

# *Blue Bel Aire*

Hand Crafted Tube Guitar Amplifier



## Vintage Vacuum Tube Amps

2580 B Old Washington Rd.

Waldorf, MD 20601

301-396-4100

[www.vvtamps.com](http://www.vvtamps.com)

### Important Information:

1. Please read all of the information contained in this document.
2. **HUM** - Some hum or amplified noise is normal. As the volume is increased some amplified noise may be noticeable and will be more apparent in a small quiet room. Additionally, tubes have inherent noise as do resistors. However, excessive hum (noise) can be caused by electronic devices located near the amp or on the same circuit such as neon signs, fridges, fluorescent lights, computers, light dimmers, aquarium pumps, etc. Hum can vary with different outlets, rooms or buildings.
3. Do not operate this amp without a speaker load

# CAUTION

## RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK

**WARNING:** This guitar amplifier contains lethal HIGH VOLTAGE. To avoid risk of injury or death from electric shock, do not open the enclosure or remove the back cover from the amplifier. Refer all service work to qualified personnel.

**WARNING:** This amplifier contains Vacuum Tubes. Vacuum tubes are heated to produce electrical currents and they get HOT. Touching this surface could result in bodily injury. To reduce the risk of injury from a hot component, allow the surface to cool before touching. DO NOT touch or attempt to remove vacuum tubes until they have had time to cool.

**IMPORTANT! FOR YOUR PROTECTION, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

**WATER AND MOISTURE:** This amplifier should not be used near water (near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc). Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.

**POWER SOURCES:** The amplifier should only be connected to a 120VAC household power source.

**GROUNDING OR POLARIZATION:** Precautions should be taken so that the grounding or polarization is not defeated. Do not remove the ground from the power cord.

**POWER CORD PROTECTION:** Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the amplifier.

**SERVICING:** You should not attempt to service this amp beyond that described in the operating instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

**FUSING:** Your amplifier is equipped with two marked fuse receptacles, replace only with the same type fuse.

## **MAINTAINING YOUR AMPLIFIER**

1. Conductive foreign objects could produce a short circuit that could cause fire, electric shock, or damage to your amplifier. Avoid spilling liquids or allowing any other foreign matter inside the unit. The panel of your unit can be wiped from time to time with a dry or slightly damp cloth in order to remove dust and bring back the new look. As with all electronic equipment, avoid prolonged use in caustic environments (salt air). If used in such an environment, be sure the amplifier is adequately protected.
2. Your amp was designed for an 8 Ohm speaker load. The speaker load is reflected back to the primary of the output transformer and output tubes. **DO NOT** operate this amplifier with any speaker load other than that specified. **DO NOT** operate this amp without a speaker load. Failure to follow these instructions could seriously damage your amp and may void any warranty.
3. The vacuum tubes in your amplifier are not solid state devices. They do, and will wear out over time. The life expectancy of the tubes depends on the amount of time you use your amplifier. If you replace your tubes they should be replaced with the same type as originally installed. New Old Stock (NOS) 6V6 output tubes are **NOT** recommended because they are not designed to handle the plate voltage in this amp. VVT amps only guarantees tubes originally installed/delivered with the amplifier.
4. The tolex fabric covering the cabinet should be cleaned periodically with a soft damp cloth. Make sure that the amp is turned off and unplugged before cleaning the cabinet. **Do NOT** use spray cleaners as overspray may cause corrosion of the faceplate, chassis, or electrical components. Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight. Do not allow the amplifier to get wet. Don't set your drink on it either. Use care when moving or storing the amp; the tolex could rip or tear. Accidental damage to the cabinet or tolex is not covered by your warranty.

## **USING YOUR AMPLIFIER**

1. **POWER** Switch: In the ON position Applies 120VAC to the power transformer. In the OFF position removes 120VAC from the power transformer.
2. **STANDBY** Switch: In the OFF position, the STANDBY Switch allows voltage to the tube filaments but stops high DC voltages to the tubes. When you turn the amp on, allow the tubes to warm up 10 or 15 seconds before placing the STANDBY switch in the ON position. The amp will not operate unless the STANDBY switch is in the ON position.
3. **INPUT** Jack: Guitar/Instrument input.
4. **BRIGHT** Switch: Down – Normal; Up - Bright
5. **VOLUME** Control: Controls the loudness of the guitar or instruments plugged into the INPUT Jack..
6. **STONE** Controls: Treble, Bass.
7. **REVERB** Control: Adjusts the reverb level.

