

OVERDRIVE 200

Owners Manual



IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Read and keep these instructions.
- 2 Heed all warnings and follow all instructions.
- 3 WARNING: To prevent fire or electric shock, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture. Do not use this apparatus near water.
- 4 Clean only with a dry cloth.
- 5 WARNING: To prevent excessive temperature rise, operate product only in free air with unrestricted ventilation. Do not install in confined spaces or near heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
- 6 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 plug has two blades and a grounding prong. The wide blade or third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit your outlet, consult an electrician for the replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- 7- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- 8 Unplug the apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- 9 The appliance coupler (or attachment plug) is the mains disconnect device and should remain readily accessible when amplifier is in use.
- 10 Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing 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, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- 11 This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.
- 12 Changes or modifications made by the user that are not expressly approved by the manufacturer may void your authority to operate the amplifier.

Explanation of symbols



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



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



CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE THE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.



WARNING: To prevent fire or electric shock, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture.

QUILTER OVERDRIVE 200 GUITAR HEAD

Exploring the Intersection of Clean and Dirty

The spirit of the **OVERDRIVE 200** in based on legendary and almost unobtainable "high gain" amps, bringing an iconic overdrive sound within reach of the average musician. The dynamic 200 watt Quilter Tone Block power section is combined with a traditional "tone stack" EQ section to form a classic Clean channel, with a switchable Drive section that offers several classic overdrive tones.

The high impedance INPUT accepts normal guitar cables and maximizes the tone of guitar pickups. The CLEAN CHANNEL provides a GAIN control that can reach a moderate amount of overdrive, a traditional 3-BAND EQ that couples the familiar sound of the classic "tone stack" with an active MID control for greater range, and a MASTER control that adjusts the overall output wattage from 0 to 200 watts. Preceding this channel is a footswitchable DRIVE CHANNEL with three distinct modes, CRUNCH, LEAD, and CRUNCH + LEAD, which provide a wide range of clean and dirty tones. The EFFECTS LOOP provides an ideal place to connect "sweeteners" such as reverb, delay or chorus, adding their tone to the overall sound of the amp, including its overdrive. The HEADPHONE jack provides private listening as well as an alternate line-level output. A DIRECT OUT is located on the back, along with dual SPEAKER jacks that bring the best out of any normal speaker, with a highly dynamic response. The amp is stable with no speaker connected, for silent recording or practice.

Please consult the rest of this manual to obtain the best results from all these features

A NOTE FROM PAT QUILTER:

Our goal at Quilter Labs is to bring you all the tone and dynamics of the best vintage amplifiers without the weight and drawbacks of tube technology. Despite its small size, this is a fully professional product, produced on a world-class production line. May your new amplifier deliver many years of faithful service and become a source of inspiration and creativity.

CARTON CONTENTS:
QUILTER OVERDRIVE 200 HEAD
IEC AC POWER CORD
OWNER'S MANUAL



Performance amplification is not a term we throw around lightly. Not every amplifier can perform well night after night and in all situations. A poor design choice may result in a problem on stage or in the rehearsal room, or perhaps you have a priceless classic that shouldn't be anywhere near that tipsy patron with a mug of beer.

Tone must exceed the basics. A true performance amp will deliver pure tonal excitement -- all of the harmonic content, full dynamics when you roll off the volume knob, the feel of a power supply sagging under your tonal assault. There is no substitute for great tone and how you play in its presence.

Power and restraint are both virtues. Buying one amp for practice, one for small gigs, and one for the big stage is inefficient and expensive. A performance amplifier delivers just the right volume for the room every time without fail. More importantly, it is the right solution for each and every gig regardless of external variables.

A great show without reliability can become a no-show. The best amp in the world is the one onstage working right now. A true performance amplifier never fails. It works each and every time exactly as you expect it to. None of the electrical parts go bad over time or fry out at the worst possible moment. If it has wearable parts like speakers, it protects them for you.



