Valvulator Mini

OWNERS MANUAL

Vacuum Tube Buffer

MODEL V1M

FRYETTE AMPLIFICATION

www.fryette.com

Welcome to the family!

Congratulations and thank you for choosing the FRYETTE Valvulator Mini!

You are constantly searching for new sounds and new ways to improve your existing sound. We understand the constantly evolving nature of artistic creativity and the search for the perfect sound to complement your ever-widening musical vision. Providing the tools to help you create your own sonic signature is our primary mission.

The Valvulator Mini is a high voltage, vacuum tube–based buffer that is perfect for guitarists who utilize modelers, digital amps and long pedal chains. Designed to preserve and enhance your guitar's tone by converting the signal from high to low impedance eliminating high-frequency loss and signal degradation caused by cable capacitance, impedance mismatches, phase / ground loops and the use of effects pedals. The tube buffer also acts as a tone sweetener, cleaning up and enriching your sound while unveiling subtle harmonics, dynamics and the touch sensitivity normally associated with plugging directly into an amp.

Housed in a compact steel chassis, the Valvulator Mini provides an unbalanced low-impedance output, an unbalanced transformer isolated output and a balanced XLR output, making it a versatile solution as a tube direct box for both pedalboards and studio use. The Valvulator Mini is the long-awaited evolution of one of our most popular rig solutions, the Valvulator 1 Vacuum Tube Buffer. The Mini features increased headroom and dynamic range, together with significantly lower noise. It is a welcome tool especially for players who really appreciate the tone and feel of plugging directly into an amp.

Alright. Let's go!

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This symbol warns the user of dangerous voltage levels localized within the enclosure.

This symbol advises the user to read all accompanying literature for safe operation of the unit.

- **Read, retain, and follow all instructions. Heed all warnings.**
- **Only connect the power supply cord to an earth grounded AC receptacle in accordance with the voltage and frequency ratings listed under the AC input on the rear panel of this product.**
- **WARNING: To prevent damage, fire or shock hazard, do not expose this unit to rain or moisture.**
- **Unplug the power supply cord before cleaning the unit exterior (use a damp cloth only). Wait until the unit is completely dry before reconnecting it to power.**
- **Maintain unobstructed air space behind and above the unit to allow for proper ventilation and cooling.**
- **This product should be located away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, or other products that produce heat.**
- **This product may be equipped with a polarized plug (one blade wider than the other). This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of this plug.**
- **Protect the power supply cord from being pinched or abraded.**
- **The power supply cord of this product should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time, or during electrical storms.**
- **This product should be serviced by qualified service personnel when: the power supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled onto the product; or the product has been exposed to rain; or the product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or the product has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.**
- **Do not drip or splash liquids, nor place liquid filled containers on the unit.**
- ***CAUTION: No user serviceable parts inside, refer servicing to qualified personnel only.***
- **FRYETTE® amplifiers and loudspeaker systems are capable of producing very high sound pressure levels which may cause temporary or permanent hearing damage. Use care when setting and adjusting volume levels during use.**
- **Hazardous voltages may be present within the chassis even with the power switch off and power cord connected. Therefore, disconnect the power cord from the rear panel power inlet before servicing. The power inlet must remain readily operable.**

HOW IT WORKS

Most players are aware of the noticeable and often aggravating loss of signal level, change of tone and/or loss of high frequency response when an effects device is inserted between the guitar and amplifier. These losses can diminish the sound quality, character, and sustain of your guitar. This also causes premature signal decay, making feedback notes difficult to obtain and control.

