



# VICTORY 'The Sheriff 44' All Valve 44 Watt Guitar Head



## User Guide

Thank you, and congratulations on acquiring a Victory Amplification, 'The Sheriff 44'. This amp is proudly designed and built by our committed team of engineers and craftsmen in the UK.

We value simplicity in operation, flexibility in use and absolutely no compromise in tone. Our aim is simple: to create amplifiers that inspire you ever onwards in your playing and never let you down.

## **SAFETY FIRST**

We want you to enjoy your amplifier to the best of its potential. So please...

Before you go any further, take a moment to read these **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

- Read these guidelines & keep them
- Follow all instructions & guidelines
- Do not use this amplifier near water or any other liquid
- Do not block any openings
- Do not attempt to clean the amplifier with any fluids: use only a dry cloth
- Do not attempt to modify or service this product yourself
- Removing covers could mean you are exposed to dangerous voltages that may result in severe injury or death
- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel
- It is the nature of valve amplifiers to get hot, so please take care when moving the amp after use.
- Damage Requiring Service: Unplug this product from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions:
  - (a) When the power-supply cord or plug is damaged;
  - (b) If liquid has been spilled, or objects have fallen into the product;
  - (c) If the product has been exposed to rain or water;
  - (d) If the product does not operate normally by following the operating instructions. Adjust only those controls that are covered by the operating instructions. Improper adjustment of other controls may result in damage and will often require extensive work by a qualified technician to restore the product to its normal operation;
  - (e) If the product has been dropped or damaged in any way;
  - (f) When the product exhibits a distinct change in performance - this indicates a need for service.
- Replacement Parts: When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician uses replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or have the same characteristics as the original part. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.

## **What's included?**

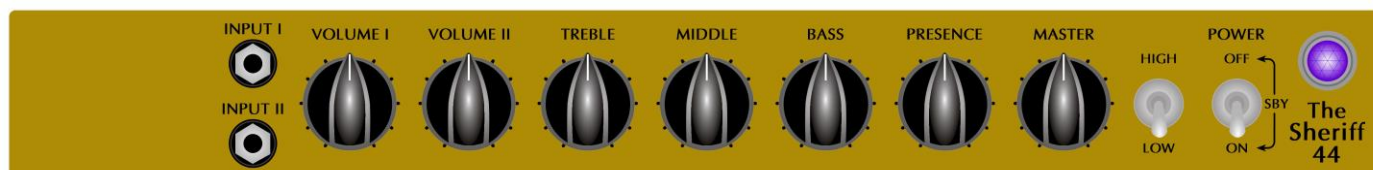
Your new Victory Sheriff 44 comes with the following:

1 x Single Latching Footswitch for Channel I/II

A mains lead for your country

## A vinyl dust-cover This User Guide

### FRONT PANEL



#### Input 1

Plug your guitar in here. This is Channel I and the lower gain of the 2. This is designed to recreate old-school British crunchy cleans through to singing 60s blues rock.

#### Input 2

This is the Channel 2 input; higher gain adding a further gain stage for more 'modded' 70s & 80s classic rock and beyond.

#### Footswitch

The Sheriff 44 comes with a single latching footswitch to switch between Input I and Input II. To enable this function, the Footswitch needs to be plugged into Input I and your guitar plugged into Input II.

#### VOLUME I

This control effectively sets the Gain for Input I. The more it is turned up, the more Gain is added to the input signal control and adds a classic British crunch to the sound. Use low settings for maximum clean headroom and higher settings when you want to introduce more natural valve overdrive to your tone.

Balancing this control with the Master Volume is crucial in delivering the tone and feel that works best for you.

#### VOLUME II

When the guitar is plugged into Input II, this control adds more of a modern American high-gain character to the content of your sound and again should be used in conjunction with the Master control to achieve the tonal response you desire.

#### TREBLE

Controls the high frequency content of your sound and is also a powerful tone shaper when it comes to overdrive character.

#### MIDDLE

Controls the midrange frequencies in your sound. Run the middle control higher to help cut through a band mix, or generally fatten and 'widen' your sound. Run it lower for a lighter, less 'in-your-face' kind of sound.

## **BASS**

This controls the low frequency content of your sound. Higher levels of bass can be good at low volumes, but take care when running the amp louder – you may find you need to reduce the bass control. As with all the EQ pots, adjust to taste!

## **PRESENCE**

This controls a different part of the high frequency response of your amplifier than the treble control. You might like to see it as a 'master high end' control that helps you tame, or perhaps enliven your tone depending on your environment, without having to change your EQ. As the Master Volume is post phase-splitter on the Sheriff 44, the Presence control is positioned between the outputs of the Phase Splitter rather than in the more conventional position in the negative feedback line. This means that it works more effectively over the range of the Master Volume control. It also incorporates a passive tone circuit to tailor the high frequency content of the sound. It has a distinct effect on how your guitar feels, so play, listen and set to taste.

