tour of the Black Star amplifier's unique features!



Set the noise gate suppression level control located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis to 5. Set the Noise Gate ON/OFF push button switch to the out position, this turns the noise gate circuit off.

Set both controls on the overdrive circuit located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis to 10. Set the Overdrive push button switch to the out position, this turns the overdrive circuit off!

Note***

When using the footswitch pedal the overdrive ON/OFF push button switch located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis must be set to the in position enabling the ON/OFF function of the overdrive circuit of the amplifier to be controlled by the footswitch.

This tour was designed to give you a quick and fun way to learn how to use and care for your Black Star!



Located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis are the volume and tone controls for the Black Star Amplifier. Set your volume control to 1 and the Treble, Midrange, Bass and Presence to 10.



Also located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis is the Powerator control and the power output LED indicator bar. Set the POWERATOR control to 10 at this setting the output power of the Black Star Amplifier is set at full! The Black Star amplifier is conservatively rated at 50 watts RMS output. At full power the Black Star is loud, very loud so to get started lets keep the volume control on 1, we will turn up the volume later!



Lighting the engines!

It is time to behold the magnificent sound of the Black Star amplifier.

Note***

It is important to properly warm up the Black Star amplifier's vacuum tubes, please follow proper powering procedure to ensure the maximum duration and optimal performance of the Black Star Amplifier tubes. Improper powering procedure adversely affects the Black Star amplifier's power tubes shortening the life of the tubes.

Powering on the Black Star Amplifier!



Located on the front panel of the Black Star chassis are the Power (green) and Standby (amber) push button switches. Begin by setting the Power (green) push button switch to the in position illuminating the switch. At this time the Standby (amber) switch should be set to the out position and not be illuminated. It is important to allow electrical current to flow through the tubes warming them up before applying full power to the Black Star amplifier. The filaments on the tubes will begin to glow a beautiful orange red. Once the tubes are properly warmed, approximately one minute set the Standby push button switch to the in position illuminating the switch and bypassing the Standby thus fully powering the Black Star amplifier. The Black Star amplifier is now fully powered and ready to play!

Taking Flight!

Let's continue with our tour.

Recommended settings!

This is the fun part of the tour where you get to play, have fun and enjoy the Black Star! This is also the final part of the tour so have fun and complete the tour and you will have an excellent understanding of the concept of the Black Star and have a good understanding of its many wonderful features. You will also know how to easily dial in virtually any guitar tone you wish. Clean, warm, bright, punchy, smooth, tight, glassy, heavy tone & blistering overdrive, anything you wish Black Star does it all!

Adjusting the amplifier settings for tone preference & volume level!

Due to its high quality design and advanced tube technology the Black Star amplifier is equipped with extremely responsive tone controls capable of producing the most sought after tones by today's electric guitarists.

1. Playing clean tones.
2. Powerator Basics
3. Playing crunch tones.
4. Playing super overdrive tones.
5. Adjusting the EQ settings for tone preference

1. Playing clean non distorted guitar tones!

The optimal setting for playing clean guitar tones is with the Powerator level set to 10 this allows the Black Star to play clean non distorted guitar tones at the widest possible range of volume levels from a whisper to incredibly loud. Simply set the volume control to the desired volume level.

2. Powerator Basics!

For warmth and fullness nothing matches the overdrive sound of power tube saturation. The main problem with output tube saturation is the extreme volume produced by output tubes at the point of saturation. POWERATOR is proprietary technology developed by our engineers to capture at last the "Holy Grail of Tube Guitar Amplifier Tone" true output tube stage saturation volume control! POWERATOR produces output stage saturation at very low volume levels by allowing the Black Star amplifier's power output to be scaled down! Dial from 50 watts of full Black Star power down to 5 watts or lower maintaining great output tube crunch at low volume levels! We are proud to introduce this awesome new technology on the Black Star YJM-50 with POWERATOR!

3. Playing Crunch Tones!

Black Star is capable of faithfully producing many of the most sought after guitar amplifier tones even the vintage “Plexi” tone that would satisfy even the staunchest vintage amplifier connoisseur. As the Volume control level is raised the gain of the amplifier increases creating a very warm and smooth natural output stage overdrive tone. Set the Volume control at ten to get awesome full rich vintage rock guitar amplifier tone. Way too loud! No problem, just use the incredible revolutionary Powerator to control the output power of the amplifier enabling you to experience beautiful lush output stage overdrive saturation at low volume levels, the “Holy Grail” of electric guitar amplifier tone.

