

**Fender<sup>®</sup>**

THE SOUND THAT CREATES LEGENDS

**"Custom" VIBRASONIC™  
Owner's Manual**

P/N 049515

## INTRODUCTION

The Fender Amp Custom Shop is dedicated to creating high quality amplification to serve top artists and discriminating players. These amps offer no-compromise sound and performance with vintage appeal and bullet-proof construction. Of course, things like point-to-point wiring do not come cheap. To better serve those who cannot afford the 100% hand-wired custom amps, Fender has created the New Vintage Series, using modern production methods to reduce cost while keeping the tone "custom".

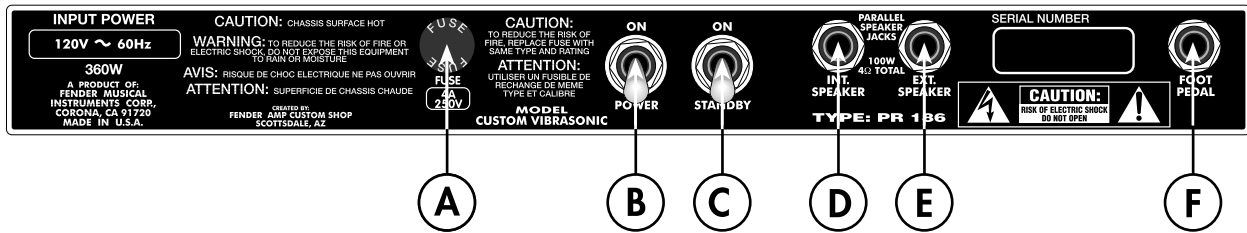
The first Vibrasonic appeared in 1959 as a 40 watt combo amp with 2 channels, tremolo and a 15" speaker. It became the choice of steel guitarists of the era. Later years saw the Vibrasonic evolve, gaining reverb and growing from 40 watts to over 100 watts.

In the spirit of all the great Vibrasonics of yesterday, we offer the "Custom" Vibrasonic of today. It is not a reissue of any of the old units, rather, it is a new amplifier designed for the multi-instrumentalist who requires versatility and clean power along with the classic Fender tube tone. It has 100 watts of tube power and 2 independent channels. And just like the Fender custom amps, the "Custom" Vibrasonic is painstakingly built, one at a time, by a select group of craftsmen at the Fender electronics factory in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

The two channels are voiced independently, one for steel guitar (although it sounds great with many electric guitars as well), and one for 6 string electric guitar. The STEEL channel has a "SWEET" switch to boost the upper harmonics of the steel guitar. The GUITAR channel has a "FAT" switch to boost the gain, especially at low frequencies. It is equipped with all-tube generated reverb and vibrato which, unlike many old amps, works in both channels. The speaker in the "Custom" Vibrasonic is an Eminence ultra-high power driver with exceptional sound and fidelity for electric or pedal steel guitar. The 2 button footswitch (provided) will switch both the Vibrato and the Reverb on or off.

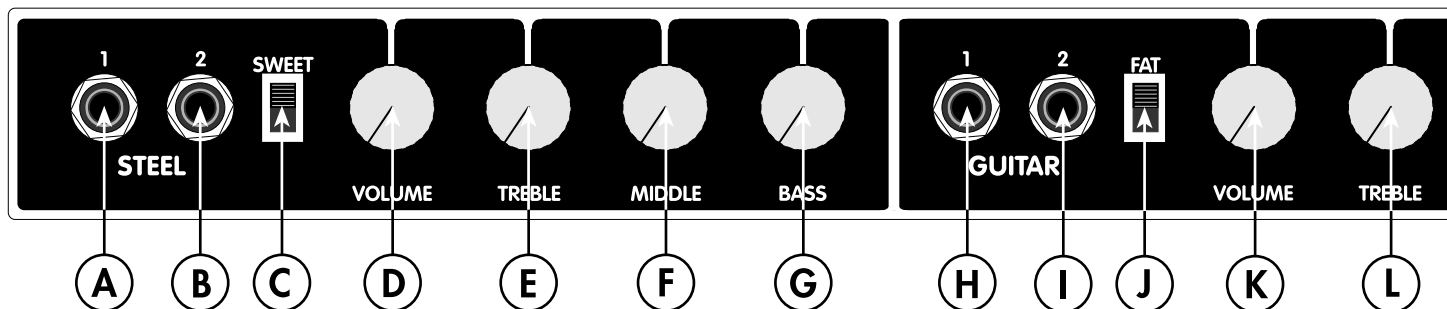
It is suggested that you read this manual thoroughly to understand all the features and functions of your new amplifier.

**WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE AMPLIFIER TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**



## "CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC REAR PANEL FUNCTIONS

- A. FUSE** - The fuse is in the AC supply of the amplifier and will help to protect the amplifier and operator in the event of an electrical fault. If a fuse blows, it should only be replaced with a fuse in accordance with the listing at the fuse holder. If the amplifier repeatedly blows fuses, it should be checked out by a qualified technician. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** should a fuse of a different type, higher current rating, or a fuse bypass be used, as this could damage the equipment and present a serious safety hazard.
- B. POWER SWITCH** - This switch turns the AC power ON and OFF. When the switch is OFF, the amplifier is completely shut down.
- C. STANDBY SWITCH** - This switch turns the amplifier on and off. In the STANDBY position, the amplifier is off; however, power is applied to the tube filaments so as to eliminate warm-up time. Use of this feature during short breaks versus using the POWER SWITCH will increase tube life.
- D. MAIN SPEAKER JACK** - Plug-in connection for speakers. This jack must always be used as the primary connection to speakers.
- E. EXTERNAL SPEAKER JACK** - Plug-in connection for an external speaker. This jack is wired in parallel with the MAIN SPEAKER JACK, and must only be used in conjunction with the MAIN SPEAKER JACK. Should the EXTERNAL SPEAKER JACK be used without also using the MAIN SPEAKER JACK, there will be no sound. Note that the amplifier is optimized for a 4 ohm speaker load, and that the 15" speaker in the cabinet is 4 ohms. Should a total load of more or less than 4 ohms be used, the amplifier will not put out its maximum power output before distortion occurs.
- F. FOOTSWITCH JACK** - Plug-in connection for the footswitch. The footswitch allows you to turn the VIBRATO and REVERB features on and off without having to operate the controls on the front panel. Note that only the REVERB feature will operate without plugging in the footswitch.



## "CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC FRONT PANEL FUNCTIONS

**A,B. STEEL CHANNEL INPUTS** - Plug-in connection for instruments. Input 1 provides 6 dB more gain than input 2. The STEEL channel is affected by both the REVERB and VIBRATO features.

**C. SWEET SWITCH** - This switch provides an extra boost to the high frequency response of the STEEL channel. The effect is especially noticeable at lower volume settings.

**D. STEEL CHANNEL VOLUME CONTROL** - Adjusts the overall loudness of the STEEL channel.

**E. TREBLE CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of high frequency boost (accentuation) or cut (attenuation) in the STEEL channel.

**F. MIDDLE CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of mid-range frequency boost or cut in the STEEL channel.

**G. BASS CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of low frequency boost or cut in the STEEL channel.

Note: If all tone controls are full counter-clockwise, there will be no sound.

**H,I. GUITAR CHANNEL INPUTS** - Plug-in connection for instruments. Input 1 provides 6 dB more gain than input 2. The GUITAR channel is affected by both the REVERB and VIBRATO features.

**J. FAT SWITCH** - This switch provides an extra boost to the low frequency response of the GUITAR channel.

**K. GUITAR CHANNEL VOLUME CONTROL** - Adjusts the overall loudness of GUITAR channel.

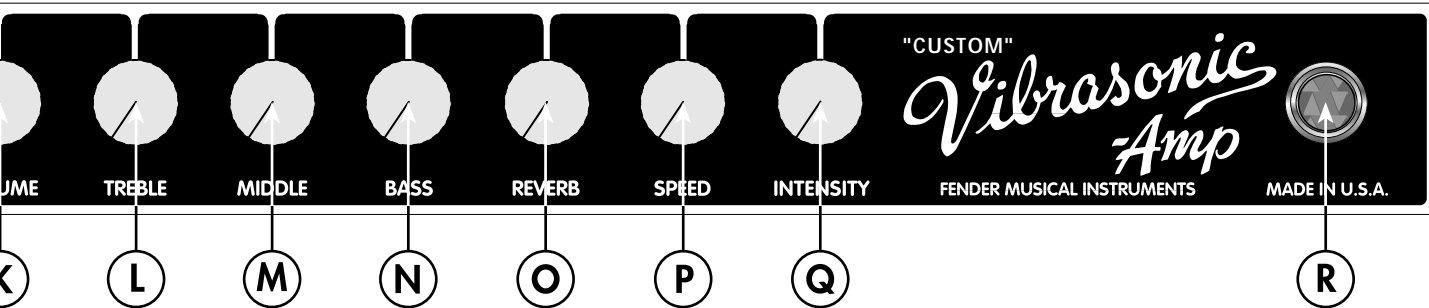
**L. TREBLE CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of high frequency boost or cut in the GUITAR channel.

**M. MIDDLE CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of mid-range frequency boost or cut in the GUITAR channel.

**N. BASS CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of low frequency boost or cut in the GUITAR channel.

Note: If all tone controls are full counter-clockwise, there will be no sound.

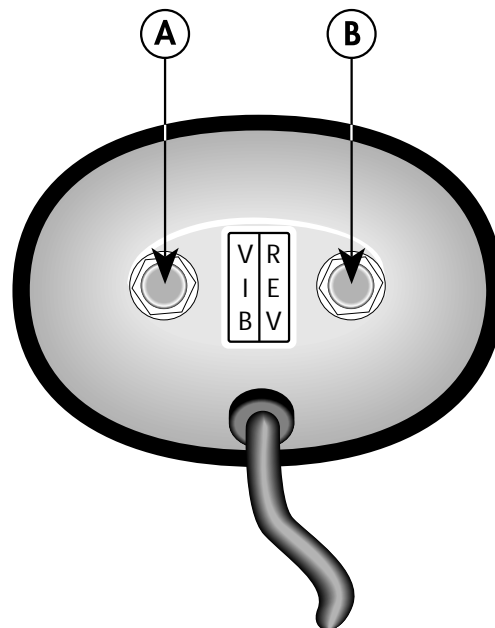
**O. REVERB CONTROL** - Adjusts the amount of reverberated signal that is mixed in with the original dry signal. Turning the control full counter-clockwise turns the REVERB feature off. The REVERB feature can also be turned on and off using the footswitch.



