

guitareo

Setting Up Your Amp

What sound do you want?

Do you want a clean sound or a dirty sound? If you want a hi-gain tone you might be frustrated and disappointed with an amp that specializes in clean sounds.

Moderation

Keep in mind that extreme settings can make your tone unclear, shrill or f abby sounding.

Choose the right wattage

Think about how you're going to use the amp. Too often, guitarists choose amps that are way too big for their purposes.

Consider your guitar

Are you using single coils or humbuckers? Single coils are generally a lot brighter with lower output and need less treble. Humbuckers usually have more output and more bass so too much bass can make things sound f abby very quickly.

Volume doesn't always make you "louder"

Turning up the volume knob isn't always the best way to make your guitar easier to hear in a mix of other instruments. Sometimes, a little EQ tweak can work wonders.

How do you want to achieve your sound? Clean, Crunch or Dirty?

There are three basic ways to set up your general sound. You can set your amp up to be very clean, slightly pushed, or dirty. They are all great and the one(s) you choose to use can be very dependent on what your tonal goals are.

Think about context

Whether you're playing by yourself, with a jam track, or with a band, it's important to tailor your tone to best fit the music. Listen to the other instruments, or lack thereof, and try not to step on anyone's toes.

Tubes or Modeling/Solid State?

Tube amps and solid state/modeling amps both have their advantages and disadvantages. The one you choose should depend on your musical goals and the setting in which you are playing.

Experiment and Research

Your tone is an expression of who you are. It's important to figure out what you like for yourself and develop your own voice. This can be done through experimentation and by researching the tones that you admire most.