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***From the AMPAGE Tech-Talk BBS...***

**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Mook** *Mookie2112@aol.com*

Wed Feb 17 00:22 *in reply to anonymous*

My 3 fav mods to the Pro Jr.:

- 1) New speaker - Weber VST
- 2) Disconnect NFB (I don't think removing the Negative Feedback makes it any more "mushy" than stock).
- 3) Install Decent NOS tubes.

Mook

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

**Steve A.** *steveahola@worldnet.att.net*  
*<http://www.techaccessinc.com/blueguitar/>*

Wed Feb 17 04:03 *in reply to Mook*

Thanks, Greg, Bruce and Mook!

Any thoughts on adding a standby switch to the Pro Jr? Interrupt B+ after the first filter caps and before it goes to the OT and plates? Kill the cathode connection to ground from the output tubes?

Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

**Aaron Flynt** *telethrasher@msn.com*

Wed Feb 17 05:19 *in reply to Steve A.*

I agree W/Bruce about the NFB, but I also kind of like the sound of the amp with a 25uf bypass cap on the cathode of the first gain stage. Gives it alot more gain without sounding buzzy. Of course you lose the clean sound then, and putting it on a switch causes a loud pop.

Aaron.

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

Wed Feb 17 08:42 *in reply to Aaron Flynt*

**Steve A.** [steveahola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:steveahola@worldnet.att.net)  
<http://www.techaccessinc.com/blueguitar/>

Aaron:

*...putting it on a switch causes a loud pop.*

Putting a 54k to 220k resistor across the switch contacts will eliminate any pops when switching in a 25uF cap. (220k to 470k will handle any pops from a smaller cap like a 1.0uFm, and 470k to 1M for something like a 0.47uF cap.)

I'm not sure if it makes any difference, but I usually run the cathode to the cap and put the switch (and resistor) between the cap and ground.

BTW if you get too much gain from a cathode resistor bypass cap (especially on the 2nd or 3rd gain stage) insert a 470 to 10k resistor in series with the connection to ground.

Steve Ahola

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

Wed Feb 17 22:05 *in reply to Steve A.*

**Joe Zuzze** [zuzze@gateway.net](mailto:zuzze@gateway.net)

Given the cost of making an amp similar to the pro jr. as a (proper)DIY project, am I right in saying this amp is a steal? Has anyone here thought of gutting the insides and using the pro as a basis for another el84 amp, or a hand-wired version of what it is already? Joe. BTW how is it clean?

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

Fri Feb 19 00:35 *in reply to Joe Zuzze*

**Mike B** [mmbb@frontiernet.net](mailto:mmbb@frontiernet.net)

Joe,

After reading this thread I had a similar thought. Gut the thing and build a Spitfire circuit or something similar out of what's left. I don't know the capabilities of the iron, though. Anyone have any idea what the transformers are rated for?

It seems like a good deal since you can pick one of these up for \$200 or so. Sink another \$100 or so into it (speaker, electronics) and it could be a screamer. Saves you the hassle of having to build a cabinet as well (which is something I don't do very well at all - I've got a bunch of completed amp chassis laying around with no home...).

Any info on power tranny secondary ratings would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Mike B

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

Fri Feb 19 09:19 *in reply to Mike B*

**Steve A.** [steveahola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:steveahola@worldnet.att.net)  
<http://www.techaccessinc.com/blueguitar/>

Mike:

Although I've often supported the idea of "stealth amps", I've heard enough good things about the Pro Jr that I'd consider it a waste to gut it. With a few mods you could probably get it to work well with whatever style of music you are into.

Instead of paying \$200 for a Pro Jr to gut, why not just pick up some cheap ss amp at a garage sale or flea market for \$25 and buy the trannies you need for your tube amp project? You might even be able to get one that isn't working for even less.

Steve Ahola

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

Sat Feb 27 13:22 *in reply to Mike B*

**Aaron Flynt** [telethrasher@msn.com](mailto:telethrasher@msn.com)

How about the idea of making it into a single channel, single input Tweed Deluxe. You could just take the old chassis out and build a new chassis around the circuit. Mouser has a hammond box that's just the right size(13.5/5/2), and you wouldn't have to cannablize the amp. I think I may do that, as I already have 2 Pro Jr's, and I've been hankering to make a TD, but can't seem to find anyone with cabinets in stock. Any thoughts?

Aaron.

P.S. What are the dimensions of a Tweed Deluxe circuit card?

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**Re: How about adding a standby switch?**

**Giacomo** [bluemonk@altavista.net](mailto:bluemonk@altavista.net)

Thu Feb 18 23:14 in reply to *Steve A.*

I think it should be a good improvement to add a standby switch to the Pro Jr. How should I do it?

