

*Harley Benton*

Block-300B  
bass head



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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 is intended to be used for the amplification of signals from musical instruments with electromagnetic pickups. 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**

The device can produce volume levels that may cause temporary or permanent hearing impairment. Over an extended period of time, even levels that seem to be uncritical can cause hearing damage.

Decrease the volume level immediately if you experience ringing in your ears or hearing impairment. If this is not possible, keep a greater distance or use sufficient ear protectors.



**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!**

#### **Possible staining**

The plasticiser contained in the rubber feet of this product may possibly react with the coating of your parquet, linoleum, laminate or PVC floor and after some time cause permanent dark stains.

In case of doubt, do not put the rubber feet directly on the floor, but use felt-pad floor protectors or a carpet.

### 3 Features

This powerful bass head is characterized by the following special features:

- Compact, lightweight design
- Output power: 300 watt @ 4 Ω
- Class-D ICE power amp
- 5-band equalizer
- D.I. output with pre / post & lift / ground switch
- Input sensitivity switchable for active or passive basses
- Line input with volume control for rehearsing
- Headphones output
- Gigbag optionally available (item no. 194575)

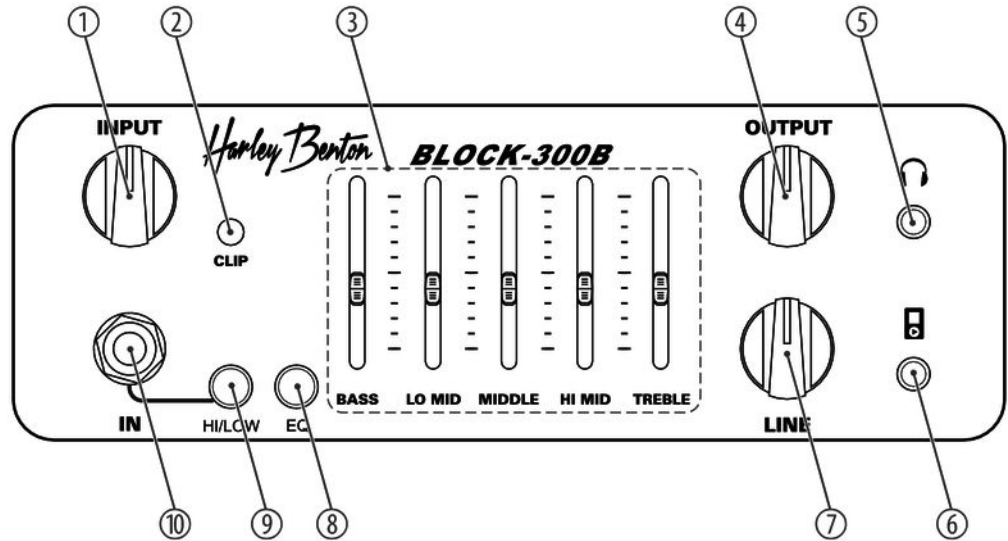
## 4 Installation and starting up

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.

