

MEZZABARBA

CUSTOM AMPLIFICATION



EVEN DRIVE

User manual

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IMPORTANT:

PLEASE READ SAFETY INFO ON PG. 10 CAREFULLY BEFORE SWITCH ON THE PREAMP

EVEN DRIVE

The MZero Overdrive tone and magic in an all tube preamp footpedal.

The Even Drive is an all tube preamp pedal with two 12AX7 tubes running at 350v like a real amplifier, designed to deliver the tone and magic of the MZero Overdrive Head in a compact pedal format.

Used by an ever-growing number of artists worldwide for more than a decade, Mezzabarba amps are custom-built, all-tube beasts which are entirely hand-made in Italy.

Founded in 1998 in the Etruscan town of Farnese, between Latium and Tuscany, Masotti Guitar Devices and its high-end brand Mezzabarba Custom Amplification have become reference points for rockers in Italy, Europe and around the world. Based on 100% original R&D, top of the range components, custom-wound transformers and a no-compromise philosophy, these amps are fruit of a tireless obsession. They finally define a new amp personality and bring about a contemporary feel in what has become a monotonous world split between established industry leaders and me-too amps. Their ability to deliver an unusual combination of raw power, warmth and crystal clear tone allows the same amp to reach an unrivalled range of sounds, spanning from fusion, blues, rock, funk, all the way to brute metal.



Pierangelo Mezzabarba
-Masotti Guitar Devices CEO and Founder-

Overview



Control Panel, from right to left:

- a) GAIN control -these allow for gain management in the preamp section.
- b) TONE section: Bass, Mid, Treble.
- c) BOOST switch.
- d) LEVEL control.

Footswitch with the Status Leds.

Blue Led indicates that the pedal is feeded

Red Led indicates when the pedal is On



From left to right:

- a) MAIN INPUT jack.
- b) External power supply connector: 12Vac 1A, 2.1mm plug
- c) MAIN OUTPUT jack.

Features:

- 2 x 12AX7 preamp tubes
- All tube signal path
- Two different Modes: Overdrive and Distortion
- Controls: Gain, Tone, Level, Boost Switch (Modes)
- 350Vdc internal operating voltage
- External power supply: 12Vac 1A, 2.1mm plug
- An innovative true bypass switching system based on gold plated relays, to preserve all the frequencies when in bypass
- The Even Drive features an all tube cathode follower that provides pure tube buffering in the output section, ensuring optimal interfacing with other pedals and amplifiers without any signal loss or degradation

We use only the finest hi-fidelity and military spec components in order to reach a tone that is fluid, dynamic, full and powerful and rely on specially designed power supplies and transformers in order to deliver all that tone and quality.

Basic sounds

The EVEN DRIVE is an all tube preamp, in a compact pedal format, voiced to sound like the MZero Overdrive Head and uses two 12AX7 tubes to deliver a pure, fiery sound with the signature Mezzabarba fullness and tone.

The Boost Switch on the control panel is an all tube gain boost and switches between two modes.

Mode 1 - Overdrive: a focused tone that is perfect for Pop, Blues and Classic Rock. Amazing dynamics with all the natural compression of the tubes and a lot of sustain.

Mode 2 - Distortion: a more edgy and aggressive sound perfect for today's Modern Rock and Metal. Full, fluid and tight at the same time. Saturated distortions that are dripping in harmonics.

Usage and periodical maintenance

The EVEN DRIVE Preamp does not require any more precautions and maintenance than any other tube preamp. Make sure you do not obstruct the air cooling grids located on the top of the pedal, in order to allow for optimal cooling.

The external chassis can be cleaned with a clean, damp cloth. The paint is resistant to normal cleaning products but not to aggressive solvents (benzene, acetone, etc.) which should therefore be avoided.

If you are using your EVEN DRIVE Preamp mostly in a studio setting, you will simply need to periodically replace the tubes, just as you would in any other tube preamp. If on the other hand, you use your EVEN DRIVE Preamp mostly on the road, it is advisable to periodically check that all of the internal components are properly connected and functioning. Given the heavy-duty build quality of your EVEN DRIVE Preamp, this might be necessary as little as once a year, and in any case only if you use the preamp on the road every day.

Warning: the afore-mentioned checks must be carried out solely by qualified MGD (Masotti Guitar Devices) personnel and/or authorized technicians. Before scheduling any such check, please contact MGD for full advise.

