

# Hartke

*HD25*

*HD50*

**HD Series Bass Guitar Combos**



**Owner's Manual**

# Important Safety Information



AVIS  
RISQUE DE CHOC ÉLECTRONIQUE -  
NE PAS OUVRIR  
WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK,  
DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK) AS THERE ARE NO  
USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING  
TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



This lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of non-insulated “dangerous voltage” within the 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 instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.



If you want to dispose this product, do not mix it with general household waste. There is a separate collection system for used electronic products in accordance with legislation that requires proper treatment, recovery and recycling.

Private household in the 28 member states of the EU, in Switzerland and Norway may return their used electronic products free of charge to designated collection facilities or to a retailer (if you purchase a similar new one).

For Countries not mentioned above, please contact your local authorities for a correct method of disposal.

By doing so you will ensure that your disposed product undergoes the necessary treatment, recovery and recycling and thus prevent potential negative effects on the environment and human health.

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# Important Safety Information

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at the plugs, convenience receptacles, and at the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug the apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel. Service is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. This appliance shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing water and that no object filled with liquid such as vases shall be placed on the apparatus.
16. Caution-to prevent electrical shock, match wide blade plug wide slot fully insert.
17. Please keep a good ventilation environment around the entire unit.
18. To prevent injury, this apparatus must be securely attached to the stand in accordance with the installation instructions.
19. **WARNING:** The battery (battery or batteries or battery pack) shall not be exposed to excessive heat such as sunshine, fire or the like.
20. **CAUTION:** Danger of explosion if battery is incorrectly replaced. Replace only with the same or equivalent type.



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# Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Hydrive HD25 or HD50 Bass Combo Amplifier from Hartke! We know you don't like reading owners manuals, but you've just purchased one of the finest bass combos around, and we want to tell you about it. So, before you plug in and start playing, we'd like to suggest you take just a few moments to scan these pages.

The HD25 is a compact combo featuring a 25-watt amp and an 8" custom designed Hydrive Series speaker. The HD50 has a 50-watt amp and a 10" custom designed Hydrive Series speaker. Hartke Hydrive transducers are a radical change, and improvement, in bass speaker technology. The unique hybrid cone speaker is constructed using an outside paper cone, producing deep and warm low frequencies, and an inside aluminum cone which produces mids that cut, yet are still sweet. The versatility of the Hydrive HD Combos makes them ideal for bassists playing jazz, funk, country, roots rock, metal or for whatever style you create.

In these pages, you'll find a description of the many features of your Hydrive bass amplifier combo, as well as a guided tour through its front and rear panels, step-by-step instructions for setting up and using the amp, additional information about equalization, plus full specifications. You'll also find a warranty card enclosed—please don't forget to fill it out and mail it so that you can receive online technical support and so we can send you updated information about this and other Hartke and Samson products in the future. Also, be sure to check out our website ([www.hartke.com](http://www.hartke.com)) for complete information about our full product line.

We recommend you keep the following records for reference, as well as a copy of your sales receipt.

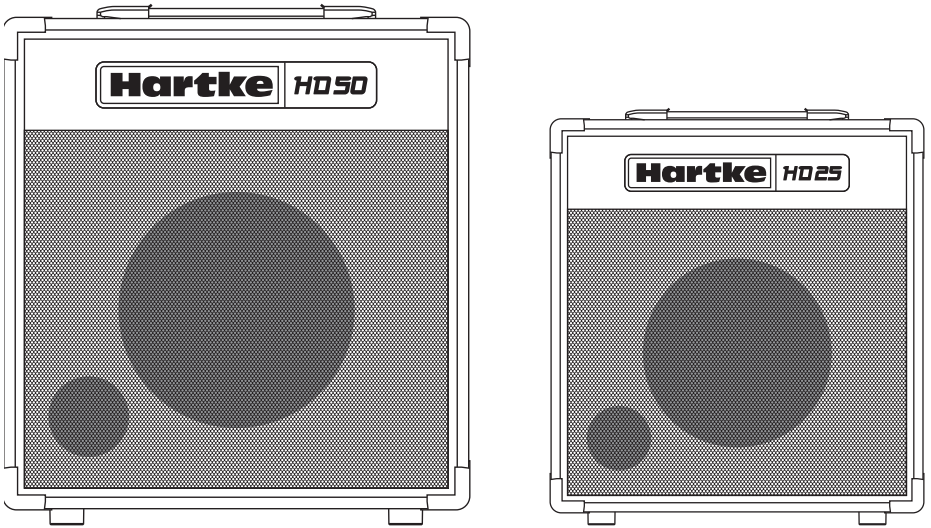
Serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer name: \_\_\_\_\_

With proper care and maintenance, your Hydrive HD Combo will operate trouble-free for many years. Should the product ever require servicing, a Return Authorization (RA) number must be obtained before shipping your unit to Samson. Without this number, the unit will not be accepted. Please call Samson at 1-800-3SAMSON (1-800-372-6766) for an RA number prior to shipping your unit. Please retain the original packing materials and, if possible, return the unit in its original carton. If your HD25 or HD50 was purchased outside of the United States, contact your local distributor for warranty details and service information.