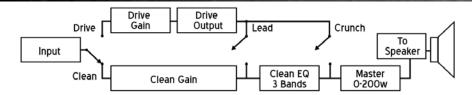
Consistency under adversity means the tone and power will always be there. In the club, when the room sized refrigerator is humming, the industrial grills are cooking, the deep fryers boiling, the 3 ton AC on the roof is roaring away and the neon signs are buzzing the voltage is often dangerously erratic for old-school electronics. A performance amp will automatically make the adjustment and leave you with effortless clean power. Every time. Everywhere on earth.

Quality of manufacture and excellence in design are the hallmarks of a performance amplifier. Only the best materials and construction need apply. The best sounding amp on earth is useless if it isn't constructed to take real world dings, dents, scrapes, and more. A performance amplifier is built to stand the test of time.

Portability means that your equipment can and will travel with you. You should feel just as good carrying your amp out at 2 AM as you did during the load-in. Heavy, bulky, oversized amps may look impressive at rehearsal but they just aren't practical in the real world when loading in or out and making changes onstage is measured in seconds and not hours.

At Quilter Labs we make performance amplifiers, designed to deliver all the real world behaviors inspired by tube amplifiers, with the 21st-century power, reliability, consistency, portability, and quality that you expect from the world's fastest growing amplifier company.

FRONT PANE



SIGNAL ARCHITECTURE: A switchable DRIVE CHANNEL feeds a CLEAN CHANNEL with an overall MASTER that sets peak power.

The amp defaults to the **CLEAN** channel when powered up (although the footswitch will retain settings if used). Use the **CLEAN CHANNEL GAIN** and **3-BAND EQ** to establish a good baseline guitar sound. Switch to the **DRIVE CHANNEL** and use its **GAIN** and **OUTPUT** to establish an independent overdrive level, bypassing certain Clean Channel controls as explained below. Two distinct overdrive voices can be selected or combined to offer three distinct overdrive effects. The **MASTER** regulates the amp's overall volume and peak power.

INPUT: Accepts standard guitar or any other signal. An extra high input impedance optimizes the sound of your guitar pickups.

CLEAN CHANNEL: Mainly for clean work, but may also be set for moderate overdrive. The **GAIN** determines how hard the amp pushes towards overdrive. Depending on the volume of your guitar pickups and playing attack, the sound should remain clean from 0 to 5, with breakup setting in between 5 and 8, reaching moderate overdrive on 10. The BASS and TREBLE controls use classic "tone stack" circuitry for a familiar response. The **MID** control uses active cut-boost circuitry for much greater range than the traditional "tone stack" Mid control. All of these settings are fairly interactive, so be sure to systematically explore the full range of each control. The **MASTER** control regulates the overall loudness or peak power level of the amplifier, without changing the tone established by the Clean and Drive controls. Approximate wattage markings are shown from 0 to 200 watts, which should align with tube amps having similar wattage ratings. The actual power depends somewhat on speaker properties, so the markings are only a guideline. For maximum headroom, use high Master settings. For heavy overdrive, set the Master at or below the rated power of your speakers to prevent damage.

LFEATURES



DRIVE CHANNEL: Two distinct voices, **CRUNCH** and **LEAD** can be selected, individually or together, offering three major overdrive alternatives. The selected Drive voices are indicated by front panel LEDs above their respective switches, which also indicate the Drive selection when using the footswitch. The Drive stage responds like a single-ended triode, with a smooth transition into clipping that quickly "loads up" to a fully distorted onslaught with a rich mixture of harmonics for expressiveness. The Drive **GAIN** regulates overdrive, and the **OUTPUT** control determines the volume sent to the Clean Channel. When using the Drive channel, the Clean Gain is bypassed, so it may be set as desired for an independent Clean volume.

CRUNCH OPTION: This switch routes the guitar signal through a "Blackface" mid scoop before entering the Drive stage, for a "medium gain" overdrive with a full bodied bass and lots of chime, but less mid clutter. The Drive Output re-enters the signal path after the Clean Channel EQ, but before the Master, for a "natural overdrive" tone similar to many classic American amps. Drive Outputs above about 7 can overdrive the Clean channel for a layered-overdrive effect.