## **MASTER**

The Master Volume control is used to set the stage or overall volume of the Sheriff 44. If this is turned to maximum, then the 44 becomes a non-master volume amplifier where either Volume control in conjunction with the Volume control on the guitar allows for a wide range of Volumes & Gains to be achieved. This can be very powerful for tone shaping.

The Master Volume control is positioned after the phase splitter valve and after the FX return.

## **OFF – STANDBY – ON Switch**

The Sheriff 44 should always be switched to STANDBY first to allow the valve heaters to warm up. The amplifier is now in a preheat mode with just the valve heaters and low voltages on. This allows the valves to heat up before they get 100s of volts up them, (it's less of a shock).

Ensure the Master Volume is turned down to avoid sudden deafness and after around 60 seconds, the amp can be switch to ON.

Please always leave at least 30 seconds before switching from Standby back to Off. This will ensure extended valve life and avoid any power-down noise. This is especially relevant if you are mic'd up and running through a large PA system as any small pop may become amplified to audience death levels; this may limit your music career.

## REAR PANEL



### Voltage selector

This selects the correct mains voltage for your territory. Please refer to a qualified technician before even thinking about moving this switch. If you do find yourself in foreign climes where the mains voltage is different to home, (and the water tastes funny), it will be necessary to switch this selector. The mains fuse must always be changed at the same time. Failure to do this will result in either the mains fuse blowing as soon as the amp is turned on or the amp running with a fuse that is of too higher value to provide adequate safety protection. Generally, the fuse value will double if the mains voltage is halved, (i.e. if it's a 1A fuse in the UK @ 230V, it will need to be a 2A fuse for the USA @ 115V).

Always use the correct rating and type of fuse. Victory amplifiers exclusively use UL-approved 20x5mm glass 'T' or 'Timed' fuses. If you have difficulty acquiring the correct fuses, please contact Victory using [service@victoryamps.co.uk](mailto:service@victoryamps.co.uk).

### Mains Inlet, (IEC Socket)

Please only use the correct mains cord for your territory!

### HT FUSE

The HT or 'High Tension' fuse protects the high voltage for the valve supply. If this fuse blows, the first step is to replace it with an identical T500mA 20x5mm fuse. The HT fuse may sometimes blow due to 'flash-over' inside an output valve. This is where during the manufacturing process, not all of the gas is removed from the glass envelope and the 'getter' inside the valve, usually made from barium or magnesium oxide, will burn or evaporate these remaining gasses resulting in the common silvered internal surface of the valve. This process, which is more likely to happen with new equipment, draws high current momentarily and can blow the HT fuse. It will rarely cause any damage so just replacing the fuse is sufficient to get the amp running normally again.

However, if the HT FUSE repeatedly blows, it may indicate a serious valve failure where internal parts of a valve are shorted and in this case the amplifier needs to be checked by a qualified engineer to assess the problem.

## **BIAS Switch: FIXED or CATHODE**

The Sheriff 44 has the option of Fixed or Cathode Bias. Fixed Bias gives more power, (see below for all the available modes) and requires the output valve idle current to be pre-set with a variable resistor, (potentiometer in this case). Cathode Biasing sounds and feels more urgent and dynamic at lower volumes but compresses quickly as the volume goes up. Fixed Bias gives maximum headroom and dynamic attack at higher volumes.

### **Biassing**

Biassing needs to be done each time the output valves are replaced and should be checked periodically to make sure they are working at their optimum for sound quality & valve life. To set the Bias on the 44, you need a multimeter set to the 200mV DC range. Biassing is now carried out externally so no need to remove the amp from the wooden sleeve. Output valves can be replaced from the rear of the amp by simply removing the back grill and carefully pushing down on either side of the retaining butterfly clips. The valves can then be pulled out using a slow rotational movement, (dweezling) to ease them from their sockets. Ensure that the key on the replacement valves lines up with the keyway on the socket before carefully pushing them home.

Always buy matched pairs of output valves or Biassing may be difficult if not impossible. To Bias the new valves, make sure the amplifier is connected to a speaker cabinet, (or dummy load resistor). The Bias switch should be set to 'FIXED'. Turn all controls to zero and remove the guitar input as any signals may interfere with the Bias settings. Switch to High power and then into standby mode, wait 60 seconds and then switch to ON. Now put the black meter probe, (-ve) into the Black centre GND Bias socket and the red meter probe, (+ve) into the left hand V5+ Bias socket. Using a small flat blade screwdriver in the Bias adjustment POT, turn this so you get 34mV on the multimeter. This equates to 34mA of current per valve as we are measuring the voltage across a 1 Ohm resistor. Now put the red meter probe into the right hand V6+ Bias socket and measure the voltage. Try to balance the 2 measurements around 34mV with a maximum of 6mV between them. For example, an extreme but perfectly acceptable case would be 31mV for V5+ & 37mV for V6+.

