

*Harley Benton*

GPA-400

stereo guitar  
power amp

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# 1 General information

This manual contains important instructions for the safe operation of the unit. Read and follow the safety instructions and all other instructions. Keep the manual for future reference. Make sure that it is available to all those using the device. If you sell the unit please make sure that the buyer also receives this manual.

Our products are subject to a process of continuous development. Thus, they are subject to change.

## 1.1 Further information

On our website ([www.thomann.de](http://www.thomann.de)) you will find lots of further information and details on the following points:

Download	This manual is also available as PDF file for you to download.
Keyword search	Use the search function in the electronic version to find the topics of interest for you quickly.
Online guides	Our online guides provide detailed information on technical basics and terms.
Personal consultation	For personal consultation please contact our technical hotline.
Service	If you have any problems with the device the customer service will gladly assist you.

## 1.2 Notational conventions

This manual uses the following notational conventions:



### Letterings

The letterings for connectors and controls are marked by square brackets and italics.

**Examples:** *[VOLUME]* control, *[Mono]* button.

## 1.3 Symbols and signal words

In this section you will find an overview of the meaning of symbols and signal words that are used in this manual.

Signal word	Meaning
<b>DANGER!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates an immediate dangerous situation that will result in death or serious injury if it is not avoided.
<b>CAUTION!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in minor injury if it is not avoided.
<b>NOTICE!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in material and environmental damage if it is not avoided.
Warning signs	Type of danger
	Warning – high-voltage.
	Warning – danger zone.

## 2 Safety instructions

### Intended use

This device amplifies electric audio frequency signals to operate passive speakers. Use the device only as described in this user manual. Any other use or use under other operating conditions is considered to be improper and may result in personal injury or property damage. No liability will be assumed for damages resulting from improper use.

This device may be used only by persons with sufficient physical, sensorial, and intellectual abilities and having corresponding knowledge and experience. Other persons may use this device only if they are supervised or instructed by a person who is responsible for their safety.

### Safety



#### **DANGER!**

#### **Danger for children**

Ensure that plastic bags, packaging, etc. are disposed of properly and are not within reach of babies and young children. Choking hazard!

Ensure that children do not detach any small parts (e.g. knobs or the like) from the unit. They could swallow the pieces and choke!

Never let children unattended use electrical devices.





**DANGER!**

**Electric shock caused by high voltages inside**

Within the device there are areas where high voltages may be present. Never remove any covers.

There are no user-serviceable parts inside.

Do not use the device if covers, protectors or optical components are missing or damaged.



**DANGER!**

**Electric shock caused by short-circuit**

Always use proper ready-made insulated mains cabling (power cord) with a protective contact plug. Do not modify the mains cable or the plug. Failure to do so could result in electric shock/death or fire. If in doubt, seek advice from a registered electrician.



**CAUTION!**

**Possible hearing damage**

With loudspeakers or headphones connected, the device can produce volume levels that may cause temporary or permanent hearing impairment.

Do not operate the device permanently at a high volume level. Decrease the volume level immediately if you experience ringing in your ears or hearing impairment.



**NOTICE!**

**Risk of fire**

Do not block areas of ventilation. Do not install the device near any direct heat source. Keep the device away from naked flames.



**NOTICE!**

**Operating conditions**

This device has been designed for indoor use only. To prevent damage, never expose the device to any liquid or moisture. Avoid direct sunlight, heavy dirt, and strong vibrations.



**NOTICE!**

**Power supply**

Before connecting the device, ensure that the input voltage (AC outlet) matches the voltage rating of the device and that the AC outlet is protected by a residual current circuit breaker. Failure to do so could result in damage to the device and possibly injure the user.

Unplug the device before electrical storms occur and when it is unused for long periods of time to reduce the risk of electric shock or fire.



### **NOTICE!**

#### **Magnetic fields**

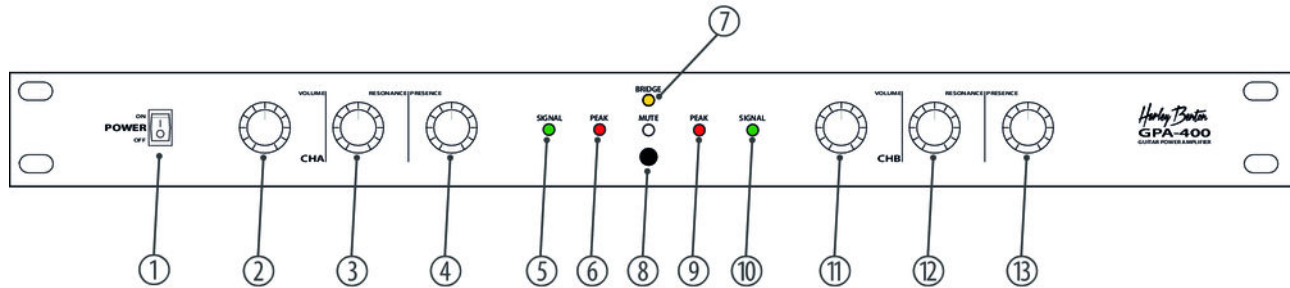
The device generates strong magnetic fields that can interfere with the function of poorly shielded devices. The strongest magnetic fields are directly above and below the power amplifier. Therefore, never place sensitive devices such as pre-amplifiers, radio transmission systems, or tape decks directly above or below the power amplifier. When installing the power amplifier into a rack, you should place it in the lowest position, and further equipment such as pre-amplifiers in the highest position.