Note***

Things start to get a little noisy after this point of the tour so let’s go ahead and engage the noise gate. Set the push button ON/OFF switch for the noise gate to the in position, you should see the noise gate circuit red LED indicator illuminate thus setting the noise gate circuit on. The noise gate is transparent to the amplifiers tone and is an extremely good and effective way of eliminating unwanted signal noise and controlling feedback.

How to control feedback and other unwanted noise!

Note***

Do your part to optimize the performance of the Black Star amplifier. The incredible gain of the Black Star is largely responsible for the Black Star’s incredible tone however if not used properly the high gain of the amplifier will produce an uncontrollable feedback. In high gain overdrive modes do not stand directly in front of the amplifier at very close range it is recommended to stand at least three feet from the amplifier and not to face the pickups of the guitar being used toward the speakers being used at close range. To increase the Black Star amplifier’s noise gates ability to control feedback especially when muting power chords increase the suppression level control of the noise gate until desired effect is achieved. It is recommended to set the noise suppression level to the lowest satisfactory suppression level to allow maximum note sustain decay possible.

4. Playing super overdrive tones!



Set the Volume control to 10 and engage the overdrive circuit by the use of the foot pedal switch or the Overdrive ON/OFF push button switch. When engaged the Overdrive red LED indicator should become illuminated indicating that the overdrive circuit is on. Overall volume and power output should be controlled by the Powerator level control. Enjoy the awesome tone of the Black Star YJM-50.

Adjusting the EQ settings for tone preference!

Treble: Adjusts the amount of high frequency response produced by the amplifier

Mid: Adjusts the amount midrange frequency response produced by the amplifier

Bass: Adjusts the amount of lower frequency response produced by the amplifier

Presence: Adjusts the amount of clarity and brilliance characteristics produced by the amplifier

Congratulations you have just completed the Black Star amplifier pilot flight training school!

Now you have your wings and are ready to soar to new sonic horizons. With practice and experimentation quickly you can develop your favorite settings and sweet spots for using the incredible Black Star YJM-50 guitar amplifier.

For additional recommended settings and sound samples please visit our website at:
www.rhinoamps.com

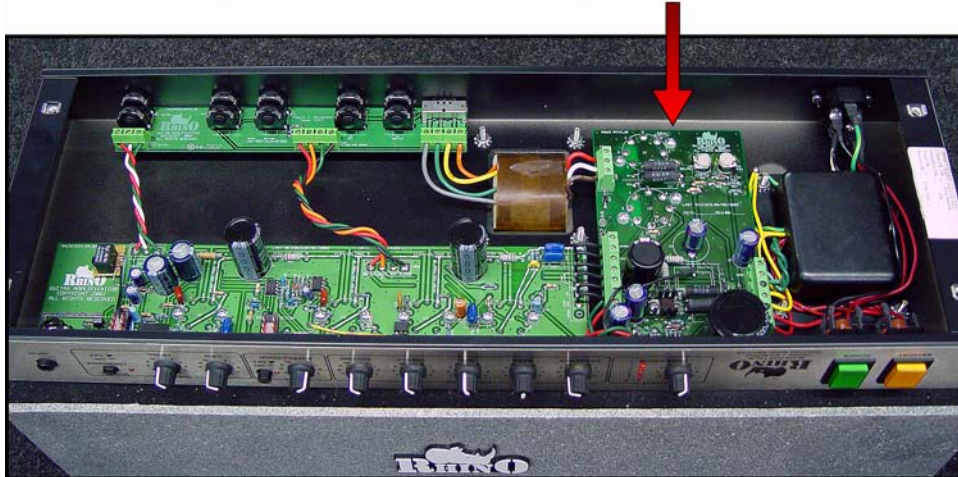
Power Tube Bias Instructions Black Star YJM-50