### **Speaker outputs**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated 'dangerous voltage' within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock. Terminals labelled as "Speaker Outputs" must be connected to a speaker cabinet of the designated load rating using an un-shielded two conductor cable for speaker use at all times during operation. Never use a guitar cable to connect the amplifier to a speaker as this presents the amplifier with a 'capacitive load'. This can cause instability or oscillation which may seriously damage valves and/or the expensive output transformer.

Always ensure a speaker is connected to the amplifier before powering up or damage to the output transformer may result. Never unplug a speaker when the amplifier is ON as this is even more likely to damage the transformer and the output valves.

The output transformer in the Sheriff 44 has 3 separate secondary windings; a 16 Ohm, an 8 Ohm and a 4 Ohm. This makes it easy to connect many different combinations of speakers. There are five speaker output jacks: 1 x 16 ohms, 2 x 8 ohms, (wired in parallel), 2 x 4 ohms, (wired in parallel).

So here are all the possible combinations:

1. For a single 4 Ohm cabinet, use either of the 4 Ohm sockets.
2. For a single 8 Ohm cabinet, use either of the 8 Ohm sockets.
3. For a single 16 Ohm cabinet, use the 16 Ohm socket.
4. For a pair of 8 Ohm cabinets, use both of the 4 Ohm sockets
5. For a pair of 16 Ohm cabinets, use both of the 8 Ohm sockets.

#### **FX LOOP**

The Sheriff 44 has an effects loop, which is a simple, low impedance, series loop. This will not add any noise, gain or volume to your signal so if you experience such changes when using an effect pedal, they will be caused by that effect.

The SEND socket is for connection to the input of effects units. On the 44 it is a lower impedance version of the signal that appears at the INPUT. Use the send to connect to floor pedals or rack effects such as Delay, Chorus and Reverb etc. Effects such as Overdrive, Fuzz, Wah Wah and Tuners often give better results plugged into the Instrument Input on the front panel. The Send socket can also be used on its own to send a signal to another amplifier.

The RETURN socket is for connection to the output of effects units. When not used it is internally connected to the SEND, therefore the EFFECTS LOOP can be ignored if not in use. It can also be used as a small signal 'Slave' input from another amplifier but DO NOT plug an amplifier's speaker output into the Return socket or very bad things will happen.

The RETURN socket is also very useful for fault diagnosis. If your 44 doesn't produce any sound, (or makes unusual noises) when played, plug the guitar directly into the RETURN socket and play. This bypasses the entire pre-amplifier section and sends the guitar signal through just the output stage. If sound is now heard, (or the unusual noises have gone) then the problem is in the pre-amp section and is likely to be a faulty pre-amp valve.

The switch between the SEND & RETURN sockets turns the FX LOOP ON and OFF for true bypass.

#### **Amplifier Dimensions:**

**SIZE (mm): 480(w) x 235(h) x 235(d) Unboxed. 610(w) x 340(h) x 345(d) Boxed.**

**Weight: 12.5Kgs Unboxed. 14.75Kgs Boxed**

## Output Power

**WARNING!** The Sheriff 44 has been designed to achieve a very high sound pressure level (SPL) so caution is required when playing in high power mode or hearing damage may result.

The following measurements were taken at 240V mains input into an 8 Ohm load using a 1 KHz Sine Wave with the output waveforms set just before clipping. Input I and Master Volume were used and the tone controls set to give the best representation of a sine wave:

High Power Fixed Bias: 44 Watts

High Power Cathode Bias: 30 Watts

Low Power Fixed Bias: 6 Watts

Low Power Cathode Bias: 6 Watts

Note: even in Low power mode, the 44 can still be very loud so please be aware of who you may be affecting. Victory takes no responsibility for any physical or verbal abuse that may result from your playing.

## Warranty

All Victory products come with a 5 year limited warranty. This covers any defects in manufacturing or faulty components. Valves and speakers are warrantied for 90 days from the purchase date but replacement parts will be at our discretion. Please contact your local dealer if you have any issues with your Victory product. The warranty is transferable to a new owner in the unusual event that you wish to sell your amplifier.

## A note from Team Victory

We've built your Victory Amplifier as a professional, no-compromise musical instrument, with a great deal of pride and an absolute commitment to tone. We encourage you to learn to get to know it by experimenting with all the controls, in order to discover its vast array of tonal combinations.

Thank you for making your tones with us: we wish you many years of achieving inspiring sounds to push your playing ever onwards.

Now I'll shut up; you go play yer guitar.

Contact info: [service@victoryamps.co.uk](mailto:service@victoryamps.co.uk)

Web: [www.victoryamps.co.uk](http://www.victoryamps.co.uk)

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