## 5 Connections and operating elements


### Front panel



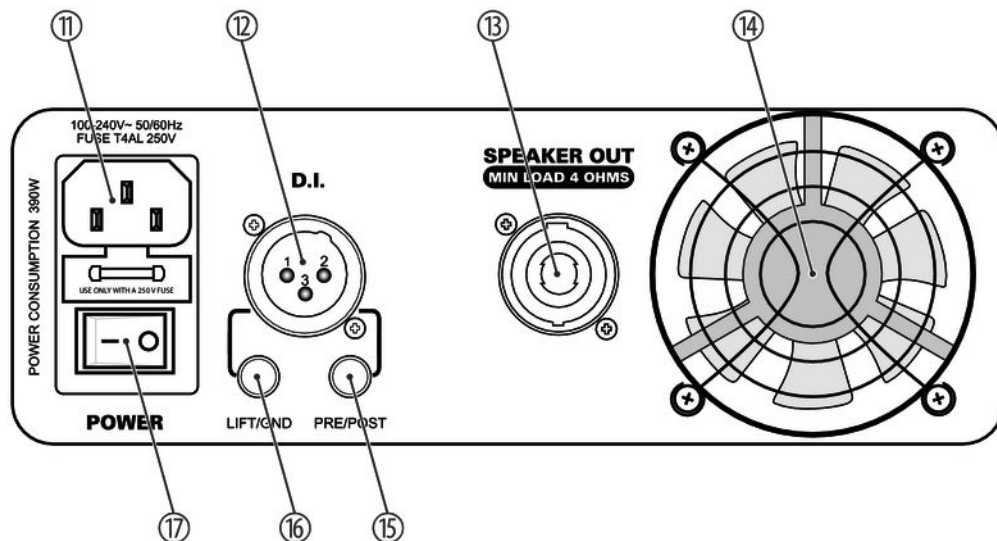
Block-300B

1	<i>[INPUT]</i> Preamp volume control. If the <i>[CLIP]</i> LED lights up red, this controller must be turned counter-clockwise until the LED turns green again. If some EQ band levels have been changed, re-adjusting the <i>[INPUT]</i> control may be necessary.
2	<i>[CLIP]</i> The LED lights up green when the device is turned on. It lights up red when the signal is clipping. Then turn the <i>[INPUT]</i> control counter-clockwise until the LED turns green again.
3	<i>[BASS] / [LO MID] / [MIDDLE] / [HI MID] / [TREBLE]</i> Controls for raising or attenuating the bass / lower mids / mids / upper mids / treble
4	<i>[OUTPUT]</i> Master volume control
5	 3.5 mm jack output to connect head phones
6	 3.5 mm jack input for connecting a line level player, e.g. MP3 player or mobile phone



7	<i>[LINE]</i> Volume control for the  input
8	<i>[EQ]</i> Enables or disables the EQ. Slider control is only possible if the EQ is enabled.
9	<i>[HI/LOW]</i> Switch for the sensitivity and impedance of the <i>[IN]</i> . When using passive instruments, this switch should be in the <i>[HI]</i> position (not pressed), otherwise the input level is not sufficient to fully drive the amplifier. When using active instruments, this switch should be in the <i>[LOW]</i> position (pressed), otherwise clipping and thus a preamp overload can easily occur, resulting in very disturbing-sounding distortions.
10	<i>[IN]</i> 1/4" jack socket to connect an electric bass

Rear panel



11	<i>[POWER]</i> IEC chassis plug for mains connection with fuse holder
12	<i>[D.I.]</i> Balanced direct-output with MIC level for connection to a mixer, directly to a PA system or for recording
13	<i>[SPEAKER OUT]</i> Speakon speaker output for connecting suitable speaker boxes. The overall impedance of the connected load must not fall below 4 Ω.
14	Housing fan
15	<i>[PRE/POST]</i> This switch determines where the DI signal is tapped. In <i>[PRE]</i> position, the signal is tapped before tone control and compressor, in <i>[POST]</i> position behind it.

16 *[LIFT/GND]*

This switch disconnects or connects the ground potential of the DI output and the device ground. In *[LIFT]* position (released), the device ground is disconnected. This can possibly eliminate noise caused by ground loops, that may occur when connecting the device to other grounded equipment. In *[GND]* position (pressed), the device ground is connected.

17 Mains switch to turn the device on and off

## 6 Technical specifications

Amp class	Class-D ICE	
Input impedance	High	1.5 M $\Omega$
	Low	32 k $\Omega$
	Line	60 k $\Omega$
Output impedance	D.I.	470 $\Omega$ (balanced)
Frequency bands	Bass	50 Hz +/- 10 dB
	Lower mids	180 Hz +/- 10 dB
	Mids	660 Hz +/- 10 dB
	Upper mids	3 kHz +/- 10 dB
	Treble	12.5 kHz +/- 10 dB
Output power	Speaker	max. 300 W, 4 $\Omega$ minimum load
Signal-to-noise ratio	> 80 dB (A-weighted)	

## Technical specifications

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Total harmonic distortion (THD)	< 0.5 %	
Power consumption	390 W	
Operating supply voltage	100 - 240 V ~ 50/60 Hz	
Fuse	5 mm × 20 mm, 4 A, 250 V, slow-blow	
Dimensions (W × H × D)	200 mm × 80 mm × 200 mm	
Weight	1.55 kg	
Ambient conditions	Temperature range	0 °C...40 °C
	Relative humidity	50 %, non-condensing

### Further information

Gigbag	Optional (item no. 194575)
Compressor	No
Limiter	No

Effects processor	No
External effects loop	No
Rack format	No

## 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 (mono, balanced)**



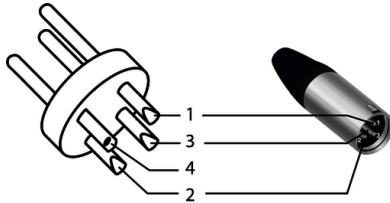
1	Signal (in phase, +)
2	Signal (out of phase, -)
3	Ground

## Three-pole 1/8" mini phone jack (stereo, unbalanced)



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

## XLR plug (balanced)



1	Ground, shielding
2	Signal (in phase, +)
3	Signal (out of phase, -)
4	Shielding on plug housing (option)

## 8 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.



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