

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



## **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

Little Giant 350 / 1000 Micro Bass Amp Head



Thank you for purchasing your Ashdown Engineering Amplifier. If you live in the UK, please register your purchase by completing this form and return it to the following address:

Ashdown Engineering, The Stables, Stevens Farm, Chignal St James, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4TX, England  
(Alternatively you can register online at <http://www.ashdownmusic.com>)

If you live outside the UK, the local Ashdown distributor may have included a specific registration form for your country.

**Your Ashdown Engineering product details:**

Model .....  
Colour .....  
Voltage .....  
Tested by .....  
Serial number .....  
Date .....

**1 YEAR WARRANTY**

Your Ashdown Engineering amplifier has been manufactured to the highest standards, using the best-selected materials. To ensure its optimum performance, please ensure your amplifier is regularly serviced. This product carries a one year warranty, against defects in materials and workmanship, for the original purchaser. Ashdown Engineering will, at their discretion, replace or repair any product or part thereof, which is found by Ashdown Engineering to be defective. This warranty shall not apply to the damage of covering, fittings or finishes when affected by carelessness, accident or extreme climate changes. Nor does it apply to normal wear and tear of parts such as valves, fuses, light bulbs, speakers, controls etc.

Please complete the lower section of this warranty and return it within 10 days of purchase to Ashdown Engineering Ltd. at the above address. In the unlikely event of any defect, please contact an authorised Ashdown Engineering dealer. All transport charges are to be pre-paid by the Owner. Unless the registration card is returned normal country warranty laws apply.

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**IMPORTANT - REGISTRATION CARD**

**Please complete and return this warranty within 10 days of purchase. Include any comments if possible.**

Name ..... Purchased from .....  
Address ..... Date .....  
..... Model .....  
..... Serial Number .....  
.....  
Email .....  
Age .....  
  
Comments .....  
.....  
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# Important Safety Instructions

## BASIC PRECAUTIONS

WARNING - When using electrical products, basic precautions should be followed, including the following:

1. Read all the instructions before using the product.
2. Do not use this product near water – for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, in a wet basement or near a swimming pool.
3. This product may cause permanent hearing loss. Do not operate for long periods of time at a high volume level or at any level that is uncomfortable. If you experience any hearing loss or ringing in the ears, you should consult an audiologist.
4. Make sure nothing interferes with the ventilation of the product when in use.
5. The product should be located away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, or other products that produce heat.
6. The product should be connected to a power supply of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product.
7. The power supply cord of the product should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
8. Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.
9. The product should be serviced by qualified personnel when:
  - a. The power supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
  - b. Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the product: or
  - c. The product has been exposed to rain or moisture: or
  - d. The product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits marked change in performance: or
  - e. The product has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.

10. Do not attempt to service the product. All servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

11. For continued protection against the risk of fire, replace fuses only with those of the same type and rating as indicated on the back of the product.

## WARNINGS USED ON THE EQUIPMENT

**WARNING** TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRICAL SHOCK DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

**WARNING - ATTENTION**  
THIS APPARATUS MUST BE EARTHED FOR CONTINUED PROTECTION AGAINST RISK OF FIRE. REPLACE ONLY WITH SAME TYPE AND RATING OF FUSE. UTILISER UN FUSIBLE DE REMPLACEMENT DE MEME TYPE ET CALIBRE.



The lightning flash with the arrow head symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated 'dangerous voltage' within this product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying this product.

## GROUNDING INSTRUCTIONS

This product must be grounded (earthed). If it should malfunction or break down, grounding provides a path of least resistance for electric current to reduce the risk of electric shock. This product is equipped with a supply cord having an equipment grounding conductor and a grounding plug. The plug must be plugged into an appropriate outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with the local codes and ordinances.

DANGER - Improper connection of the equipment grounding conductor can result in a risk of electric shock. Check with a qualified electrician or serviceman if you are in doubt as to whether the product is properly grounded. Do not modify the plug provided with the product – if it will not fit the outlet, have a suitable outlet fitted.