Thank you.

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**Re: Quick question on adding standby switch**

**Steve A.** [steveahola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:steveahola@worldnet.att.net)  
<http://www.techaccessinc.com/blueguitar/>

Fri Feb 26 03:49 in reply to *Steve A.*

To all:

One common standby switch design interrupts B+ after the first big filter caps and before it goes to the OT CT and the rest of the power supply. With the Pro Jr can you just interrupt the B+ going to the OT CT and leave the preamp and driver plates energized when the amp is in standby mode?

Without the load from the power tubes, I'd guess that the B+ to the preamp and driver tubes would increase a bit while the amp was in standby. But that would be the same situation if you switched off the ground connection to the cathodes of the output tubes- right? It seems like it would be relatively simple to add a standby switch to interrupt (1) B+ to the plates or (2) the ground to the cathodes of the output tubes.

Any thoughts or suggestions on these two options? Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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**Re: Quick question on adding standby switch**

**Bruce** *missionamp@aol.com*

Fri Feb 26 08:33 *in reply to Steve*

A.

I guess you can Steve,

The stupid PCB has 3 spade connectors on it one the CT of the OT and two to the plates!

Slip the center tap B+ feed lead off, install a switch with two 600v wires and slip one to the PCB and he connect the CT to the other side of the wired switch.

Bruce

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Bruce** *missionamps@aol.com*

Thu Feb 18 17:06 *in reply to Mook*

My point was, I feel it is too mushy with the small amount of negative feedback that is there now and increasing it a bit makes the little Munchkin more useable. Still, a very hip amp to mess with.

I used Tesla EL84s and a RUBY 7025STR in the front end and kept the other tube stock. But, I also installed a variable bias supply mod so I could drop the idle current down a little bit. I liked it set at about -11.5v.

I played with it through a WeberVST P12Q, a FANE 12", my Celestion Vintage 30 and one of the new Jensen P10Rs, it sounded WAY cool in all of them, compared to the stock speaker!

Even a well broken in MOJO MP10R sounded good.

Bruce

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Giacomo** *bluemonk@altavista.net*

Thu Feb 18 18:09 *in reply to Bruce*

>I played with it through a WeberVST P12Q, a >FANE 12", my Celestion >Vintage 30 and one of the new Jensen P10Rs, >it sounded WAY cool in all >of them, compared to the stock speaker!

Someone told me that Pro Jr. came with two different stock speaker, the "brown" and the "blue". Mine is "brown" and it seems to sound good enough, but I've not yet compared it with others 10". Yours is brown or blue?

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**Re: Any good mods for the**

**Doc** *hornerwr@dayzim.com*

**Pro Jr?**

Thu Feb 18 21:02 *in reply to*  
*Giacomo*

I think you're right about that. The earlier ones (tweed covering) came with alnico magnet speakers. Not sure about paint color. The later version in cream vinyl, then black vinyl, covering had the more usual ceramic magnet black-painted drivers. (All are probably standard grade Eminence.)

I'd be surprised if there were two different alnico drivers used, I mean brown ones different than blue ones, except for the paint color.

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Giacomo** *bluemonk@altavista.net*

Fri Feb 19 06:43 *in reply to Doc*

Alnico speakers have square magnet and ceramic has round magnet. Right or viceversa?

My Pro Jr. is tweed covered and came with brown-painted gold-labeled round-magnet speaker. I've seen others Pro's with the same cover and speakers.

I don't know Weber speakers. Here in Italy we more often consider Electrovoice, JBL and Celestion as good very good upgrades. They are very expensive too!

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Richie**

Sun Feb 28 05:03 *in reply to Doc*

Doc; I work on a bands amps, and they have two of the tweed amps, one is alnico, and the other is ceamic [brown] [Richie]

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Lee MacMillan** *lmacmil@ibm.net*

Fri Feb 19 01:11 *in reply to*  
*Giacomo*

I think when they switched from the Alnico they went to the gold label "vintage" speaker which is generic Eminence 10. I replaced mine with a Weber C10R and while not a dramatic improvement did smooth out the harshness I perceived when playing loud.

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**Re: Any good mods for the Pro Jr?**

**Mike T** *bluesman@acmenet.net*

Fri Feb 19 20:59 *in reply to Mook*

- > The WeberVST C10R was made for this amp...
- > I like no -fbk...I don't play the amp cranked..usually 1/2 to 3/4, sometimes lower
- > I use matched Sovtek EL84Ms..sound dandy .. cheap and reliable
- > cathode bypass caps...25 & .68
- > lower inter stage coupling cap (I forget the value, but it's like .01 to .001 or .02 to .002)
- > Oh yea, put in a Deluxe OT

Mike

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