

# *Ampeg*

## **MICRO-VR** **Solid State** **Bass Guitar Amplifier**



## Owner's Manual



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### CAUTION

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DO NOT OPEN



WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



### PRECAUCION

RIESGO DE CORRIENTAZO  
NO ABRA



PRECAUCION: PARA REDUCIR EL RIESGO DE INCENDIOS O DESCARGAS ELECTRICAS, NO PERMITA QUE ESTE APARATO QUEDE EXPUESTO A LA LLUVIA O LA HUMEDAD. PARA DISMINUIR EL RIESGO DE CORRIENTAZO NO ABRA LA CUBIERTA. NO HAY PIEZAS ADENTRO QUE EL USUARIO PUEDO REPARAR. DEJE TODO MANTENIMIENTO A LOS TECNICOS CALIFICADOS.



### ATTENTION

RISQUE D'ELECTROUCTION  
NE PAS OUVRIR



ATTENTION: PROTEGEZ CET APPAREIL DE LA PLUIE ET DE L'HUMIDITE AFIN D'EVITER TOUT RISQUE D'INCENDIE OU D'ELECTROUCTION. POUR REDUIRE D'ELECTROUCTION NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE. AUCUNE PIECE INTERNE N'EST REPARABLE PAR L'UTILISATEUR. POUR TOUTE REPARATION, S'ADRESSEZ A UN TECHNICIEN QUALIFIE.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- READ, FOLLOW, HEED, AND KEEP ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.
- DO NOT OPERATE NEAR ANY HEAT SOURCE AND DO NOT BLOCK ANY VENTILATION OPENINGS ON THIS APPARATUS. FOR PROPER OPERATION, THIS UNIT REQUIRES 3" (75mm) OF WELL VENTILATED SPACE AROUND HEATSINKS AND OTHER AIR FLOW PROVISIONS IN THE CABINET.
- DO NOT USE THIS APPARATUS NEAR SPLASHING, FALLING, SPRAYING, OR STANDING LIQUIDS.
- CLEAN ONLY WITH LINT-FREE DRY CLOTH AND DO NOT USE CLEANING AGENTS.
- ONLY CONNECT POWER CORD TO A POLARIZED, SAFETY GROUNDED OUTLET WIRED TO CURRENT ELECTRICAL CODES AND COMPATIBLE WITH VOLTAGE, POWER, AND FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS STATED ON THE REAR PANEL OF THE APPARATUS.
- WHERE THE MAINS PLUG OR AN APPLIANCE COUPLER IS USED AS THE DISCONNECT DEVICE, THE DISCONNECT DEVICE SHALL REMAIN READILY OPERABLE.
- PROTECT THE POWER CORD FROM DAMAGE DUE TO BEING WALKED ON, PINCHED, OR STRAINED.
- UNPLUG THE APPARATUS DURING LIGHTNING STORMS OR WHEN UNUSED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
- ONLY USE ATTACHMENTS, ACCESSORIES, STANDS, OR BRACKETS SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER FOR SAFE OPERATION AND TO AVOID INJURY.
- WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK OR FIRE, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.
- SERVICE MUST BE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.
- OUR AMPLIFIERS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS. CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT OR LOSS. USER CAUTION IS ADVISED AND EAR PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDED IF UNIT IS OPERATED AT HIGH VOLUME.
- WARNING: THIS UNIT REQUIRES A SAFETY GROUNDED OUTLET WIRED TO CURRENT ELECTRIC CODES HAVING THE LINE SUPPLY VOLTAGE, POWER, AND FREQUENCY IDENTIFIED ON THE REAR OF THE UNIT. THE OUTLET MUST REMAIN ACCESSIBLE TO DISCONNECT THE UNIT IF A FAULT SHOULD ARISE WHILE IN USE. THIS UNIT SHOULD BE UNPLUGGED WHEN NOT IN USE.
- THIS UNIT IS FOR USE IN MODERATE AND/OR TROPICAL CLIMATES.
- ONLY USE ATTACHMENTS, ACCESSORIES, CARTS, STANDS, OR BRACKETS SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER FOR SAFE OPERATION AND TO AVOID INJURY. WHEN A CART IS USED, USE CAUTION WHEN MOVING THE CART/ APPARATUS COMBINATION TO AVOID INJURY FROM TIP-OVER.



EXPLANATION OF GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS:

EXPLICACION DE SIMBOLOS GRAFICOS:

EXPLICATION DES SYMBOLES GRAPHIQUES:



"DANGEROUS VOLTAGE"

"VOLTAJE PELIGROSO"

"DANGER HAUTE TENSION"



"IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE USER TO REFER TO THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL"

"ES NECESARIO QUE EL USUARIO SE REFIERA AL MANUAL DE INSTRUCCIONES"

"REFEREZ-VOUS AU MANUAL D'UTILISATION"

**NOTE:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and the receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

**CAUTION:** Changes or modifications to this device not expressly approved by LOUD Technologies Inc. could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under FCC rules.