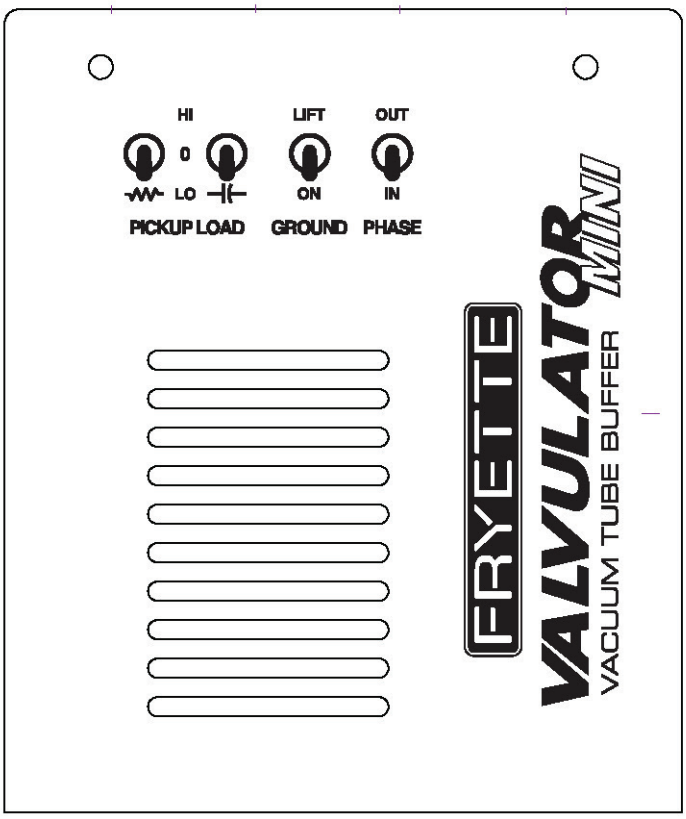
Most modern guitar amplifiers provide an effects loop to eliminate these problems. This type of loop usually inserts the effect between the preamp and power amp stages in the amplifier. This is great for Delays, Reverbs and Multi-effects Processors that operate well with the high signal level present in this part of the amplifier circuit. Unfortunately, this is not the ideal setup for most distortion devices, wah pedals and other low level, battery-operated effects. Typical fixes for these devices usually involve modifying the pedal, such as installing “true bypass” switches, solid state “op amp” buffers or utilizing “hard wire” loop switchers in the effects chain. These modifications are usually only marginally effective and often create as many problems as they solve, especially with vintage pedals. Often the problem of diminished or altered guitar tone remains since the guitar signal is not always entirely isolated from the effect input circuitry.

The Valvulator Mini provides a sonically transparent input stage that isolates the high impedance guitar pick-up signal from the stomp box’s input circuitry. To accomplish this the cable from the guitar is plugged directly to the V1M input jack. This clean, dynamic signal is then converted to a low impedance signal source, which is impervious to the loading effect of multiple stomp boxes, multiple amplifiers or poorly designed “buffer mods” on pedals. The resulting improved signal quality gives wah pedals more wah range, overdrive pedals more sizzle and punch, and phasers more intensity.

Other signal sources such as bass, keyboards and even microphones can be used with the V1M to improve tone, reduce noise and enhance professional/home recordings.

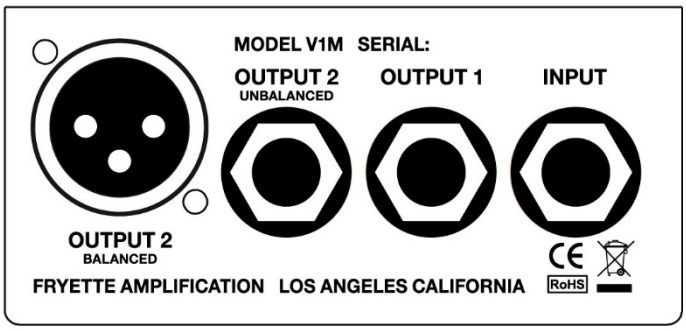
OK, NOW you’re all set!

FRONT PANEL



1. PICKUP LOAD – Selects the load resistance applied to the pickup. HI is 220K, LO is 470K
2. PICKUP LOAD – Selects Virtual Cable Capacitance. HI is 220pF LO is 100pF.
3. GROUND LIFT – Isolates Balanced and Unbalanced Output 2 from ground to prevent ground loops.
4. PHASE – Reverses phase on Balanced and Unbalanced Output 2 for recording purposes, or to correct phase between two amps that are out of phase with each other.

REAR PANEL



RIGHT TO LEFT

1. INPUT – Connect your instrument cable or pedalboard output here.
2. OUTPUT 1, UNBALANCED – To amplifier, modeler or pealboard input.
3. OUTPUT 2 UNBALANCED, TRANSFORMER ISOLATED – To send amplifier in a Y splitter configuration.
4. OUTPUT 2 BALANCED, TRANSFORMER ISOLATED – Balanced output.

APPLICATIONS

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

WON'T TURN ON
1. Make sure AC adapter is securely connected at both ends.
2. Verify the power source with something you know works.

NO SOUND
1. Check input cables.
2. Check output cables
3. Make sure the guitar or source signal volume and/or gain controls are turned up.
4. Check the preamp tube.

