

# Bottle 'O Blues Harmonica Microphone Played through the Pignose Hog-20 Amp

You've purchased the ultimate portable harmonica rig. The Bottle 'O Blues microphone is a hand-made harmonica microphone designed specifically for playing the blues. The Pignose Hog-20 is a portable, rechargeable, 20W (peak power) amplifier with a surprisingly powerful sound. Power and portability is a combination that can't be beat!

The Pignose Hog-20 has four controls and an LED indicator on the front:

1. The chrome pignose knob on the right is the on/off control. Turn it to the right to turn on the amp. Don't forget to turn it off when you're finished playing to conserve the batteries.
2. The LED indicator indicates the battery status: green is good, red means the battery is low.
3. The SQUEAL control sets the amount of overdrive/distortion. Turn the knob to the right to increase distortion.
4. The VOLUME control sets the overall loudness of the amp.
5. The TONE control allows you to adjust the frequency response of the amp. The midrange position is labeled 0, and the knob can be adjusted between +/- 5. The negative side emphasizes bass (or cuts the highs), while the positive side emphasizes the highs (or cuts the bass).

Below are a few settings that I like to use with the Bottle 'O Blues microphone and Hog-20 amp:

1. Dirty Blues: SQUEAL = 5, TONE = -3
2. Mellow Distortion: SQUEAL = 3, TONE = -3
3. Super overdrive: SQUEAL = 8, TONE = -3
4. Clean with just a hint of overdrive: SQUEAL = 2, TONE = -3

Notice that I like to keep the TONE set to -3. The Hog-20 is a very bright amp so it's necessary to cut the highs in order to keep feedback under control and get a nice mellow tone. For my taste the TONE at -3 is just right. Below -4 the tone will tend to get muddy and you'll lose clarity in your playing. Above -1

the amp is too harsh with harmonica. Experiment and see what works best for you.

#### Pignose Hog-20 Battery Management:

1. Pignose claims 6-10 hours of playing time with a fully charged battery. This is just an average and depends on how loud the amp is played. The most I've used mine is 4 hours and the battery LED was still green.
2. The Hog-20 battery will last a long time if treated properly. If mistreated it will die and have to be replaced. The key to a long and happy relationship with your Hog-20 battery is to keep it charged. NEVER leave the battery uncharged for a long period of time. The best procedure is to always charge the battery after playing. There is a common misconception that many people have after reading the Pignose instruction sheet - it is NOT necessary to play the amp until the battery is empty before charging it. Anytime you play the amp it's a good idea to go ahead and recharge it.
3. The Hog-20 does not have to be turned on to charge the battery. When you're finished playing plug in the charger and turn off the amp.
4. If the indicator LED turns red when playing, this means your battery is low. If you're near an AC outlet it's OK to go ahead and plug in the charger and keep playing. Other signs of a low battery condition include a reduction in volume or an overly distorted sound.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. If you like it, show it to your friends and other harp players. Word-of-mouth is the best advertising.

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*Jim McBride*