The wires in this mains cord are coloured in accordance with the following code:

Green & Yellow - Earth  
Blue - Neutral  
Brown - Live

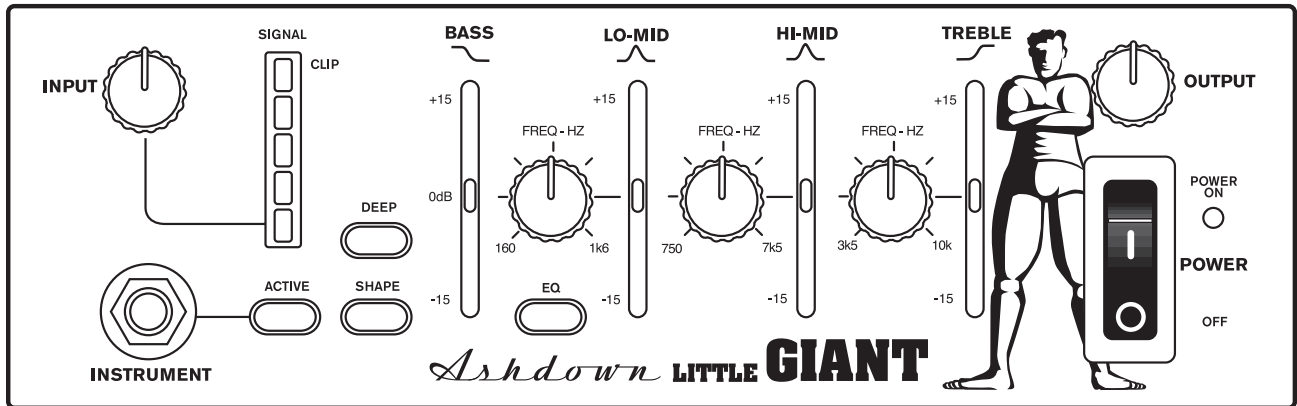
## CE MARK FOR EUROPEAN HARMONISED STANDARDS



The CE mark which is attached to these products means it conforms to EMC Directive (89/69/EEC), CE mark Directive (93/68/EEC) and Low Voltage Directive (72/23/EEC).



# Front Panel Facilities



The Ashdown Little Giant is a bass instrument amplifier that truly lives up to its name being diminutive in size but a giant in terms of sound versatility and power.

It has been designed to be very easy to use whilst providing a vast array of tonal variation with its simple combination of sound sculpturing facilities. These equalisation tools have been combined with digital output stages of immense power and all presented in a very small and light package giving the ultimate in versatility and portability.

**ON/OFF MAINS SWITCH** - Using the mains cable supplied the amplifier may be connected to the correct voltage mains supply as selected on the units rear panel. Once this is done turn the power to the Little Giant ON by using the front panel ON/OFF switch. POWER ON is indicated by illumination of the blue LED adjacent to this switch.

**INSTRUMENT INPUT** - There is a single INSTRUMENT input jack socket, this is linked to the ACTIVE selector switch. With this switch in its OUT position the instrument input is high sensitivity and also high impedance to suit the low signal level output of PASSIVE basses (those with no built in pre-amp). When pushed IN this switch selects a low sensitivity and lower impedance input to suit the higher signal level output of ACTIVE basses.

**INPUT** - The INPUT control sets the signal level through the preamp in conjunction with the SIGNAL level 5 LED bargraph. This should be adjusted so that the bottom 2 or 3 LEDs are lit most of the time whilst playing your instrument with only occasional dynamic peaks lighting the RED CLIP LED. Please note that the setting of this may have to be re-adjusted after modification of the EQ controls.

**SHAPE** - This pushbutton superimposes a pre defined equalisation curve onto the bass guitar signal. This SHAPE EQ boosts both the Low and High frequencies whilst introducing a cut at lower Mid frequencies. The SHAPE may be used by itself or in conjunction with the other EQ facilities of the Little Giant.

**DEEP** - This pushbutton introduces a serious boost to the really Low frequencies of the bass guitar signal. The boost is about +15dB at 50Hz. The DEEP may be used by itself or in conjunction with the other EQ facilities of the Little Giant.

**EQ** - This pushbutton activates the remaining sound sculpturing facilities of the Little Giant. With the EQ, SHAPE & DEEP pushbuttons in their OUT position the sound of the Little Giant is set to perfectly FLAT.

