

a Few Words on the Care & Feeding of Your:

Lil' Chuckster

First, **THANK YOU** for purchasing a Lil' Chuckster amplifier. Bobby (my Father-in-Law, and co-designer) and I have invested some serious time & energy into making what we believe is the best battery powered micro-amp on the planet. It is VERY important to us that you are as happy with the amp as we are – if for any reason, at any time you own the amp, you aren't 100% satisfied with its performance, please drop me a line and let me know!

In building the Lil' Chuckster amplifier, I tried very hard to keep the controls as simple as possible, but even so, I thought a bit of clarification might be a good idea. . .



a) **Power** – use this to turn your amplifier on & off

b) **Volume** – this controls the, uh, volume of your amplifier

c) **Tone** – a very simple tone control capable of rolling off a bit of high end when needed – somewhat interactive w/ the volume

d) **Boost** – this is a switchable booster and NOT a channel switch. Red LED on = boost on

e) **Gain** – probably the most important control on the Chuckster, the Gain control has a huge impact on the amp’s sound, interactive w/ the Volume control – be sure to play with settings all the way from min to max

f) **Instrument Input** – While the Chuckster was primarily designed to amplify the Electric Guitar, it is also quite handy for any number of other things. Because of its very low power design, you may find it lacks headroom for some applications, but by the same token, if you experiment you may find it’s a fantastic companion for all sorts of music making!

g) **DC Power Jack** – standard 2.1mm, center negative “Boss” power jack. Can be safely run anywhere from ~9VDC to ~18VDC. The gains at higher voltages are minimal, so I usually stick with 9VDC.

h) **Headphone Out** – attenuated headphone out jack, active when the internal speaker is muted (see notes below)

i) **Speaker Out** – identical to the internal speaker out jack, but easier to access – only active when the internal speaker is defeated (see notes below)

notes:

Under the Chuckster’s rear panel, to the right side of the Battery drawer, you’ll find the ¼” internal speaker out jack. This is the primary output for the Chuckster. On the other side of the battery drawer, you will feel a small toggle switch which selects which output(s) are active. For silent headphone operation, or to use an external speaker cabinet, simply flip this switch to mute the internal speaker.

The most essential element of the Chuckster’s voice is the 6” AlNiCo speaker built by Ted Weber Speakers in Kokomo, Indiana. These speakers are hand built to a very high standard and have a break-in period where they may sound a bit ‘stiff’. To properly break them in, crank all the knobs on the Chuckster to their fully clockwise position & PLAY.

The Chuckster is evolved from a long line of tiny amps based on the excellent LM386 low voltage amplifier chip made by National Semiconductor. The actual 386 chip in your Chuckster is made by Japan Radio Corporation, a JRC386BD. Under most settings the clipping of this chip is very pleasing & reminds most players of a tube amp being pushed hard. With some settings, you may hear ‘uglier’ clipping that is buzzy or less musical – a little tweak of the guitars volume knob or the gain knob is all that should be needed to cure this. . .

While not ‘pedal friendly’ in the most traditional sense, I have spent a LOT of time running treble boosters into the Chuckster. If you have a treble booster, or any boost with an EQ so you can push the high end, give it a whirl! Most of my favorite sounds from the Chuckster begin with the gain set low, volume a bit above noon & a Rangemaster type boost. The Chuckster also LOVES a good reverb. Oh, and **ENJOY!**