

FORTIN[®]

AMPLIFICATION

EVIL PUMPKIN[®]

USER GUIDE





**Congratulations, and thank you for purchasing the
Jason Frankhouser signature EVIL PUMPKIN®
by Fortin Amplification Inc.!**

This amp, the Evil Pumpkin®, is the labour of love of two old friends who shared a vision to create the ultimate gain driven amplifier.

At the core of the Evil Pumpkin® are 3 incredible channels, each designed to ensure you achieve the tone that has been in your head for years.

“Of all the amps I’ve designed, this is the one that I am most proud of.. it’s taken a long time (due to COVID and the parts shortage) to come to market, but I am pumped that it’s finally out and being used by our customers! We know that whether it be used at home, in a bar, in a club, in an arena or a stadium, the Evil Pumpkin® will bring the goods!”

Here at Fortin, we are proud to provide the tone we hope people will love, and I’d like to personally thank you for your support in buying our products and we hope that you are inspired to make all the glorious noises you want!”

Mike Fortin, CEO.



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SAFETY FIRST:

We want you to enjoy your amplifier to the best of its potential. Before you go any further, take a moment to read these **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**.

- Read, and keep somewhere safe, these guidelines;
- When it comes to safety critical issues, these are not recommendations;
- 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 - dry cloth only;
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MODIFY OR SERVICE THIS PRODUCT YOURSELF;**
- Removing covers could expose you 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:
 1. When the power-supply cord or plug is damaged;
 2. If liquid has been spilled, or objects have fallen into the product;
 3. If the product has been exposed to rain or water;
 4. 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;
 5. If the product has been dropped or damaged in any way;
 6. 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.*

For warranty information, please refer to the Fortin website (www.fortinamps.com) for up-to-date terms and conditions.



The Evil Pumpkin® is an extremely versatile amplifier with a nod to vintage British gain voicing, and classic American clean tones. The Evil Pumpkin® will also provide blistering modern high-gain tones Fortin are known for producing.

Jason Frankhouser, talking about the original **Evil Pumpkin®**:

“Mike did this amp for me in 2009. It used to be a 1997 Marshall® Super-Lead 1959 Reissue. It was re-covered in orange tolex by Splawn®. It previously housed a Splawn® modded Super Lead. I had the Splawn® modded SL and an unmodded SL at the time so I took the Splawn® chassis out and put it in a regular SL head shell and sold it. Put the stock SL chassis in the orange tolex head and sent it to Mike.

It started out as a ‘Hulk Mod’ but I sent it back to Mike in 2011, I think, for some updates. I wanted to add a mid control, kind of like a sweepable mid thing. I also wanted a clean channel and a more compressed lead feel. We talked about it a couple of times and I sent the amp to him. He put added custom Merren® transformers, the sweepable mid, a clean channel and a lead mode. All of these are foot switchable via 1/4" TS jacks so a switching system or regular foot switches could be used.



It is the tightest and most precise amp I have ever heard in my life!



I have a large amp collection and travel the World constantly with my touring gig. During this time I have had the good fortune to play literally just about every amp out there, including the incredibly rare and hugely sought-after amps in Mike's personal collection. Nothing has the fast response and surgical tight low end that this amp has... This amp will go to my grave with me.”



THE FRONT PANEL



EP CHANNEL

- 1. Input** - Plug your guitar in here.
- 2. EP channel switch** (based on Jason's re-built orange Marshall® 1959 SLP with 4 gain stages) - Momentary switch to activate the EP, Evil Pumpkin®, channel.
- 3. Girth** - The classic Fortin Girth control, additional EQ tweak around the low end happens here.
- 4. Grind** - There's no Girth without Grind, excites the upper frequencies.
- 5. Gain** - Controls the amount of gain on the EP channel.

KK CHANNEL

- 6. KK channel switch** (based on Jason's custom re-built KillerKali Marshall® with 4 gain stages) - Momentary switch to activate the KK, Killer Kali, channel.
- 7. Gain 1** - Sets the gain level for the 2nd tube stage.
- 8. Gain 2** - Sets the saturation level for the 3rd tube stage.
- 9. Bass** - Adds bass into the tone for the EP and KK channel.
- 10. Middle** - Adds mid-range into the tone for the EP and KK channel.
- 11. Sweep** - Shifts the tone stack frequencies.
- 12. Treble** - Adds high end into the tone in the EP and KK channel.

