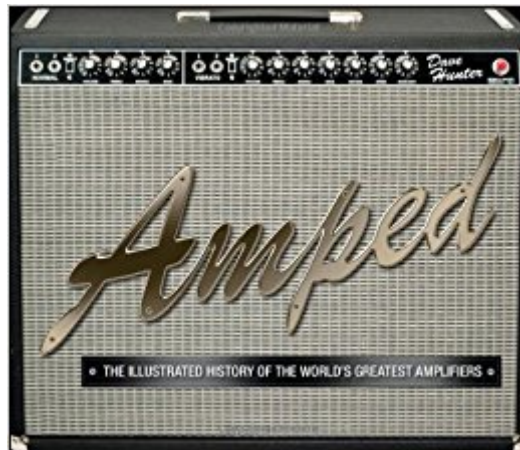


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Amped: The Illustrated History Of The World's Greatest Amplifiers



Synopsis

“Guitarists love amps” really love them. Amplifiers may look dull to the rest of the world, but to guitarists they are full of mystique, romance, and rockin’ sound. And while there are many strong-selling electric guitar histories available, here’s the first illustrated history of the electric guitar’s best friend, the amp. World-famous guitar and amp historian Dave Hunter tells the story of 60 of the greatest amps ever built, including classics from Fender, Marshall, Vox, the bizarre EchoSonic that created Elvis’ sound, and the ultimate esoteric \$75,000+ Dumble amps. The story is illustrated with hundreds of technical photos, rare machines, catalogs, memorabilia, and the amps of the stars, from Jimi Hendrix to Stevie Ray Vaughan to Eric Clapton. This is a book guitarists will drool over.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a world where technological progress for the sake of the product seems to outstrip genuine cultural and social advancement, it’s refreshing to still be able to fire up a chunk of archaic technology and make some rock ‘n’ roll. Enter Amped, a history of the world’s greatest guitar and bass amplifiers, from the quaint 1937 Rickenbacher M11 to the latest and greatest Matchless. Here are more than sixty classic amps, including Leo Fender’s iconic tweed Bassman, the sonorous Vox AC30, Jim Marshall’s powerhouse stacks, Supro, Hiwatt, Orange, Mesa/Boogie, Alexander Dumble’s mad creations, Trainwreck, and many more—plus some cool oddities, electrical freaks, and fascinating failures. Now, if they could just bottle that vintage tube amp smell, we would really be getting somewhere.

Author Dave Hunter is a well-known expert to amp and guitar freaks. He's a writer for Vintage Guitar and Guitar Player magazines and author of Star Guitars and numerous other music books. He lives and plays his many guitars and amps in Portsmouth, NH.Â

A great guide by an obvious ampophile (did I invent that word?) there are many many guitar amplifiers past and present, picking 61 amps for consideration shouldn't be hard. Dave Hunter introduces us to the first and famous in amplifiers. Yes ,the ubiquitous FENDER " TWINS" "REVERBS" , " Champs" " Deluxe" " Supers" Bassman" et all are covered in great detail, as are the Marshall. Vox, Rickenbacker, Ampeg , Mesa Boogie, and many other more familiar names, but what about the FLOT A TONE ? the Ray Butts echosonic ? the MAESTRO GA-45 t ? the beautiful rare brown Fender VIBROVERB 6G16 ? or the OAHU 23 OK TONE MASTER ? the technical details of the inner workings of these gems leaves nothing to be desired you will learn not just what tubes and speakers etc that make up the sound , but what substitutes are required to give specific sound. To those who think this is too technical, MR HUNTER uses plenty of beautiful and evocative images of what sounds come from these amps words like " creamy" " Chocolatey" " sparkling" " bell like" "bovine" are just a few. There will be a few crybabies who say "but the latest XYZ 77770000 or whatever isn't in here!" shut up and learn about these great amplifiers, The ones legends are made from! And as Billy Gibbons says in his back cover blurb, it is an " attractive book" as well .

Amplifiers have not received the same degree of attention that has been focused on guitars, yet their influence on the sound of electrified music is as important. Dave Hunter does a great job of outlining how particular amplifiers have played a significant role in rock and pop music and he explains the individual characteristics of each amp clearly and interestingly. The photographs are excellent. One caveat - you will need some knowledge of how valve amplifiers work otherwise you will occasionally get lost in the terminology. Most amp books tend to focus on one brand, so Hunter's eclecticism and knowledge make this a treasure for those interested in the history of rock music and music technology. Highly recommended.

First, let me apologize for using the word "ampliophile", but I couldn't resist.I loved this book, read it from cover to cover, and use it almost daily as a valuable resource.....however, I can see where it might not appeal to someone with only a casual interest in vintage amplifiers, perhaps looking for something to lay on the coffee table to appear "hip" when their (grand) children's friends visit.The

photographs are wonderful, but much of the text is admittedly rather esoteric and technical, delving into the circuit design of each amp ("A look inside the 5E9-A displays 5E3-related elements such as a split-phase cathodyne inverter, cathode-biased 6V6's, a 5Y3 rectifier, and the three 16uF filter caps on the left of the eyelet board.....") and the author uses rather abstract terms to describe sound and performance: "warm, dark, woody, etc." that may be reminiscent of an evaluation by a wine taster, and may not make much sense to someone who is simply nostalgic about old amplifiers. To those of us who actually restore and collect old amps, however, the technical insights are manna from heaven. That said, the book offers significant rewards to all readers. Many of the photos are inside-views of the cabinets and chassis, with close-ups of the circuitry, speakers, cabinet labels, etc. that are simply not available elsewhere. The text, while somewhat forbidding and technical at times, offers wonderful insights into the evolution of guitar amplifiers, their use by famous musicians, and the unique characteristics of each amp. These photos and stories more than compensate for any technical pedantry and, in my opinion, make this book an absolute must for anyone with any level of interest in vintage guitars, amplifiers, and the performers who so ably used them to create the musical heritage we all hold so dear.

The pics and descriptions of these various great guitar amps and their construction, circuits and sounds are a real blast and a fun trip down memory lane. My only beef, like some earlier reviewers, is that there's room for no fewer than FOURTEEN different Fender amps, but no mention of the ubiquitous Mesa Rectifier? Nothing at all from Peavey? TopHat, Dr. Z and two Matchless, but no Sunn? Still, like all of Dave Hunter's books, it's a fantastic read and a worthwhile addition to any guitar-fetish bookshelf.

Great book. Just what I wanted.

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