### **IF YOUR AMPLIFIER WILL NOT TURN ON**

Check the power to the unit. Check for tripped household circuit breakers, unplugged extension cords or power-strip switches that may be turned off. Check the fuse(s); a spare 2A Slo-Blo fuse is supplied with the amp. If a dark brownish color or no wire can be seen within the glass fuse, then replace the fuse with the same rating as originally installed. Over fusing the amplifier with a fuse of a higher current rating, or shorting the fuse with aluminum foil etc. could be disastrous and will void your warranty. The unit may be perfectly fine but occasionally the fuse may blow because of high AC voltage surges. After the fuse has been replaced with the proper value and, if the fuse fails again, the amplifier will require serviceing . Also, check your input and speaker output cables.

VVT Amps wants you to be happy with your amp so, if there are certain tonal characteristics that you desire, we will assist you in those endeavors and make every effort to help you get your mojo. There are many options for capacitors, transformers, and speakers available at prices ranging from modest to outrageous. All of these components affect the tone of your amplifier. Let us know if we can help.

### **About Vintage Vacuum Tube Amplifiers**

Vintage Vacuum Tube (VVT) Amplifiers wants to make vintage style tube guitar amplifiers available to those musicians who know great guitar tone . The VVT Amps workshop is located at:

Vintage Vacuum Tube Amplifiers  
2580B Old Washington Rd.  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
(301) 396-4100

All VVT amps are built by hand using either hand made eyelet or turret boards. We also make cabinets and chassis for our custom amps. We use various sources for vintage reproduction cabinets and chassis that we believe offer the best durability, value, and style.

VVT Amps does not service solid state equipment of any brand

## **VVT Amps LIMITED WARRANTY**

This amp is guaranteed against failure. Vacuum tubes are guaranteed for 90 DAYS from the date of purchase. If a tube fails within the 90 day period, VVT Amps will replace the tube at no charge. The speaker is guaranteed for ONE YEAR. All other electronic components are guaranteed for FIVE YEARS. VVT Amps will service your amplifier and supply all parts at no charge providing the unit is under warranty. Any shipping costs associated with repairs are your responsibility. VVT Amps DOES NOT PAY FOR PARTS OR SERVICE OTHER THAN OUR OWN. A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SALES RECEIPT IS REQUIRED TO VERIFY YOUR WARRANTY. VVT Amps assumes no responsibility for external speakers or other equipment damaged by this guitar amplifier. This warranty does not cover, and no liability is assumed, for damage due to: natural disasters, accidents, abuse, loss of parts, lack of reasonable care, incorrect use, or failure to follow instructions. Accidental damage to the amplifier, cabinet, or Tolex is not covered. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied. No representative or person is authorized to represent or assume for VVT Amps any liability in connection with the sale or servicing of VVT Amp products. VVT Amps SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. If service is required you may contact VVT Amps at 301-396-4100 or [vvtamps@vvtamps.com](mailto:vvtamps@vvtamps.com). We will respond as soon as possible and make arrangements to repair your amplifier. If your unit is out of warranty, VVT Amps will repair your amplifier but you will be charged the current RATE for parts and labor.

**Specifications:**

Model Name	Blue Bel-Aire – Guitar Amplifier
Product Number	9099972151
Model Number	822103-0000
Series	Vintage Series
Type	All Tube Amp
Audio Output	40 Watts into 8 ohms
Output Impedance	8 ohms
Speakers	1-12" Special Design (p/n BlueBel-0001)
Channels	Single Channel with Reverb
Features	100% Handmade Amplifier Solid Dovetailed Pine Cabinet, Heavy Duty Handle, Tube Driven Spring Reverb, Standby Switch,
Controls	Front Panel: Power Switch Standby Swicth Input, Bright Switch, Volume, Treble, Bass, Reverb  Back Panel: 8 Ohm Speaker Jack Reverb Output and Input RCA Jacks
Covering	Navy Blue Textured Vinyl with Black/Silver Grille Cloth
Weight	38 lbs.
Dimensions	Height: 18.5" Width: 20" Depth: 10"
Tube Complement	1 X 0C3 Voltage Regulator Tube 2 X TAD 6L6WGC-STR (Small Bottle) Output Tubes 2 X JJ ECC83S/12AX7 Preamp/Reverb Recovery 2 X JJ ECC81/12AT7 Reverb Driver/Phase Inverter
Accessories	Canvas Cover - p/n BlueBel0002
Options	N/A
Introduced	9/2006
Notice	Product Prices, Features And Specifications Are Subject To Change Without Notice