

# electro-harmonix

## DIRT ROAD SPECIAL

### Solid State Amplifier

Congratulations on your purchase of the Electro-Harmonix DIRT ROAD SPECIAL. The EHX DIRT ROAD SPECIAL is a reissue of our vintage 1970s amp with modern enhancements to both the electronics and mechanical design. We've also added four reverbs from our Holy Grail Max reverb pedal: spring, plate, hall, and reverse.

The DIRT ROAD SPECIAL offers the advantages of a solid state design – lighter weight, smaller size and improved portability – but its classic circuitry delivers a natural crunch and overdrive with beautiful grit and grind. And, with 40 watts and one 12 inch speaker, you have the perfect amp for any occasion.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Read and keep these instructions.
- Heed all warnings.
- Follow all instructions.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Connect the amplifier to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.
- Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched.
- Unplug this amplifier during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- Where the mains plug or appliance coupler is used as the disconnect device, the disconnect device shall remain readily operable.
- Apparatus is not for use in tropical climates.
- Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.
- **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.
- Do not expose this apparatus to dripping or splashing and ensure that no object filled with liquids is placed on the equipment. Do not use this apparatus near water.
- Maintain at least six inches of unobstructed air space behind the unit to allow for proper ventilation and cooling. Air must be capable of freely moving around the amplifier.

- This amplifier is capable of producing very high sound pressure levels which may cause temporary or permanent hearing damage. Use care when adjusting volume levels during use.
- Do not turn the amplifier on without a loudspeaker.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

- Refer all servicing and maintenance to qualified service personnel including replacement of fuses and vacuum tubes. Changes and modifications not expressly approved by EHX can void the warranty.
- Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- **DO NOT** attempt to remove the amplifier chassis. There are no serviceable parts.



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated “dangerous voltage” within the product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operation and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

## GETTING STARTED

### FRONT PANEL Controls:

**INPUT Jack** – This ¼” jack is the audio input for the amplifier. The input impedance is 1.5MΩ.

**VOLUME Knob** – Controls the overall loudness and gain of the amplifier. We recommend turning down VOLUME prior to applying power. Turn up the VOLUME knob after the amp has been powered up for at least five seconds.

**TONE Knob** – Alters the amplifier’s frequency response. Turning this control counter-clockwise increases bass and turning it clockwise increases treble.

**BITE Knob** – Alters the amplifier’s gain level and frequency response. Turning this control clockwise increases the gain and treble content. This control is also very interactive with the VOLUME control; changing one affects the other.

REVERB Knob – Controls the volume of the reverb. When the reverb footswitch is not connected to the back panel via a ¼" mono instrument cable, the reverb is always on.

TIME Knob – Adjusts the decay time, or reverb length/size, for the SPRING, HALL and PLATE reverbs. In REVERSE mode, the TIME knob sets the length of time between striking a note and the reverb fade-in. While in PLATE mode, when TIME is set to its maximum position, the reverb decay is over 30 seconds, creating a lush reverb wash with each new note.

Reverb Switch Knob – Chooses the reverb mode. From left to right, the modes are SPRING, HALL, PLATE, and REVERSE.

## REAR PANEL:

AC INLET – Plug the power cable into this jack

FUSE – Within the AC inlet jack is the fuse holder. To access the fuse, use a small flathead screwdriver to carefully slide the fuse holder out.

100VAC (Japan)..... 1A / 250V slo-blo 5x20mm fuse

120VAC (US/Canada) ..... 1A / 250V slo-blo 5x20mm fuse

230VAC (EU/Australia)..... 500mA / 250V slo-blo 5x20mm fuse

**WARNING:** The AC voltage rating is marked on the amplifier's chassis. Failure to use the appropriate fuse could damage the amplifier.

REVERB FOOTSWITCH – This jack is to connect the included reverb footswitch via a standard ¼" mono instrument cable, which is also included. The reverb footswitch allows you to turn the reverb on and off. When the cable is disconnected from the REVERB FOOTSWITCH jack, the reverb is always on.

SPEAKER – This output jack is for **8Ω or 16Ω** loudspeaker connections only.

**WARNING:** Connecting your amp to a speaker cabinet that does not have the appropriate impedance, or to no cabinet at all, could severely damage the DIRT ROAD SPECIAL and void your warranty. If you choose to connect the amplifier to a separate speaker cabinet, be sure to select a cabinet that can handle the full rated power of 40W<sub>RMS</sub>.

## WARRANTY INFORMATION

Please register online at <http://www.ehx.com/product-registration> or complete and return the enclosed warranty card within 10 days of purchase. Electro-Harmonix will repair or replace, at its discretion, a product that fails to operate due to defects in materials or workmanship for a period of one year from date of purchase. This applies only to original purchasers who have bought their product from an authorized Electro-Harmonix retailer. Repaired or replaced units will then be warranted for the unexpired portion of the original warranty term.

If you should need to return your unit for service within the warranty period, please contact the appropriate office listed below. Customers outside the regions listed below, please contact EHX Customer Service for information on warranty repairs at info@ehx.com or +1-718-937-8300. USA and Canadian customers: please obtain a **Return Authorization Number (RA#)** from EHX Customer Service before returning your product. Include—with your returned unit—a written description of the problem as well as your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, RA# and a copy of your receipt clearly showing the purchase date.

**United States & Canada**

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The CE logo indicates that this product has been tested and shown to conform with all applicable European Conformity directives.

## FCC COMPLIANCE

*This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. If the device is not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, it may cause harmful interference to radio communications and void the user's authority to guarantee the equipment.*

*Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:*

- *Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.*
- *Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.*
- *Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.*
- *Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.*

*Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under FCC rules.*