CLEAN

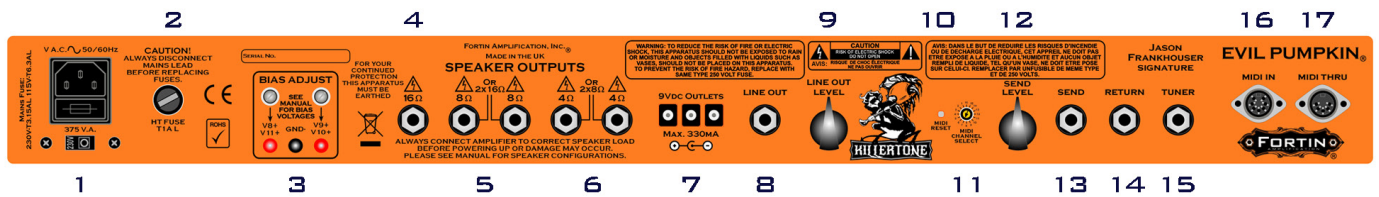
- 13. Clean Switch** - Momentary switch to activate the Clean channel.
- 14. Volume** - Adjusts the volume of the CLEAN channel, this can get quite 'bitey'.
- 15. Bass** - Adds bass into the tone for the CLEAN channel.
- 16. Middle** - Adds mid-range into the tone for the CLEAN channel.
- 17. Treble** - Adds high end into the tone for the CLEAN channel.

POWER AMP

- 18. Depth** - Adds deep bass to the power amp stage.
- 19. Presence** - Adds presence to the power amp stage.
- 20. Master 1** - Master Output 1 level.
- 21. Master 2** - Master Output 2 level.
- 22. Loop Switch** - Momentary switch that activates the FX loop.
- 23. Master 2 Switch** - Momentary switch that activates Master Output 2.
- 24. Midi STR Switch** - Momentary switch that stores the Midi 'program'.

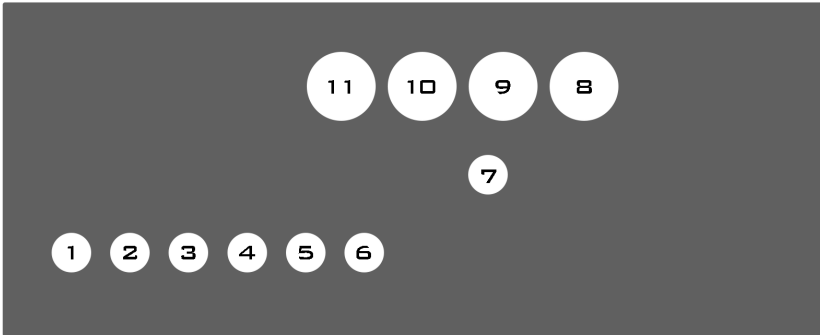
- 25. Standby** - Removes the output stage only, leaving the pre-amp section active so you still exit via the FX send jack and go to your favorite IR loader etc.
- 26. Power** - Main amp power.