The main equalisation controls of the Little Giant consist of a shelving, +or- 15dB BASS control, a variable frequency +or- 15dB shelving TREBLE control with a range from 3.5kHz to 10kHz, and two semi parametric +or- 15dB MID controls each with a 1 octave bandwidth covering frequencies from 180Hz to 1.6kHz and 750Hz to 7.5kHz respectively for adjusting the LO-MID and HI-MID frequency ranges.

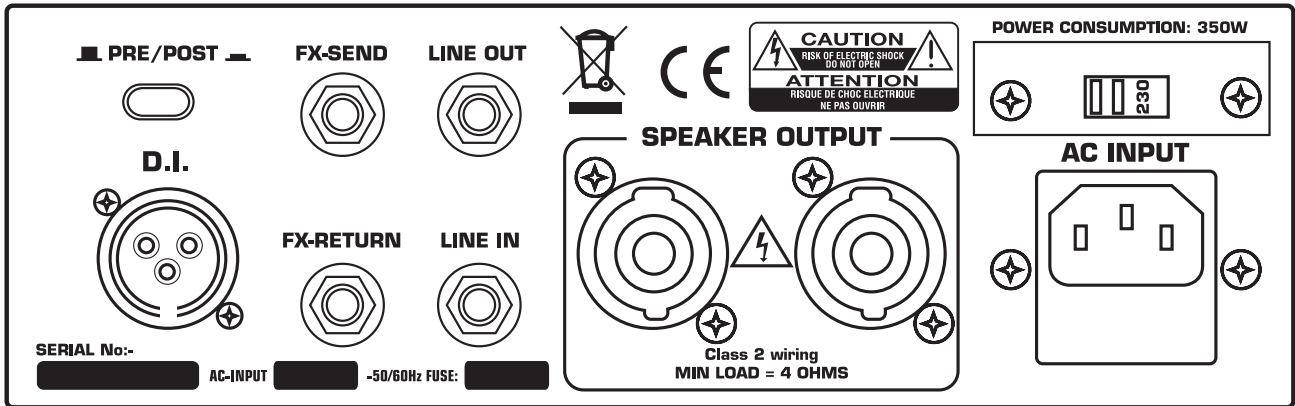
The way this works is as follows: there are four slider controls used to boost or cut each frequency range by up to 15dB. To the left of the LO-MID, HI-MID and TREBLE sliders are rotary controls marked FREQ-HZ. These are used to select the frequency at which the sliders boost or cut the signal.

These EQ facilities can be used in a number of ways, obviously the BASS control will boost and cut the lower frequencies, and the TREBLE control will boost and cut the higher frequencies, with the degree by which this affects the instruments signal dependant on the setting of its FREQ-HZ control. Both the BASS and TREBLE control adjustments can be further affected by the setting of the HI-MID and LO-MID controls, for instance if the HI-MID frequency is set to its highest i.e. 7.5kHz and this frequency range boosted then this will add further to the high frequency lift provided by the TREBLE control. Similarly the BASS control setting will be affected if the LO-MID frequency is set to its lowest. This can be a useful way of further enhancing the upper and lower frequencies or for making fine adjustments to these. But where the LO-MID and HI-MID controls really start to perform their magic is when their FREQ-EQ controls are set to somewhere within the centre of their ranges and the selected frequencies either boosted or cut. This can produce some unique sound shapes that are very useable. Experiment with this and see what you discover, remember that sometimes cutting the signal at a particular centre frequency can produce just as viable sounds as boosting. More is not always better when it comes to sound sculpturing for bass.

**OUTPUT** - The OUTPUT control sets the level of volume through the speakers connected to the Little Giant. Remember to set the INPUT control as high as possible in the manner described above and the OUTPUT control set as low as possible for the desired stage playing volume. In this way you will get the optimum performance from the Little Giant amplifier with the best possible signal to noise ratio.

# Rear Panel Facilities

Pictured: Little Giant 350



**AC INPUT** - Always use the supplied AC mains connection cable and ensure the correct supply voltage for your country is selected before connecting mains power to this AC INPUT socket. Always replace the mains Fuse with the same type and rating as shown on the rear panel. If the mains fuse should blow please refer the unit to a qualified service engineer at an Ashdown recommended service centre.