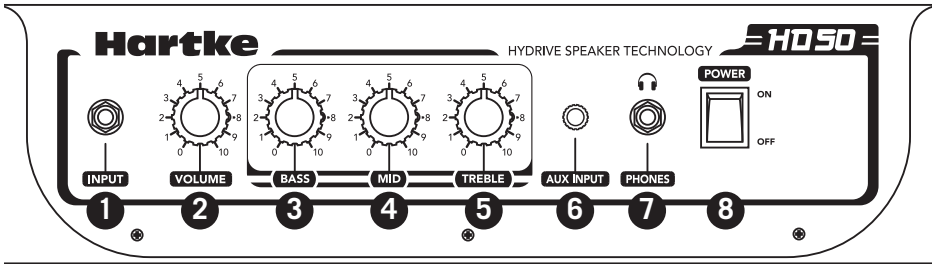
# Features



The Hartke HD Series offers all the state-of-the-art speaker technology as well as robust amplification in an extremely compact size and affordable price. Here are some of its main features:

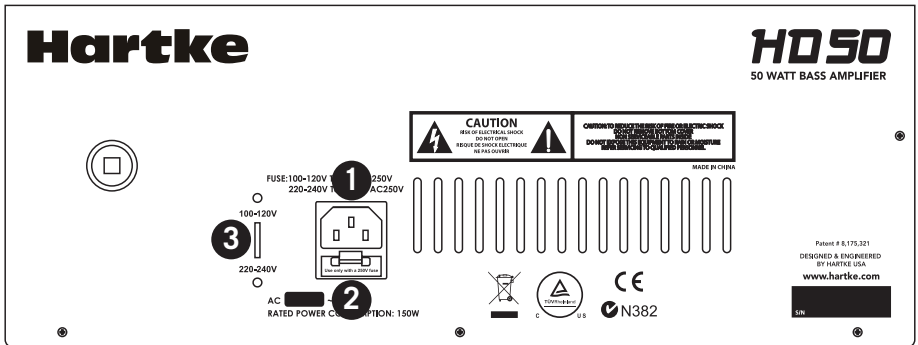
- The HD25 delivers 25 Watts of power to its specially designed 8-inch Hydrive bass speaker
- The HD50 delivers 50 Watts to its specially designed 10-inch Hydrive bass speaker
- Flexible input that accommodates a broad range of input levels, so that you can use passive model basses or those with active circuitry.
- Three-band equalizer to create a broad range of tonal colors.
- Dedicated 3.5 mm line input is included allowing you to hook up a portable CD or MP3 player to practice along with.
- Headphone output, which automatically disconnects the speaker output allowing use as a high-quality practice amp.
- Molded strap top carry handle.
- Built-in limiter protects the speaker and amplifier from overload.
- Rugged construction makes the HD Series eminently road-worthy.

# Top Panel Controls



1. **INPUT** - Connect your bass guitar here using a standard  $\frac{1}{4}$ " unbalanced instrument cable.
2. **VOLUME Control** - This is the overall volume control. For best signal-to-noise ratio, keep the output of your bass at or near maximum and adjust the VOLUME to the desired level.
3. **BASS Control** - This control is used to adjust the low frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
4. **MID Control** - This control is used to adjust the mid frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
5. **TREBLE Control** - This control is used to adjust the high frequency response. As it is turned clockwise the frequency area is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise the frequency area is attenuated.
6. **AUX INPUT** - use this  $\frac{1}{8}$ " input to connect a line level device like a portable CD or MP3 player.
7. **Headphones jack** - Connect any standard headphones (600 ohms or less) to this standard  $\frac{1}{4}$ " jack. When a plug is inserted into the headphone jack, the speaker output is disconnected, allowing you to use your HD Combo as a practice amplifier. The level of the signal sent to the headphones is determined by the setting of the VOLUME knob at the point where a connected speaker would clip, the headphones will clip.  
Note: Because the amplifier is capable of generating extremely high headphone signal levels, always start with the Volume knob at minimum and then slowly turn it up. In particular, a clicking sound is an indication of distortion and possible damage to the headphones (and your hearing).
8. **Power Switch** - Use this to power the amplifier on or off. When powered on, the switch illuminates red.