LEAD OPTION: This switch engages full midrange gain going into the Drive stage, for maximum overdrive breakup. The Drive Output re-enters the Clean channel BEFORE its 3-band EQ section, so the EQ voices the tone of the distortion. This typically results in a much more aggressive overdrive tone which can be heavily shaped as desired. Depending on EQ settings, the clean channel can reach overdrive for Drive Output levels above about 6-7, for a layered-distortion effect.

CRUNCH + LEAD OPTION: Using both switches engages the full-strength Lead gain for maximum overdrive, but the Output re-enters the Clean channel AFTER the 3-band EQ, to provide a "natural overdrive" alternative to the equalized overdrive of the Lead Option.



TIP: The Drive channel may also be pre-set as an alternative clean or edge-of-breakup sound by using less Drive Gain and more Drive Output. **TIP:** Due to psycho-acoustic factors, the ear tends to hear low volume overdrive as an artificial effect, so it is a good idea to initially explore overdrive at a reasonably robust volume level. Once you have heard how the amp "stretches out" at concert volume, you will have a better feel for the sound of the overdrive at low Master volumes.

EFFECTS LOOP: A rich assortment of pedals is half the fun of modern guitar playing, and the OD-200 is designed to optimize the performance of your pedal collection.

The **FX SEND** jack delivers a 1V signal to external effects. Chorus, delay, and reverb pedals will work very well here, since their sound will overlay cleanly on top of the overall sound of the amp, including any overdrive. For example, establish a nice overdrive sound and then listen to a dramatic swirly chorus effect, or a rich cascade of clean delay echoes overlaid on top of overdrive. The last device in the effects chain should be patched back to the **RETURN** jack.

Distortion or overdrive pedals should be used between the guitar and the amplifier input, so the amp's tone shaping can be applied to their sound. Effects pedals can be used before the amp input as well, but their sound will become increasingly buried if heavy overdrive is used.

HEADPHONE JACK: The outlet to the right of the FX LOOP will drive standard headphones to fairly loud levels, so we recommend you keep the Master below half. Since full range headphones will reproduce much more sizzle than standard guitar speakers, the Headphone signal has a gentle high frequency rolloff to "take the edge off" to reduce listening fatigue.

Using the headphone jack does not mute the speaker. It is OK to unplug the speaker, when using headphones only.



REAR PANEL - AC POWER, SPEAKERS

International Power Supply

The OD-200 works with all known worldwide AC voltages (100-250V), which allows you to play just about anywhere on the planet.



IEC Power Cord

Plug the power cord that comes with your amplifier into the AC inlet on the rear. Any normal 3-prong IEC cord may also be used with the amplifier. Always ensure that the ground contact is intact on both the cord and receptacle.

Speaker Output

Connect a single 8 or 16-ohm speaker to the lower jack, marked 8-OHMS.

Connect a single 4-ohm speaker to the upper jack, marked 4-OHMS.

For two 8-ohm speakers, or any other mix of impedances, plug one into each jack. Power will divide between the two speakers. The amplifier will not be bothered by impedance mismatches, so if the tone sounds OK, go for it!



CAUTION: The OD-200 can provide enough output to fry most single speakers, especially those built as exact re-issues of vintage 15-30W speakers. For safer results, use the MASTER to select a wattage limit that is equal or less than the speaker being used.

Caring For Your Amplifier

Clean the outer surfaces with a clean, damp cloth or vacuum with a soft brush. Never use any abrasives, harsh cleaners or solvents.

Your **Overdrive 200** is manufactured with high quality components using modern industrial processes that greatly reduce production defects. Each amplifier goes through an intensive testing process before it leaves the factory ensuring that your amplifiers will give you years of flawless service. There are no user-serviceable parts inside the amplifier. Any repairs should be performed by a trained service professional.

Always use the amplifier in a well-ventilated environment and protect from external heat sources such as furnaces or direct sunlight.