**WARNING: Amplifier contains lethal voltages that can kill!!!
Tubes get very hot and can cause burns!!!**

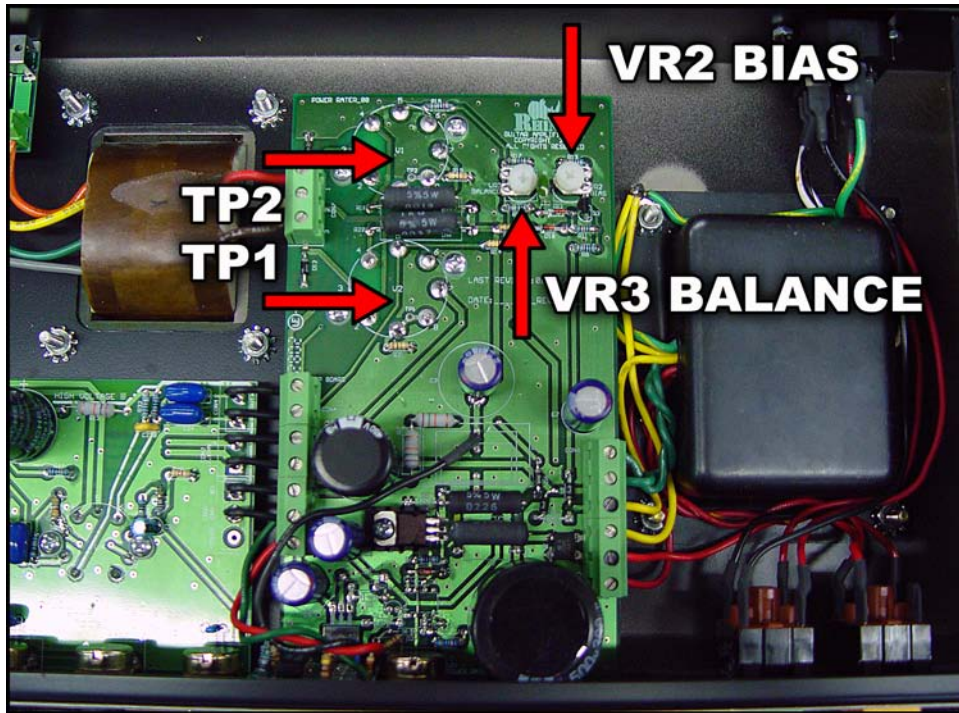
Black Star YJM-50 employs a dual adjustment bias level design. The major benefit to this design is the ability to perfectly match the bias level of unmatched tubes perfectly!

Step: Set up amp as follows:

POWER OUTPUT BOARD USED FOR BIASING



1. Remove amplifier from case, turn upside down and place on a suitable support being careful not to damage tubes
2. Set volume, gain, Level, and Power Rater controls to Zero.
3. Make sure the power switch is off then Plug in amp to power.
4. Turn amp power switch on and **standby switch off**. (on standby- no light)
5. Let amp warm up about 2 minutes then turn on standby switch.
6. Locate the bias controls, **VR2 BIAS**, **VR3 BALANCE** located by the large tube sockets
7. Locate **TP1** through **TP2** located between pin 1 and 8 in the large tube sockets.



8. Set voltmeter to millivolts.
9. Adjust **VR2 BIAS** $\frac{3}{4}$ CCW (flat side of control pointed slightly **toward front** of unit).
10. Adjust VR3 BALANCE to mid scale (flat side of control pointed **toward VR2 BIAS**).
11. Hook up **negative** lead of meter to **ground** (chassis).
12. Turn on standby switch and monitor TP1-TP2 while turning Power Rater to maximum (10) to insure that **no more than 45 millivolts** is present. **Adjust VR1** CCW if needed.
13. Make sure the negative lead of meter is connected to ground (chassis).
14. **Adjust VR1** so TP1 or TP2 is **35mV**.
15. Place negative lead of meter on TP1 and positive lead on TP2.
16. **Adjust VR3 BALANCE** so the meter reads **zero** volts.
17. **Repeat** step 13 to 17 until no further changes is needed.

Rhino Guitar Amplification
 El Paso, Texas 79936, USA
 Telephone: 915-855-4922 Fax: 915-855-3080
 Website: www.rhinoamps.com Email: support@rhinoamps.com

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