Replacing tubes

All of the factory-supplied tubes in your EVEN DRIVE Preamp are accurately handpicked by MGD. The two ECC83/12AX7 tubes have a life expectancy of several years and their replacement does not require any additional adjustments.

Any short-circuits caused by a faulty tube can lead to burning one or more fuses, which must be replaced by **qualified MGD personnel and/or authorized technicians.**

The brand and type of the preamp tubes, affect the overall pedal tone and can be chosen based on personal taste. Feel free to contact us for any advise!

Warning: replacement of tubes and internal fuses, adjustment of the bias and any other operation inside the EVEN DRIVE must be carried out by qualified MGD (Masotti Guitar Devices) personnel and/or authorized technicians, while the amp is powered off and has been completely disconnected from a power source for at least 30 minutes!

Troubleshooting

Here below are some of the problems that you might experience when operating your EVEN DRIVE Preamp. Some of them are trivial whereas other ones might require the intervention of **qualified MGD (Masotti Guitar Devices) personnel and/or authorized technicians**. Please do not hesitate to contact us when in doubt, we are at your complete disposal for any help you may require.

- ✓ **EVEN DRIVE Preamp is not turning on.** Check whether there is power running to your socket. Check the power cable. If the problem persists, contact MGD.
- ✓ **The power indicator is lit but no sound is coming from your amp.** Check that all of the jacks are properly plugged in. Check the Drive, Tone, and Level controls, making sure none of them are on 0.
- ✓ **You hear a scratchy noise while turning one or more pots.** Do not attempt to clean with spray products! Please contact MGD and we will be happy to replace the faulty pot(s)
- ✓ **Sound quality has deteriorated; the amp tends to feedback or makes strange noises.** One or more tubes need replacement. Please contact MGD for advise and service in order to continue getting the best out of your EVEN DRIVE Preamp.
- ✓ **LEDS are regularly ON but no sound is present.** Check cables, connectors and their proper position. Check pots level.

Warranty

Warranty is 2 (two) years according to EU laws. Warranty is not valid if the device is opened or partially modified without our authorization. No responsibility is due for Masotti Guitar Devices for damages to human, animals or things originated by a manumission or a different use of Even Drive as described in this manual.

Important safety information

Your EVEN DRIVE Preamp was engineered and built according to the strictest electrical safety standards as per international norm, EU IEC-62368 and according to the electromagnetic compatibility requirements specified by international norms EN 55032. It thus fully complies to EU standards and therefore carries the CE marking on the rear panel.

Our amps utilize as much as possible eco-compatible materials. Do not however dispose of any parts of the amp in the environment and please use special containers as per EU regulations.



To reduce the risk of electric shock or wounds, please follow the instructions on this manual very carefully, with particular reference to the following ones:

- Do not open the chassis for any reason. Removing the grid or opening the metal chassis will expose you to live circuitry which is powered by potentially hazardous electric tension. Should you need to replace the tubes or the internal fuses, please contact either MGD or an authorized technician.
- Do not remove any screws from the preamp.
- Do not expose the preamp to rain or moisture, steam, metal particles and anything that may penetrate inside the amp through the air cooling grids.
- Do not obstruct the air cooling grids. Always make sure that the top and rear parts of the preamp are not obstructed.
- Do not introduce any foreign objects (metallic or insulating) in the air cooling grids.
- Do not use the preamp without the protective metal grid on the top.
- Do not insert objects other than the standard jacks inside the preamp's input and output jacks.
- Do not expose the preamp to excessive heat.
- Do subject the preamp to excessive vibrations or shock, especially when it is powered on.
- When setting up the preamp in a room temperature environment following storage and/or transportation at very low temperatures one, dew might form on the outside and/or inside of the amp. Make sure that the preamp stays at room temperature for about 10 minutes before turning it on in order for the dew to evaporate.
- Always use standard audio cables making sure they are intact. Do not remove or interfere with the ground connection of the plug or socket.
- Always check that the mains power complies to the specs written on the rear panel of the preamp.
- Disconnect the device from mains during thunderstorms.
- Do not force pots and switches.

Technical specifications

Power supply: 230V/117V±10% 50Hz

Power consumption: 12VA

Input impedance: 1MΩ.

Output impedance: 1K Ohm

Tubes: 2 x ECC83/12AX7

Environmental operating parameters: 10-40°C, 30-90% humidity without condensation

External power supply: 12Vac 1A, 2.1mm plug

Dimensions: 18.5 x 15.5 x 7.5 h cm.

Weight: 900 gr.

Contacts

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