## Introduction

**Congratulations!** You are now the proud owner of an Ampeg Micro-VR bass guitar amplifier. This no-compromise amplifier packs 200 watts of solid-state MOS-FET fury, a switching power supply and the classical good looks and features of our renowned SVT Series amplifier head. The Micro-VR amplifier is designed as an ideal companion to the SVT 210AV cabinet, available separately.

The switching power supply keeps the weight low, without sacrificing power output or our legendary sound quality.

Like all Ampeg products, your Micro-VR amplifier is designed by musicians and built using only the best of components. Each amplifier is tested to confirm that it meets our specifications, and we believe that this amplifier is the absolute best that it can be.

In order to get the most out of your new amplifier, please read this manual before you begin playing.

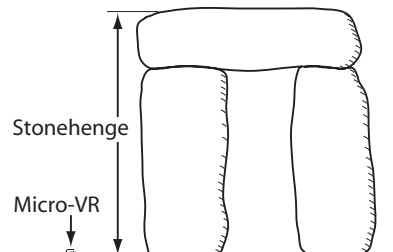
And **thank you** for choosing Ampeg.

Here are some of the features packed into your new Amplifier:

- Detailed 1970s-era SVT appearance
- Designed as a stack with the SVT 210AV cabinet (available separately)
- Single channel, entirely solid-state design
- Selectable 15 dB input pad
- Gain control
- Bass, Mid, and Treble controls
- Volume control
- Selectable Limiter and LED
- Peak LED
- Auxiliary input
- Headphone output
- Illuminated power switch
- Effects loop with separate send and return jacks
- Balanced XLR output
- Lightweight switching power supply
- Voltage selector switch
- MOS-FET power amplifier rated at 200 watts rms into 4 ohms
- Fan cooled
- Much smaller than Stonehenge

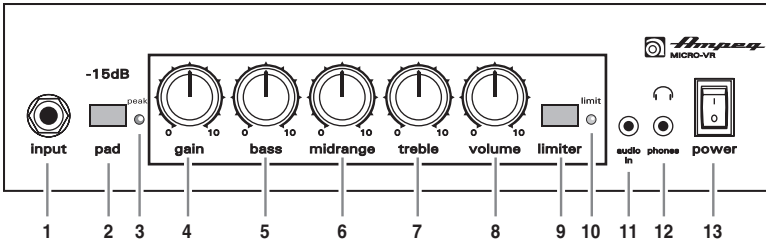


**Micro-VR and  
SVT 210AV  
Cabinet**





## The Front Panel



- 1. INPUT:** The signal output from an instrument (active or passive) may be connected to this 1/4" input by means of a shielded instrument cable.
- 2. -15 dB PAD:** Press this switch in to reduce the input signal by 15 dB and compensate for higher output sources. This attenuation is suited for use with basses that have active electronics or high-output pickups. Use this pad if you notice the peak LED [3] comes on regularly. It will reduce the chance of overdriving the preamplifier stage, and allow more usable range and fine adjustment of the gain control.
- 3. PEAK LED:** This red warning LED may come on if: the input signal is too high, the gain control is set too high, or there is too much boost from the bass, midrange and treble controls. If it comes on regularly, even when these controls are low, try engaging the -15 dB pad.
- 4. GAIN:** This varies the amount of signal driving the preamplifier. If a small clockwise rotation from minimum leads to overloading and the peak LED coming on, try engaging the -15 dB pad. This will give more usable range with the gain control.
- 5. BASS:** Use this to adjust the low frequency level of the amplifier. This provides up to 14 dB of boost, or 12 dB of cut at 40 Hz. The low frequency output is flat at the center position.
- 6. MIDRANGE:** Use this to adjust the midrange frequency level of the amplifier. This provides up to 5 dB of boost, or 13 dB of cut at 500 Hz. The midrange frequency output is flat at the center position. Rotate the control counter clockwise for a "contoured" sound (more distant, less midrange output) or clockwise for a sound which really cuts through.
- 7. TREBLE:** Use this to adjust the high frequency level of the amplifier. This provides up to 19 dB of boost, or 25 dB of cut at 8 kHz. The high frequency output is flat at the center position.
- 8. VOLUME:** Use this to control the overall output level. It affects the speaker outputs [1, 7], and headphones output [12]. Use it wisely, and turn it down when making connections, putting on headphones, or trying something new.
- 9. LIMITER SWITCH:** Press this switch in to add the limiter circuit. If the signals driving the amplifier start to peak, the limiter will automatically reduce the signals to prevent clipping, and the LED [10] will flash. The limiter will help keep the amplifier's output "clean" up to high output levels and avoid potentially damaging distortion.