### 3 Features

- Maximum output power 400 W @ 8  $\Omega$
- Operating modes: Bridged Mono, Stereo
- Volume, Resonance and Presence adjustable per channel
- Fanless operation

## 4 Connections and operating elements

### Front panel



1 [POWER ON | OFF]

Main switch to turn the device on and off.

2 [VOLUME]

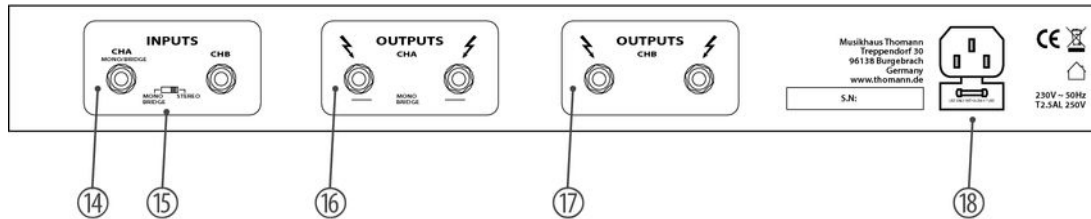
Volume control for channel A.

3	<i>[RESONANCE]</i> Resonance control for channel A.
4	<i>[PRESENCE]</i> Presence control for channel A
5	<i>[SIGNAL]</i> Indicator LED (green). This LED lights up when the device is turned on and a signal is present in channel A.
6	<i>[PEAK]</i> Indicator LED (red). This LED lights up when Channel A is overloaded by an excessive input signal.
7	<i>[BRIDGE]</i> Indicator LED (yellow). This LED lights up when the unit is operating in Bridged mode.
8	<i>[MUTE]</i> Switch to mute the device. The white indicator LED lights up when the unit is muted.
9	<i>[PEAK]</i> Indicator LED (red). This LED lights up when Channel B is overloaded by an excessive input signal.

10	<i>[SIGNAL]</i> Indicator LED (green). This LED lights up when the device is turned on and a signal is present in channel B.
11	<i>[VOLUME]</i> Volume control for channel B.
12	<i>[RESONANCE]</i> Resonance control for channel B.
13	<i>[PRESENCE]</i> Presence control for channel B.



Rear panel



14	<p><i>[INPUTS]</i> Input sockets for channels A and B.</p>
15	<p><i>[Mono Bridge Stereo]</i> Switch to toggle between bridged mono operation via channel A and stereo operation via channels A and B.</p>
16	<p><i>[OUTPUTS CHA]</i> Output sockets for connecting a passive speaker box in bridged mono mode (channel A).</p>

17 *[OUTPUTS CHB]*

Output sockets to connect a second passive speaker box in stereo mode (channels A and B).

18 Mains chassis plug with fuse holder.

## 5 Installation and starting up

Unpack and carefully check that there is no transportation damage before using the unit. Keep the equipment packaging. To fully protect the device against vibration, dust and moisture during transportation or storage use the original packaging or your own packaging material suitable for transport or storage, respectively.

Create all connections while the device is off. Use the shortest possible high-quality cables for all connections. Take care when running the cables to prevent tripping hazards.



### **NOTICE!**

#### **Magnetic fields**

The device generates strong magnetic fields that can interfere with the function of poorly shielded devices. The strongest magnetic fields are directly above and below the power amplifier. Therefore, never place sensitive devices such as pre-amplifiers, radio transmission systems, or tape decks directly above or below the power amplifier. When installing the power amplifier into a rack, you should place it in the lowest position, and further equipment such as pre-amplifiers in the highest position.

### **Rack mounting**

The unit has been designed for rack mounting in a standard 19-inch rack; it occupies one rack unit.

## 5.1 Tips on handling speakers

We recommend you to set up the speakers in a way, that the sound signals can reach the audience unobstructedly. It will often be helpful to mount the speakers on tripods. Thus, the sound will be evenly spread with maximum range throughout the audience area.

Always use high grade cable to connect your equipment. Otherwise you won't reach maximum sound quality.