THE REAR PANEL



1. **Power in** - IEC AC cable, please ensure that the power switch underneath the socket is set to the correct voltage for your location before powering up. Mains fuse is built into the IEC male inlet.
2. **HT Fuse** - High Tension fuse for high voltage inside the amplifier. This value stays the same in 240/120vac operation
3. **Bias Adjust** - Please refer to a qualified tech. The Evil Pumpkin® has a class a/b amplifier and requires the the output tube idle current to be set when replacing output tubes. When output tubes are replaced, they require re-biasing to ensure they are working to give the best tone and longest tube life. To set the bias, you will need a multi-meter set to 200mV DC range. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO REMOVE ANYTHING TO DO THIS, IT CAN BE PERFORMED FROM THE REAR PANEL.** Fortin Amplification Inc. recommends you buy matched pairs (they are paired outside 2, inside 2). If they are not matched, correct biasing may be impossible. To bias your amp, make sure that all master volume controls are at zero and the amp has a load connected to the speaker jack. Using a Digital Multi Meter, set it to DC mV(olts) and insert the black probe into the GND black meter jack and the red probe into either red meter jack. Set MASTER volume fully counter clockwise and take the amp off STANDBY, measure and set V8 V11 or V9 V10 located below the bias adjust pots. Adjust the bias pots slowly. Since you are measuring the bias of 2 output tube pairs on the red bias jacks, factory setting is 36mA per tube so the reading would be 72mV at each of the red bias jacks.
4. **16ohm speaker out** - Connect a 16 ohm load.
5. **8 ohm outs** - Connect one 8 ohm speaker load here, or two 16 ohm speaker loads.
6. **4 ohm outs** - Connect one 4 ohm speaker load here, or two 8 ohm speaker loads.
7. **9v DC power out** - Pedal power outlets. Each output is ground isolated with a combined total current limited to 300mA total.
8. **Line Out** - Direct out from the power amp stage.
9. **Line Out Level** - Adjust the level of the Line Out.
10. **Midi Reset** - Press this to completely reset the internal memory for midi control.
11. **Midi Channel** - Select the midi channel the EP will respond to.
12. **Send Level** - How hot the output signal is from your FX 'send', if not using any FX in the loop, you can place a patch lead from send to return and use this level as an additional volume boost channel.
13. **Send** - Send out to your FX pedals (this output is directly after the Pre-Amp).
14. **Return** - Effects return (this comes in directly before the Power-Amp).
15. **Tuner** - Direct out to your tuner or ZUUL key input. This signal is tube buffered off the first stage, instrument level.
16. **Midi In** - 7 pin lead that send power to your Midi pedal, providing it is set up for it. We recommend the Fortin Hydra pedal that can be powered this way. 5 pin midi cables can also be connected here if you are using an external power source to power your MIDI controller.
17. **Midi Thru** - Send a mirror image of the midi in out to control further devices. NOTE - this is not a midi out, the EP does not generate any midi commands itself, it just responds to incoming and then forwards them on.

THE TUBES



- 1 = Input tube to all channels
- 2 = EP tube gain stage 2 and 3
- 3 = EP and KK 4th gain stage
- 4 = KK tube gain stage 2 and 3
- 5 = CLEAN tube stage 2 and 3
- 6 = Effect Loop send and return
- 7 = Phase Inverter for power amplifier
- 8 = 6CA7 power tube
- 9 = EL34 power tube
- 10 = EL34 power tube
- 11 = 6CA7 power tube

MIDI

How to Program MIDI switching:

Connect a midi controller that send program changes (PC) to the MIDI IN of the Evil Pumpkin via a 5 pin MIDI Cable or a 7 pin MIDI cable to self power your midi controller if applicable.

Set the Evil Pumpkin's rotary midi channel to match the midi controller midi send channel.

With both amplifier and midi controller powered up, send a PC change from the controller to the Evil Pumpkin. The Midi LED on the front panel will light up. Then select the channel, loop on/off, master 1 or 2 and then click the **MIDI STR** momentary switch and the Midi LED will blink twice indicating a stored midi patch. Push another button on your MIDI controller to program another bank and repeat the above.

JASON'S SETTINGS



THE EP CHANNEL

The core of Jason's formidable chunk comes from here! As always, you probably don't need as much gain as you think you do, start half way and tweak from there! Balance your EQ so it sounds great on both the EP and KK channel, and then add the final shine to the EP channel with the Girth and Grind controls!



THE KK CHANNEL

Dual gain controls.... balancing these two is where this channel exists. Each one controlling a different tube (G1, 2nd tube stage. G2, the 3rd) when these are balanced, your sustain, the expression and articulation for the KK channel will simply melt your mind. And everyone else's face.



THE CLEAN CHANNEL

Pssst, don't tell anyone, but the EP has an AMAZING clean channel! I know, right? Gain driven amps usually have extremely sucky clean channels, but not the EP! Very Blackface F style, very friendly to pedals, and very responsive to your attack and volume control... Crank it for a nice, yet quite nasty surprise!