Prolonged high-volume playing causes heat buildup in the speaker which reduces its working lifetime. If you find it necessary to consistently use the amp at full volume, we recommend using a larger speaker, or extension speaker, to prolong speaker life and improve sound coverage.



SPECIFICATIONS:

AMPLIFIER MODULE SPECIFICATIONS		
Power Output:	0 to 200 watts maximum, 4-8 ohms	
AC Power Req.:	100–240Vac, 50–60 Hz, 250 W maximum	
Input Connections:	1⁄4" mono, 2M input impedance, 2V peak	
Effects Send:	¼" mono, 1V full scale, 600 ohms	
Effects Return	¼" mono, 1V full scale, 47K	
Headphone Output	1/4" stereo jack, 4V peak	
Speaker 1 Output:	8 ohms, up to 200 W recommended rating	
Speaker 2 Output:	4 ohms, up to 200 W recommended rating	
Dual Speakers 1+2	8 ohms each, 100W recommended rating	
DIMENSIONS		
HxWxD	3.15"(80mm) x 8.5" (216mm) x 5.8" (147mm)	
Weight	4 lbs (1.8kg)	

TROUBLESHOOTING:

Circuitry used in Quilter amplifiers is stable and there are no internal connections that might go bad. Generally, the amp works normally, or it doesn't pass a signal at all, or in rare cases noises or dropouts occur due to cracked parts. Movable parts such as controls and inputs can be damaged or corroded, but these faults are usually apparent when cycling controls or re-inserting inputs. Most faults are traced to external causes such as cables, speakers, or instruments. The following troubleshooting chart should help narrow down the cause.

Symptom	Action
No power, no lights	Ensure that the AC cord is fully seated and connected to a live source. Check the AC source by trying another device.
Amp shuts off then after a short time, turns back on	If amp feels very hot, thermal protection is activating. Reduce Master at least 30% and keep the amplifier out of direct sunlight or enclosed spaces. Amp normally runs only slightly warm. Continued intermittent behavior indicates need for servicing.

TROUBLESHOOTING CONTINUED:

Symptom	Action
Pilot light is on, but no sound (using a guitar)	Confirm that the MASTER control and the GAIN controls are both turned up. Ensure the guitar plug is fully seated at each end. Try using a different guitar cable. Check that the pickup selector switch and volume on the guitar are set correctly. Try a different instrument or audio device. Ensure that the rear panel speaker plug is fully inserted into the SPEAKER jack. Try headphones, to see if the speaker is bad.
Weak or fluctuating audio	Plug guitar directly into amp and unplug the FX Loop to isolate bad pedals. Check connections and power supply or batteries in pedal board. The amplifier will reduce power output in response to severe overheating before finally shutting down. If the amp feels too hot to touch comfortably, reduce Master and apply external cooling measures such as a sunshade and a fan.
Drive Channel switches don't work	The footswitch overrides the front panel controls. To use the panel switches, unplug the footswitch.
Background hum	 Ensure the guitar plug is fully inserted. Try using a different guitar cable. Make sure it is properly shielded. Any AC powered sources or effects should be plugged into the same receptacle or AC strip as the amplifier to help avoid ground loops. If the hum goes away when you turn down the guitar: Single coil pickups can pick up hum, especially from light dimmers or neon lights. Some guitars have "phase switching" pickup selectors that can sometimes help. Check that the guitar's cavities are well shielded. A thin "buzz" especially at partial guitar volume may indicate that the AC cord's ground pin has been defeated. This is dangerous and leads to noise.

TROUBLESHOOTING CONTINUED:

Symptom	Action
Excessive noise	At high gain settings, some audible hiss or whoosh is normal. Check your cables, guitar and other effects in the signal chain, especially for hum or buzz. "Chattering" and other recurring noises are usually caused by cellphones close to the guitar or amp.
Amp sounds garbled at all volumes	 Try a different speaker, especially if headphones sound clear. Caution: reduce MASTER volume until sound level has been confirmed. Try plugging instrument directly into the amp, and unplugging Effects Loop. If sound is then clean, check outboard processing for problems.
Desire clean tone, getting too much overdrive distortion	 Turn down the GAIN control and turn up MASTER. Confirm that speakers are in good condition. If the front panel switches don't work, the footswitch is engaged and overriding them.
Desire overdrive tone, not getting enough overdrive	Turn down MASTER and increase GAIN until the desired overdrive is obtained, then reset MASTER to desired loudness. Turn up guitar volume. Try higher output pickups. More MID will promote overdrive. If the front panel switches don't work, the footswitch is engaged and overriding them.

