



## VHT SPECIAL 8/8 USER'S GUIDE

The handwired Special 8/8 "Double-Eight" features a unique dual output-stage "single-ended" design, with two cathode-biased 6L6GC tubes connected in parallel, and with a separate Master Volume control for each tube. The Double-Eight can accept a wide variety of tubes, including EL34, KT66 and KT88, etc., plus you can mix different output tube types and blend their volume levels with the separate Master Volume controls.

### CONTROL PANEL FEATURES

- 1. Input:** Pedal-friendly high-headroom input, with 1-megohm input impedance.
- 2. Volume Control:** Turning the preamp Volume knob clockwise increases the preamp drive and overall sound level.
- 3. Tone Control:** This single-knob preamp tone control provides a wide range of tones, from dark to bright.
- 4. Boost Control:** Turning this control clockwise partially bypasses the internal tone shaping/voicing circuitry, which boosts the preamp gain and increases the midrange emphasis. This feature can also be engaged by the footswitch.
- 5. Depth Control:** This 6-position rotary switch selects the output stage's low-frequency roll-off point. Set it fully clockwise for the deepest low-frequency extension (great for single-coil pickups). Lower settings (counterclockwise) expose more midrange texture and detail; the lowest settings emphasize more presence and bite, which can tighten thick-sounding pickups such as high-output humbuckers.  
You may notice a popping sound when the Depth control is turned, this sound is the Depth control's capacitors charging, the popping sound will go away after the capacitors are charged, this is normal.
- 6. Texture Switch:** This 3-position rocker switch selects the output stage's high-frequency roll-off point and it also influences the midrange texture. The middle position provides maximum top-end extension and the most harmonically complex texture; the left position provides subtle high-frequency roll-off for a slightly smoother texture; the right position rolls-off more high frequencies for the smoothest texture.
- 7. Master 1 Control:** This controls output tube 1's output level.
- 8. Master 2 Control:** This controls output tube 2's output level.  
These Master controls are completely independent, providing unlimited output tube blending possibilities.
- 9. Jewel Light:** This light will be illuminated when the Power switch is in the On position; the jewel light will be off when the Power switch is in the Off position.
- 10. Standby Switch:** To extend tube life, the Standby switch turns off the amp's high-voltage power supply while low-voltage remains to the tube heaters and 9-volt DC jack.
- 11. Power Switch:** This is the main power switch that turns the amplifier on or off.

### REAR PANEL FEATURES

- 1. Footswitch Jack:** The on/off footswitch engages the preamp Boost function.
- 2. DC Out:** Plug the included 9-volt DC power supply cable into this jack to power your pedals or pedal board. The LED will illuminate when the amplifier is turned on. If the LED is not illuminated, check the internal DC Out fuse. (1,000mA maximum output current.)
- 3. Effects Loop Send and Return Jacks:** The post-preamp Effects Loop can accommodate a wide range of effects. The send level is dependent on the preamp Volume and Boost control settings. High preamp gain levels may overdrive some sensitive guitar-level effects pedals. The Return jack has a pedal-friendly 1 megohm input impedance.

**4. Line Out Jack:** The preamp Line Out is in parallel with the Effects Loop Send jack, it can be used to send a signal to other amplifiers, etc. Multiple amplifiers can be linked by connecting the Line Out jack to the Effects Return of the second amplifier. Several amplifiers can be linked in this manner, with the first amplifier's preamp serving as the master preamp for all additional amplifiers.

**5. Impedance Selector:** This 3-position slide switch selects the appropriate output impedance to match your speaker cabinet's impedance.

**6. Speaker Output Jacks and Impedance Selector Switch:** These two jacks are wired in parallel. The Special 8/8 combo has a 16-ohm speaker that is connected to the internal speaker jack. The combo's speaker remains connected when using the external Speaker Output jacks. When using the combo with an additional 16-ohm speaker cabinet, switch the Impedance selector to 8 ohms.

**7. Power IEC Receptacle/Line Voltage Selector:** Use the included power cord with this unit in accordance with the AC line voltage and frequency ratings listed on this manual and rear panel of this amplifier. Your amplifier will ship with the correct voltage for your region; when traveling to different countries, remove the clear plastic protector and set the switch to the appropriate voltage. For lowest noise and safest operation, always provide the amplifier with proper AC grounding.

**8. High/Low Volt Switch:** Remove the rear panel to access this switch, it's on the chassis bottom, near the output tubes. Low Volt mode reduces the tube's operating voltages and provides a softer texture with earlier breakup. Low Volt mode can be used with 6L6, etc., and it also permits reliable operation with 6V6 and EL84 tubes (adapter required for EL84 tubes).

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

|                                   |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Name/Model:                       | VHT Special 8/8 "Double-Eight" — handwired vacuum tube guitar amplifier   |  |  |
| Power Requirements & Consumption: | 100/115VAC, 50/60Hz; 120VAC, 60Hz;<br>220VAC/230VAC240/VAC, 50/60Hz   |  |  |
| Maximum Output Power:             | 16 watts total (8 watts + 8 watts)  |  |  |
| Speaker (combo only):             | One 12" VHT ChromeBack (60-watts, 16 ohms)  |  |  |
| Amp Type:                         | All-tube hand-wired parallel single-ended output stage  |  |  |
| Tubes:                            | One 12AX7 & Two 6L6   |  |  |
| Controls:                         | Volume, Tone, Boost, Master 1, Master 2, Texture, and Depth   |  |  |
| Cabinet:                          | Finger jointed mahogany plywood   |  |  |
| Cosmetics:                        | Black vinyl and black grille cloth  |  |  |
| Dimensions                        | (H x W x D): (H x W x D):<br>Head: 10.5" x 19.5" x 9.5" (270mm x 495mm x 240mm)<br>Combo: 19" x 19.5" x 10.5" (455mm x 495mm x 265mm) |  |  |
| Net Weight:                       | Head: 32.25 lbs. (14.6 kg)<br>Combo: 46.5 lbs. (21 kg)  |  |  |

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