



## Guidance Notes – How To Protect Your Gear

This Sonic Fix Guide is to help you extend the life and preserve the value of your Equipment.

### Electrical Safety

Electricity is Dangerous! Always use a Socket Tester when connecting to an unknown mains supply. It could save your life as well as your Amp! NEVER disconnect the Earth Wire. NEVER use a mains supply without an Earth. Make sure that all Fuses are the Correct Rating for your equipment – if they still Blow, there's a Fault! Have your Equipment PAT Tested every year but remember that a low current test is required for Amplifiers, Keyboards, etc.

### Protecting Your Amplifier and Speakers

Always turn the Amplifier Input Gain/Volume to Zero before plugging in your Instrument. Connect the Amplifier Input Lead to your Guitar, Pedals, Keyboard, etc BEFORE plugging in to your Amp. Check all your leads regularly. Don't run your Valve Amp without the Speakers connected and Always Wait for the Valves to Warm Up before Switching from Standby. Don't stand Drinks on your Amps or Speakers. Match the Power of your Amps and Speakers. Turn down the Volume if the Limiter/Clip Indicators are Flashing or Permanently On or if your PA sounds distorted. Don't Connect or Disconnect Speakers with the Amplifier Switched On. Have your gear Serviced once a year – it can prevent expensive repairs later on!

### Cleanliness

Keep your gear clean. When you finish a Gig, wipe down your guitar and under/between the strings with a dry cloth. Sweat and grime can build up on the Strings, Fingerboard, Bridge, etc resulting in Corrosion and Rot. Don't use polish containing Silicone or Solvents as they can damage the finish. Spilt Drinks on your Amplifier or Keyboard could Kill It and You! Microphones should be regularly cleaned and ant-bacterially treated for good Performance and Hygiene. Have your equipment professionally cleaned once a year.

### Storage

Don't store your Instruments and Equipment anywhere that YOU would find uncomfortable. Bringing equipment into a warm room from a cold place will almost certainly cause condensation to form on the surface both inside and outside. At best this will cause corrosion that will damage the appearance and future reliability of connections, etc. – at worst it could cause your Amp to blow-up when the power is applied. Allow Condensation to dry before switching on the power. Don't store Amps, Speakers or Instruments in your Garage or your Car/Van. Don't place or store your Guitar near radiators or other sources of heat.

Please Contact Sonic Fix if you would like more information.



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