- P. **VIBRATO SPEED CONTROL** - Adjusts the speed of the VIBRATO feature.
- Q. **VIBRATO INTENSITY CONTROL** - Adjusts the intensity of the VIBRATO feature. Turning the control full counter-clockwise turns the VIBRATO feature off. The VIBRATO feature can also be turned on and off using the footswitch.
- R. **PILOT LAMP** - When the lamp is illuminated, the "CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC is receiving power. Should the lamp burn out, turn the power off, unscrew the red jewel and replace the lamp with a type T47 light bulb.

**"CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC FOOTSWITCH FUNCTIONS**

- A. **VIBRATO SWITCH** - Push on, push off switch that turns the VIBRATO feature on and off.
- B. **REVERB SWITCH** - Push on, push off switch that turns the REVERB feature on and off.



## ADJUSTMENTS

**HUM BALANCE ADJUSTMENT** - This adjustment minimizes hum heard at the speakers. It is set at the factory, and needs to be adjusted only if any of the smaller tubes, especially one of the 12AX7As, are replaced.

To make hum adjustment: with nothing plugged into the amplifier, rotate the STEEL channel volume, middle, and bass controls full clockwise. Rotate the GUITAR channel treble control, and all the STEEL channel controls full counter-clockwise. Turn REVERB and VIBRATO features off.

Insert a slotted screwdriver into the HUM BALANCE CONTROL (located on the bottom of the chassis) and rotate it back and forth until you find the null (setting of minimum hum). If you have any questions, consult your authorized Fender Service Center.

**BIAS ADJUSTMENT** - This is a factory adjustment only. Should the bias need adjusting, it should be performed by your authorized Fender Service Center.

## LINE CORD

Your amplifier is equipped with a grounding type supply cord to reduce the possibility of shock due to electrical fault. Be sure to connect it to a grounded receptacle. **DO NOT ALTER THE AC PLUG.**

## TUBES

The "CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC tube complement consists of four Fender Special Design 6L6GCs (part number 023556), five Fender Special Design 12AX7As (part number 013341), and one Fender Special Design 12AT7 (part number 023531). Fender's Special Design Tubes provide optimum performance in this amplifier. For best results, replace with Fender original equipment tubes only. Tube location is printed on the tube label, inside the cabinet.

## BLACK TOLEX COVERING CARE

The exclusive Fender Tolex covering on your cabinet is especially designed to provide years of lasting beauty. A very light soapy solution on a sponge may be used to remove dirt and residue that may accumulate in the grain. Be careful not to let any liquid come in contact with operating surfaces. **DO NOT** have the amplifier plugged into a power outlet when cleaning.

## TROUBLESHOOTER'S CHECKLIST

- If the amp is set up but does not function, check the following items:
- Is the amp power cord properly plugged into an electrical outlet?
- Is there power at the outlet?
- Is the fuse blown?
- Is the speaker properly connected to the amplifier?
- Is the amp on standby?
- Are the amplifier volume and tone controls turned up above "three"?
- Is the volume control on the instrument turned up?
- Is your instrument properly plugged into the amplifier?  
(Eliminate any effects pedals and try another guitar cord)

If, after checking all of the above, the system is not performing correctly, consult your Fender Service Center.

## **"CUSTOM" VIBRASONIC SPECIFICATIONS**

PART NUMBER:	100V	021-5270-000
	120V	021-5200-000
	230V	021-5260-000
	230V UK	021-5240-000
	230V NORDIC	021-5280-000
	240V AUSTRALIA	021-5230-000
	DIMENSIONS:	HEIGHT:
WIDTH:		26-5/32" (63.5 cm).
DEPTH:		10-3/8" (21.9 cm).
WEIGHT:		71 lb (32.3 kg).
POWER OUTPUT:	100W R.M.S. minimum into 4 $\Omega$ .	
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE:	4 $\Omega$ .	
INPUT IMPEDANCE:	Input 1, both channels: 1 M $\Omega$ .	
	Input 2, both channels: 132 k $\Omega$ .	
FEATURES:	Vibrato, Reverb, Tilt-back legs, Casters.	
POWER REQUIREMENTS:	100V AC 50/60 Hz 360W.	
	120V AC 50 Hz 360W.	
	230V AC 50 Hz 360W.	
	240V AC 50 Hz 360W.	
SPEAKER COMPLIMENT:	(1) P/N 049135 15" "Special Design".	
SOUND:	Legendary, and loud!	

WARNING: NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE, REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONAL ONLY.  
WARNING: THIS EQUIPMENT MUST BE EARTH GROUNDED.

A PRODUCT OF:  
**FENDER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS CORP.,**  
**CORONA, CA 91720**