- 10. LIMIT LED:** This LED illuminates when the limiter circuit is activated, indicating that the amplifier is nearing full output and the limiter is keeping peak signals from clipping the output.

If you notice that the LED is turning on regularly, reduce the volume or the EQ levels to prevent damage to your speakers.

- 11. AUDIO IN:** The audio output from line-level sources such as an iPod®, MP3, or CD player, can connect to this 1/8" TRS stereo input. The incoming audio is mixed with the preamp signals, so you can play along to a practice track, as you listen with headphones. (The audio coming in here only plays in the headphones, and appears nowhere else.)

- 12. PHONES:** Use this 1/8" TRS stereo output to connect your headphones. The output here is a mix of the line-level signals reaching the amplifier, and any incoming audio from the audio in jack [11].

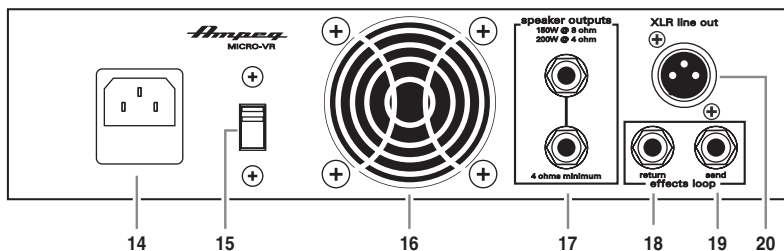
If you just want to listen and practice through headphones, disconnect the speaker-level outputs [17] from the speaker cabinet. (This is a solid-state amplifier, so there is no harm in playing without speakers.)

Before putting on headphones, make sure the volume control [8] is turned down, and (if connected) any external audio source has its level turned down. This will reduce the chance of hearing damage due to loud volumes.

- 13. POWER SWITCH:** Use this illuminated switch to turn the overall system power on or off. Press the top of the switch to turn on the power, and press the bottom to turn it off.



## The Rear Panel



**14. IEC POWER INPUT CONNECTOR:** This is where you connect the supplied AC power cord.

**!** Before plugging in the power cord, make sure that the voltage selector switch [15] is set to the same voltage as your local AC mains.

**15. VOLTAGE SELECTOR SWITCH:**

**!** Make sure the switch is in the correct position for your local AC mains voltage before you plug in the AC power cord. Use a small flat screwdriver to slide the switch if required.

**16. VENTILATION:** Make sure that the ventilation openings are not obscured in any way. This will allow the flow of cooling air to the power amplifier's heatsinks.

**17. SPEAKER OUTPUTS:** These 1/4" TS output jacks supply speaker-level power to the speaker cabinet. The rated power output is 200 watts rms into 4 ohms.

The two identical outputs are wired in parallel, and you can use either one, or use both. Make sure the total speaker impedance load is 4 ohms or greater.

For example, you could connect:

Two 16 ohm speakers (an 8 ohm load),

Two 8 ohm speakers (a 4 ohm load)

or one 4 ohm speaker.

**!** Use speaker cables with 1/4" TS ends to make the connections. Do not use instrument cables as these may overheat.

**18. EFFECTS LOOP RETURN JACK:** Use this 1/4" TS unbalanced input to return the processed line-level output of an external effects processor (for example). The processor could be fed by signals from the effects loop send [19].

**19. EFFECTS LOOP SEND JACK:** Use this 1/4" TS unbalanced output to send a line-level output to an external effects processor (for example). The output here is affected by all controls except the volume [8] and the limiter switch [9].

Use the loop return jack [18] to feed the returned processed signals back into the power amplifier.