For optimum results both impedance and power handling of the speakers must match the requirements of the amplifier. Always follow the technical specifications of the speakers! The overall impedance of the connected loudspeakers must not exceed the minimum output impedance of the amp. The amp's max. RMS output power should be 50 % above the power handling capacity of the connected speakers.

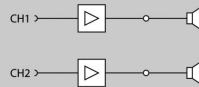
If you notice distortion during operation, either the amp or the speaker is overloaded. This may permanently damage the amp or the speaker. Always reduce the volume when you hear distortion.

## 5.2 Additional useful tips

### Possible operation modes

Depending on the respective application, the guitar amp can be used in various modes:

#### Stereo



Both power amp channels operate independently of each other, each input (CHA and CHB) is amplified by one channel, speakers are connected to both channels, the volume for both outputs can be controlled separately.

#### Bridged



Both power amp channels are internally wired for providing double the output power. Only the signal from input CHA is amplified, speakers are only connected to the accordingly labelled output. Use volume control CHA to adjust the volume.

On each output of the amplifier, the overall impedance resulting from the individual impedances of the connected speakers must not fall below the minimum allowable impedance of the amp's output. If you connect more than one loudspeaker to an amplifier output, please note the following:

- If the loudspeakers are connected in a series, the individual impedances will be added up.
- If the loudspeakers are connected in parallel, the reciprocal of the total impedance equals the sum of the reciprocals of the individual impedances.

Example: If you have two loudspeakers with the same impedance, their impedance doubles if they are connected in a series, their impedance halves if they are connected in parallel.

Detailed information on this topic can be found in our online guide 'Speakers' ([www.thomann.de](http://www.thomann.de)).

## 6 Technical specifications

Output power	2 × 50 W @ 16 Ω
	2 × 100 W @ 8 Ω
	2 × 200 W @ 4 Ω
	200 W, bridged @ 16 Ω
	400 W, bridged @ 8 Ω
Frequency range	20 Hz...20 kHz
Input sensitivity	335 mV
Input impedance	balanced: 20 kΩ
	unbalanced: 10 kΩ
Signal-to-noise ratio, A-weighted	> 90 dB
Damping factor	> 80
THD	< 0.15 %



Cooling	fanless
Power consumption on 1/8 rated output	70 W (max. 300 W)
Operating supply voltage	AC 230 V ~, 50 Hz
Fuse	5 mm × 20 mm, 2.5 A, 250 V, slow blow
Dimensions (W × H × D)	482 mm × 44 mm × 250 mm
Weight	3 kg

## 7 Plug and connection assignment

### Introduction

This chapter will help you select the right cables and plugs to connect your valuable equipment in such a way that a perfect sound experience is ensured.

Please note these advices, because especially in 'Sound & Light' caution is indicated: Even if a plug fits into the socket, an incorrect connection may result in a destroyed power amp, a short circuit or 'just' in poor transmission quality!

### Balanced and unbalanced transmission

Unbalanced transmission is mainly used in semi-professional environment and in hifi use. Instrument cables with two conductors (one core plus shielding) are typical representatives of the unbalanced transmission. One conductor is ground and shielding while the signal is transmitted through the core.

Unbalanced transmission is susceptible to electromagnetic interference, especially at low levels, such as microphone signals and when using long cables.

In a professional environment, therefore, the balanced transmission is preferred, because this enables an undisturbed transmission of signals over long distances. In addition to the conductors 'Ground' and 'Signal', in a balanced transmission a second core is added. This also transfers the signal, but phase-shifted by 180°.

Since the interference affects both cores equally, by subtracting the phase-shifted signals, the interfering signal is completely neutralized. The result is a pure signal without any noise interference.

**1/4" TS phone plug (mono, unbalanced)**



1	Signal
2	Ground, shielding

**1/4" TRS phone plug (stereo, unbalanced)**



1	Signal (left)
2	Signal (right)
3	Ground

## 8 Cleaning

### Fan grids

The fan grids of the device must be cleaned on a regular basis to remove dust and dirt. Before cleaning, switch off the device and disconnect AC-powered devices from the mains. Use a lint-free damp cloth for cleaning. Never use solvents or alcohol for cleaning.

## 9 Protecting the environment

### Disposal of the packaging material



For the transport and protective packaging, environmentally friendly materials have been chosen that can be supplied to normal recycling.

Ensure that plastic bags, packaging, etc. are properly disposed of.

Do not just dispose of these materials with your normal household waste, but make sure that they are collected for recycling. Please follow the notes and markings on the packaging.

### Disposal of your old device



This product is subject to the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) in its currently valid version. Do not dispose with your normal household waste.

Dispose of this device through an approved waste disposal firm or through your local waste facility. When discarding the device, comply with the rules and regulations that apply in your country. If in doubt, consult your local waste disposal facility.