DISTORTION
1. Check the signal level at other devices in the signal path.

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: Valvulator Mini
MODEL NUMBER: V1M
INPUT IMPEDANCE: 1Meg Ohm
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE: 100 Ohms
POWER REQUIREMENT: Regulated 12 Volts DC @ 350mA.

DIMENSIONS:
HEIGHT: 1.7" (4.3 cm)
WIDTH: 3.5" (8.89 cm)
DEPTH: 4.2" (10.6 cm)
WEIGHT: 1 Lb. (.45 kg)

Product specifications are subject to change without notice.

Certificate of Compliance

Restriction of the use of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)

We certify that all of our products (exceptions see listed below) are compliant with the European Union Directive 2002/95/EC for the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS).

No Lead (Pb), Cadmium (Cd), Mercury (Hg), Hexavalent Chromium (Cr+6), PBB or PBDE is intentionally added to these devices. Any trace impurities of these substances contained in the parts are below the RoHS specified threshold levels.

All information provided in this Certificate of Compliance is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of the date this Certification was issued.

Certificate of Compliance

Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of chemicals (REACh)

We declare that all of our products are compliant with European Union Directive EC1907/206 for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of chemicals (REACh), and contain none or less than 0.1% of the chemicals listed as hazardous chemicals in the REACh regulation. All information provided in this Certificate of Compliance is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of the date this Certification was issued.

Declaration of Conformity

EMC and Low Voltage Directive (CE)

Product Name: Valvulator Mini
Model Number: V1M

This is to certify that the product listed above complies with the following European Union Council Directives and Standards relating to electromagnetic compatibility (EMC Directive 89/336/EEC) and the low voltage Directive (73/23/EEC).

This declaration of conformity of the European Communities is the result of an examination carried out by Electromagnetic Engineering Services, Inc. in accordance with European Standards EN 50081-1, EN 50082-1 and EN 60065 for low voltage, as laid down in Article 10 of the EMC Directive.

Steven Fryette Design, Inc
9620 Topanga Canyon Place, Unit D
Chatsworth, CA 91311

LIMITED WARRANTY

Subject to the obligations and exclusions found below, this product is warranted by Steven Fryette Design, Inc., (herein SFD) against manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for the period of Five (1) Year from the date of purchase, with the exception of the tubes, fuses and speakers where applicable, which carry a 90 day warranty.

The warranty period commences on the date of purchase by the original user. Performance under this warranty must be obtained at one of the following: an SFD Authorized Service Station, by returning the unit to the SFD factory with prior written authorization, or (in countries outside of the United States) by a representative SFD distributor.

Obligations

1. This warranty will be honored only on the presentation of the original proof of purchase.
2. Transportation of the product to and from an authorized SFD service outlet is the responsibility of the user. Units sent directly to the SFD factory for warranty repairs must be authorized by SFD and shipped prepaid.

Exclusions

1. This warranty shall not cover adjustment of consumer-operated controls as explained in the appropriate instruction manual, or products that have been altered or have missing, or defaced serial numbers.
2. This warranty shall not apply to the appearance of accessory items including but not limited to, cabinets, cabinet parts, or knobs.
3. This warranty does not apply to uncrating, setup, installation, or the removal and reinstallation of products for repair.
4. This warranty shall not apply to repair or replacements necessitated by any cause beyond the control of SFD including, but not limited to, any malfunction, defects, or failure caused by or resulting from unauthorized service or parts, damaged or broken tubes, incorrect line voltage, improper maintenance, modification or repair by the user, abuse misuse, neglect, accident, fire, flood, or other Acts of God.
5. Responsibility for the repair of any SFD product sold outside of U.S. boundaries is borne by the SFD representative in that particular country or territory. Also, the warranty term and conditions may be different from those stated above. Please contact the SFD distributor or dealer in your country for more information.

The foregoing is in lieu of all other expressed warranties, and SFD does not authorize any party to assume for it any other obligation or liability. In no event shall SFD be liable for special or consequential damages arising from the use of this product, or for any delay in the performance of this warranty due to causes beyond our control. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above limitations on implied warranty and consequential damages may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights that vary from state to state.

WARRANTY REGISTRATION

U.S. and Canadian residents: Please retain your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty purposes. All other international residents please contact the authorized distributor your Fryette product was purchased from. For a list of international distributors please visit www.fryette.com/dealers.html

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