**DIRECT INJECT (D.I.)** - A balanced D.I. is provided on a male XLR socket. This has a push button placed above it that allows the user to choose either a Pre E.Q. signal (button OUT) or a Post EQ & Post effects signal (button IN).

The output signal from this XLR socket is set to a level and impedance suitable for connecting directly into the Microphone input of a mixing desk for either Direct Injection into the PA system or for recording.

This must ONLY ever be used connected to a Balanced Microphone input, it is not intended for any other type of connection. There is no ground connection to Pin 1 of the XLR and therefore no ground lifting is required between equipment. You must however ensure that both the Little Giant and the Mixing desk it is connected to have good mains ground connections (this is also important for your personal safety). The D.I. signal is unaffected by Phantom Powering on the Microphone input.

**FX-SEND FX-RETURN** - A serial EFFECTS (FX) loop is provided at a level of 0dB. The Effects SEND and RETURN jack sockets for this are on the rear panel next to the D.I. socket. The FX-SEND socket can also be used as a Line Out socket if required. The signal path through the preamp is only broken when a jack plug is inserted into the FX-RETURN socket. The FX-SEND is situated after the EQ.

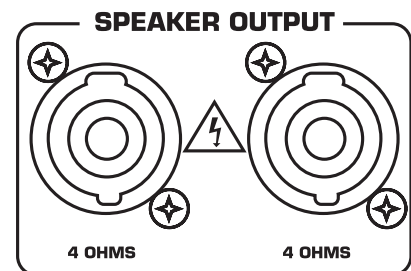
**LINE OUT** - An unbalanced LINE OUT jack socket is available for connection to further power amplifiers and speakers to build a more powerful system if required or for recording.

**LINE IN** - A LINE IN jack socket is provided that can be used for connecting to the LINE OUT from another pre-amp or for connection to any other signal source you may wish to mix into the Little Giant amplification system.

**SPEAKER OUTPUT** - Two SPEAKER OUTPUTS are provided on SPEAKON connection sockets that are able to handle the high powers produced by these amplifiers. The use of these sockets is different depending on which Little Giant model you have.

**1000 WATT** - The two SPEAKER OUTPUTS on the 1000 Watt model are driven independently by 2 x 500 watt output stages. Each socket can run into a 4 Ohm load for maximum output power.

**350 WATT** - The two SPEAKER OUTPUTS on the 350 Watt model are connected together and driven by 1 x 350 watt output stage. The combined minimum impedance of these two sockets must not be less than 4 Ohms. For example each socket can drive its own 8 Ohm cabinet. Use one socket only for a 4 Ohm cabinet.



Little Giant 1000 rear panel as Little Giant 350 except Speaker Outputs (pictured above).

# Specifications

## INPUTS

Passive Input	Impedance - 1M Ohms	Level 150mV to 10V p-p
Active Input	Impedance - 10K Ohms	Level 300mV to 20V p-p
Effects Return	Impedance - 10K Ohms	Input Level 0dBu Nominal
Line In	Impedance - 10K Ohms	Input Level 0dBu Nominal

## OUTPUTS

Line Out	Impedance - 1K Ohms	Level 0dBu Nominal
Effects Send	Impedance - 1K Ohms	Level 0dBu Nominal
D.I.Output	600 Ohms Balanced	Level -20dBu Nominal

Speaker Outputs	350 Watt	Combined Minimum Impedance 4 Ohms
	1000 Watt	Output Power 350W RMS into 4 Ohms 4 Ohms for each socket Output Power 2 x 500W RMS into 4 Ohms

Frequency response		-3dB @ 25Hz and 25kHz
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## EQUALISATION

Bass	+/- 15dB - 100Hz Shelving
Lo-Mid	+/- 15dB - Frequency 180Hz to 1.6kHz Q = 1 Octave
Hi-Mid	+/- 15dB - Frequency 750Hz to 7.5kHz Q = 1 Octave
Treble	+/- 15dB - Frequency 3.5kHz to 10kHz Shelving
DEEP	+ 15dB @ 50Hz
SHAPE	+ 8dB @ 30Hz & 10kHz -12dB @ 400Hz
Signal to Noise	Better than 80dB (EQ Flat)
Distortion	Less than 0.5% THD



[www.ashdownmusic.com](http://www.ashdownmusic.com)