# Rear Panel Controls



- 1. AC Inlet** - Attach the grounded AC power cord here to connect your amplifier to mains power. This cord comes supplied with the appropriate plug for your geographic area.  
CAUTION: Do not use an adapter to defeat the third grounding pin on this plug or severe electric shock may result!
- 2. Fuse Holder** - The fuse holder comes from the factory with the appropriately rated fuse for your model. If you need to change this fuse for any reason, replace it with one that has the same exact rating.
- 3. Voltage Selection Switch (HD50 Only)** - This switch is used to select the amplifiers operating voltage  
*NOTE: Before using your speaker, be sure the Voltage Selection Switch is set to the correct voltage for your country. Be sure to install the properly rated fuse when changing the operating voltage.*



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## Quick Start

Setting up your Hartke HD Series Combo Bass Amplifier is a simple procedure which takes only a few minutes:

1. Remove all packing materials and decide where the amplifier is to be physically placed.
2. Before you plug-in the power cable, be sure the Power switch is in the off position. Connect the supplied power cable to the AC inlet located on the rear panel. Then, plug-in the 3-pin AC plug into any grounded AC socket.
3. Use a standard ¼" instrument cable to connect your bass to the Input jack on the front panel.
4. On the top panel of the amplifier, turn the Volume the minimum (fully counterclockwise) position, set all EQ controls to their twelve o'clock position.
5. Press the top panel Power switch in order to turn on the amplifier.
6. Set the output of your bass to maximum and then, while playing, slowly turn the Volume control up until the desired level is achieved.
7. Adjust the equalization controls to taste.
8. Test the headphone output by turning the Volume control to its minimum (fully counterclockwise) position and then connect a pair of headphones to the top-panel Phones jack. While playing your bass, slowly turn the Volume control up, you should hear sound from the headphones and none from the connected speaker.
9. The HD Series amplifier features an AUX INPUT that you can use with a portable CD or MP3 player to play with prerecorded tracks. You can plug any line level signal into the AUX INPUT including the signal from a keyboard or drum machine. Connect the line level device to the AUX INPUT using standard 1/8" cable. You will need to use the volume control on the input device to set the balance between the track and your bass. So, start with the volume control all the way down and slowly raise it until you reach a good balance with your bass.

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## Using Equalization

The Hartke Systems HD Series Bass Amplifier gives you control over shaping the sound of your bass, using a process called equalization. To understand how this works, it's important to know that every naturally occurring sound consists of a broad range of pitches, or frequencies, combined together in a unique way. This blend is what gives every sound its distinctive tonal color. The HD Series EQ controls allow you to alter a sound by boosting or attenuating specific frequency areas - they operate much like the bass and treble controls on your hi-fi amp, but with much greater precision.

The HD25 and HD50 offer three bands of equalization. Each EQ knob, labeled Bass, Mid, and Treble, affects a different frequency area of the audio. We carefully selected these frequency areas because they have maximum impact on bass guitar signals. The Bass and Treble controls are shelving EQs, which provide boost when the control is moved clockwise from the center or cut when the control is moved counterclockwise from the center. The Mid EQ control is a passive, cut-only, circuit designed to provide a response that is flat to a mid-scoop.

In many instances, the best way to deal with equalization is to think in terms of which frequency areas you need to attenuate, as opposed to which ones you need to boost. Be aware that boosting a frequency area also has the effect of boosting the overall signal; specifically, too much Low EQ boost can actually cause overload distortion or even harm the connected speaker.

The specific EQ you will apply to your bass signal is very much dependent upon your particular instrument and personal taste and playing style.

However, here are a few general suggestions:

For reggae or Motown sound, boost the Bass EQ slightly while attenuating the Treble EQ.

To remove boxiness and make your instrument sound more “hi-fi,” attenuate the Mid EQ control.

For a twangy sound that cuts, try boosting the Treble and slightly rolling off the Bass EQ control.

As you experiment with the EQ controls of the HD Series, don't forget that your bass also provides significant EQ control in the form of its pickup and tonal settings—this can be particularly effective in instruments that have active circuitry.

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# Specifications

## Rated Output Power (@1 kHz, 4 ohm, 1% THD)

HD25	25 w
HD50	50 w

## Rated Input Level (@ 1 kHz)

HD25	44.6mv rms
HD50	64.6mv rms

## Total Harmonic Distortion (@ 1 dB below rated output, 1 kHz typical)

HD25	0.09%
HD50	0.09%

## Signal To Noise Ratio (1 Wrms @ 1 kHz)

HD25	1W/60dB, 25W/74dB
HD50	1W/60dB, 45W/75dB

## Signal Gain

HD25	-27dBV
HD50	-24dBV

## Equalizer BASS, MID, TREBLE Center Frequency

Bass	100 Hz
Mid	400 Hz
Treble	10 kHz

## Headphone Output

125mW/32 Ohms

## Fuse Type

glass tube fuse

## Fuse Rating

US & Japan	HD25 T500mAL AC250V;HD50 T1.5AL AC250V
UK & European	HD25 T250mAL AC250V;HD50 T800mAL AC250V

## Weight

HD25	24.7 lb 11.2 kg
HD50	34 lb 15.4 kg

## Dimensions (HxWxD)

HD25	15.2" x 14" x 10" 387 mm x 355 mm x 254 mm
HD50	16.9" x 16" x 13" 428 mm x 406 mm x 304 mm

*At Hartke, we are continually improving our products, therefore specifications and images are subject to change without notice.*

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