Amplifier Requires Service

If any of the events below occur, immediately unplug the amplifier and refer to a service technician.

- Amplifier or AC cord emits smoke
- Amplifier is dropped or chassis is dented or bent
- Liquid has been spilled into the amplifier
- Loose parts inside the amplifier are heard
- AC breaker trips

LIMITED TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY:

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT COMPLETELY. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, AS WELL AS LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. BY ACCEPTING DELIVERY OF THE PRODUCT(S), YOU AGREE TO BE BOUND BY AND ACCEPT THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Quilter Laboratories, LLC (Quilter Labs) guarantees its products to be free from defective material and/or workmanship and will replace defective parts and repair malfunctioning products under this warranty when the defect occurs under normal installation and use—provided the unit is returned to our factory via pre-paid transportation with a copy of proof of purchase. (i.e. sales receipt). This warranty provides that the examination of the return product must indicate, in our judgment, a manufacturing defect. This warranty does not extend to any product which has been subjected to misuse, neglect, accident, or where the date code or serial number has been defaced or removed. Quilter Labs shall not be liable for incidental and/or consequential damages. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. This limited warranty is freely transferable during the term of the warranty period. The warranty on Quilter products is NOT VALID if the products have been purchased from an unauthorized dealer/online e-tailer, or if the factory serial number has been removed, defaced, or replaced in any way.

Customers may have additional rights, which vary from state to state or from country to country. In the event that a provision of this limited warranty is void, prohibited or superseded by local laws, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect. The Quilter Labs limited warranty in the United States is valid for a period of three (3) years from date of purchase except that footswitches, covers, cabinets, handles, and cabinet hardware are warranted for a period of one (1) year and speakers, and all other included accessory products for a period of ninety (90) days from date of purchase.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETAIN YOUR SALES RECEIPT OR ONLINE ORDER RECORD, AS IT IS YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE COVERING YOUR LIMITED WARRANTY. TO TRANSFER THE WARRANTY TO A SUBSEQUENT PURCHAS-ER, YOU MUST ENDORSE THE SALE OF THE PRODUCT TO THE SUBSE-QUENT PURCHASER ON THE FRONT OF THE SALES RECEIPT. THIS LIMITED WARRANTY IS VOID WITHOUT SUCH ENDORSED SALES RECEIPT. Defective products that qualify for coverage under this warranty will be repaired or replaced, (at Quilter Labs' discretion) with a like or comparable product, without charge. To receive warranty service, return the complete product to Quilter Labs, LLC, with proof of purchase, during the applicable warranty period. The Quilter Labs Dealer from whom you purchased your product may also be authorized for warranty service and should be the first point of contact when service is required. TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS LIMITED WARRANTY. Any repair or service performed by any person or entity other than an Authorized Quilter Labs Electronics Service Center is not covered by this limited warranty. Other questions regarding this warranty can be answered by calling (714) 519-6114 or by contacting your authorized Quilter distributor. Email: info@quilterlabs.com

FACTORY SERVICE:

To return an amplifier to Quilter Labs for service under the warranty policy, please visit www.quilterlabs.com and fill out the Return Request Form. If you do not have access to the website, you may send a request by letter to Quilter Labs at 1700 Sunflower, Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Please include the serial number of the amplifier and a copy of your sales receipt. Instructions on how to send your amplifier will be provided.

Do not attempt to open the amplifier and service it yourself. Any attempt to service the amplifier by a non-authorized service technician may void your warranty.

FCC NOTICE:

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- · Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the product into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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