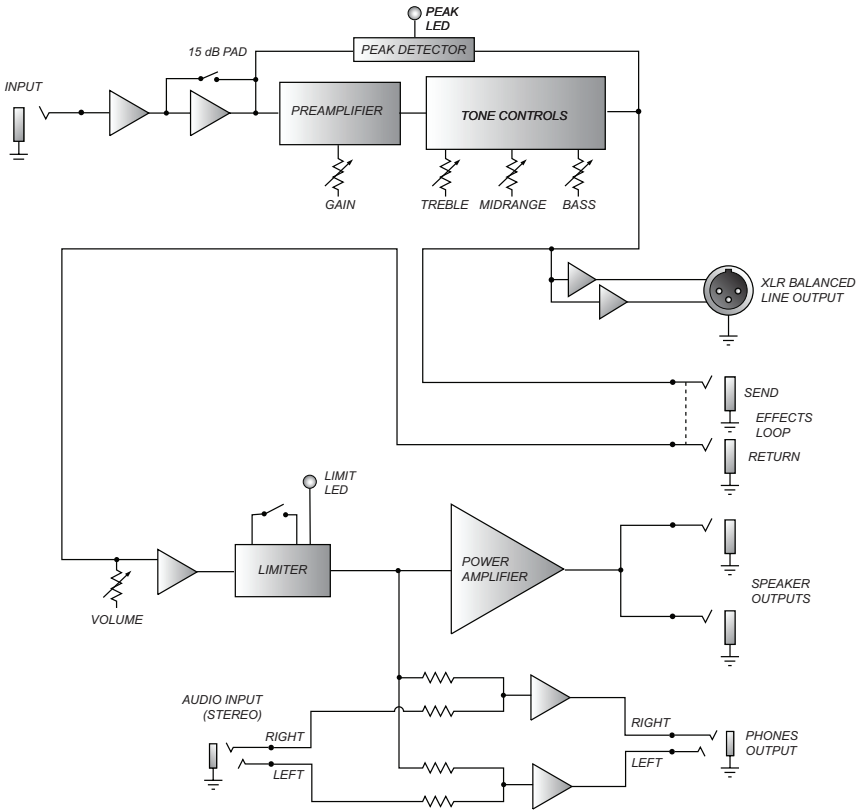
**20. XLR LINE OUT JACK:** Typically, you would connect this balanced output to the balanced input of an external mixer, or a recorder. In this way, you do not have to mic the speaker cabinet in order to add it to the main mix, or to record. The output is not affected by the volume control [8].

This output can connect to external power amplifiers, or powered loudspeakers, as long as they have their own input controls to adjust the volume level.

Balanced connections allow long cable runs to be used, as hum and noise pickup in the line is minimized.



## System Block Diagram



## Service Information

If you are having a problem with your Micro-VR, you can go to our website ([www.ameg.com](http://www.ameg.com)) and click on Support for service information, or call 1-800-898-3211 during business hours (7 am to 5 pm PST, Monday-Friday). If you are outside of the U.S., contact your local distributor for technical support and service.



**Correct disposal of this product:** This symbol indicates that this product should not be disposed of with your household waste, according to the WEEE directive (2002/96/EC) and your national law. This product should be handed over to an authorized collection site for recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). Improper handling of this type of waste could have a possible negative impact on the environment and human health due to potentially hazardous substances that are generally associated with EEE. At the same time, your cooperation in the correct disposal of this product will contribute to the effective usage of natural resources. For more information about where you can drop off your waste equipment for recycling, please contact your local city office, waste authority, or your household waste disposal service.



## MICRO-VR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Output Power Rating	150 watts rms @ 8 ohms, 5% THD 200 watts rms @ 4 ohms, 5% THD
Signal to Noise Ratio	72 dB (20 Hz–20 kHz, unweighted)
Maximum Gain	62 dB, tone controls centered
Tone Controls	Bass: +14/–12 dB @ 40 Hz Midrange: +5/–13 dB @ 500 Hz Treble: +19/–25 dB @ 8 kHz
Power Requirements	100–120 VAC, 50–60 Hz, 150 W 220–240 VAC, 50–60 Hz, 150 W
Size (H x W x D)	7.5 in/190 mm (with feet) x 12 in/305 mm x 10 in/254 mm
Weight	9.9 lb/4.5 kg

**The Micro-VR is covered with a durable fabric-backed vinyl material. Clean with a dry lint-free cloth. Never spray cleaning agents onto the cabinet. Avoid abrasive cleansers which would damage the finish.**

*Ampeg continually develops new products and improves upon existing ones. For this reason, the specifications and information in this manual are subject to change without notice.*

*“Ampeg” is a registered trademark of LOUD Technologies Inc. All other brand names mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders and are hereby acknowledged.*

### Declaration Of Conformity

<b>Manufacturer:</b>	LOUD Technologies Inc. 16220 Wood-Red Rd. NE Woodinville, WA 98072, USA
<b>Product Name:</b>	Ampeg Micro-VR
<b>Product Type:</b>	Audio Amplifier
<b>Complies with Standards:</b>	
<b>LVD:</b>	92/31/EEC, 93/68/EEC, & 73/23/EWG
<b>Safety:</b>	EN60065
<b>EMC:</b>	EN55013, EN55020, EN55022, EN55103, EN61000-3-2, & EN61000-3-3

The official Declaration of Conformity for this product is kept on file at:  
LOUD Technologies Inc., 16220 Wood-Red Road NE, Woodinville, WA 98072 • Tel: 1-866-858-5832

