

**aguilar**<sup>®</sup>

# Tone Hammer<sup>®</sup> 500



**GET AMPED!**<sup>®</sup>

Incorporating the preamp from the popular Tone Hammer® preamp/DI pedal this superlight bass head combines three bands of flexible EQ, a colorful “Drive” control, and 500 watts of power in a 4 lb. package. The Tone Hammer® 500 will give you the legendary “Aguilar Sound” while still fitting into the accessory pouch of most gig bags – the perfect choice for bass players on the go.

---

## Table of Contents

I. Safety Instructions	page 2.
II. Getting Started	page 3.
A. Manual Conventions	
B. Basic Setup	
C. Protection Features	
III. Features and Functions	page 4.
A. Front Panel	
B. Rear Panel	
IV. Warranty Information	page 6.

## I. Safety Instructions



**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose equipment to rain or moisture. Aguilar Amplification assumes no responsibility for any damage or injury that results from improper use or service.



**CAUTION: RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK! DO NOT OPEN!** There are no user serviceable parts inside of this product. This is a high voltage device, and internal voltages can be lethal. Any and all work should be performed by qualified personnel only.

In order to ensure safe operation of the device, please follow these guidelines:

1. Read the instruction manual in its entirety before trying to operate the equipment. The manual should be kept for future reference.
2. Observe all safety precautions, warnings and instructions noted in this manual.
3. Always unplug the amplifier out of the wall socket, before cleaning. Use only dry cloth. Do not use aerosols or solvents.
4. Keep the device away from sources of water such as pools, bathtubs, and sinks, and do not expose it to rain or splashes of water. Do not place objects filled with fluid on the device.
5. Vents are provided for heat dissipation on the sides, and at the rear of the amplifier. Maintain at least a 2" (5cm) space around these vents to provide sufficient ventilation.
6. Keep the amplifier away from sources of heat and open flame, such as heaters, radiators, stoves, lit candles, etc.
7. Make sure that the power cord is intact before plugging it into the unit. Do not use cords with visible damage to its insulation, or connectors.
8. This device is equipped with a safety feature that requires the use of the three-pin grounding power plug. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding plug. If provided plug does not fit your outlet, consult an electrician about replacing an obsolete power outlet.
9. Use only accessories listed in this manual, or in other way specified by the manufacturer.
10. Do not install this amplifier on carts or other moving objects.
11. When amplifier is in use, route the power cable in such way that will prevent it from being stepped on, tripped on, pinched or damaged in any other way.
12. Do not use this device with wall/ceiling mounts not specified by the manufacturer.
13. To completely discontinue the equipment from the AC mains, disconnect the power cord from the AC receptacle. For additional protection, unplug the device during light storms, or when not used for long periods of time.
14. No user serviceable parts inside. Refer service to qualified service personnel. If the unit was exposed to liquid, extensive heat or fire, or sustained a mechanical damage of any kind, do not attempt to operate it. Disconnect the unit from the wall outlet, and consult qualified service personnel.

## II. Getting Started

### A. Manual Conventions:

In this manual, words that appear in italics represent actual physical controls on the Tone Hammer® 500.

### B. Basic Setup:

Input Voltage: 100-120/200-240 ~VAC  
50/60 Hz

Mains Fuse: Internal T 6.3A/250V

Maximum power consumption: 670W

Select the proper voltage for your country's operating voltage via the *Input Voltage* switch on the back of the amplifier. Select 115V for 100-120V or 230V for 220, 230 or 240V.

Connect your speaker cabinet(s) to the amplifier's speaker output using cables with Speakon to Speakon connections, or Speakon to ¼" connections with an insulated barrel. Use 12-gauge or larger speaker cable for proper connections.

The amount of power this amplifier will produce varies with the impedance rating of your cabinets.

One 8 ohm cabinet – 250 watts

Two 8 ohm cabinets – 500 watts

One 4 ohm cabinet – 500 watts

Connect the amplifier to the AC power outlet using provided power cord.

Plug in your instrument.

With the *Master* volume and *Drive* down, turn on your amplifier. Adjust as follows:

#### Preamp:

1. Turn the *Gain* up while playing.
2. If you have a particularly high output instrument it may be necessary to push the *-10dB* button in to prevent clipping of the input buffer. This button is located next to the Input jack and when pushed in it lowers your input signal by 10dB.
3. Turn up the *Master* control until you reach the volume you need.

### C. Protection Features

The Tone Hammer 500 is equipped with several protection circuits designed to prevent any damage to the amplifier in cases where the limits of the normal operating range are breached. Protections include an over current, an over temperature, DC, and HF detectors. If any of these circuits are triggered, the amplifier will either limit its output power, or shut down. In case of a shut down the amplifier will rapidly try to restart, checking if the faulty condition is still present. In case of shut down, both Operate and Status lights will turn off.

---

## III. Features & Functions

### A. Front Panel Features

#### Input Pad:

-10dB

#### Preamp Section:

*Treble:* +/- 14dB @ 4kHz

*Mid Level:* +/- 16dB

*Mid Frequency:* 180Hz – 1kHz

*Bass:* +/- 17dB @ 40Hz

The *Drive* control changes the gain structure and EQ interactively with the GAIN control position. By modifying the circuit structure, Drive gives a "vintage voiced" EQ and gain structure that adapts to how you set the GAIN control. The lower the GAIN control setting, the "flatter" the EQ applied. The higher you set the GAIN control, the more saturated the gain structure becomes, and the more the bass is tightened and the treble smoothed.

The *Drive* circuitry surrounds the midrange controls, enabling you to get a huge variety of tonal characteristics by simply adjusting the GAIN, MID LEVEL and MID FREQ controls.

When the *Clip* light turns red it indicates that the preamp is being driven into clipping. Clipping can be a desirable characteristic, depending on your taste. If you would like a cleaner sound you can experiment with the input pad, Gain, Drive, and Tone Controls. All of these things, including the output level of your bass, affect how often the light will go off. Clipping the Tone Hammer 500 **will not** cause any shutdowns or damage to your amplifier.

## Effects Loop Section:

---

The effects loop section is intended to be used with professional rack gear with a nominal input level of 4dBu. Effects pedals should be used in front of the amp.

## D.I. Section:

D.I. Nominal Output Level: -20dBu

D.I. *Pre/Post* Button:

*Pre* - Your signal goes to the D.I. XLR output jack before your *Gain* and EQ settings, but after the *-10dB* input pad.

*Post* - *Gain*, *Drive*, EQ and effects will be sent to the D.I. XLR output jack. In this setting adjustments to the *Master* control will only affect the output to your speaker cabinets, not the signal going to the D.I.

*Lift/Ground*: If there is a hum when using the D.I. there may be a ground loop. In many cases pushing in the *Lift/Ground* button can fix this problem.

\* Note: The Tone Hammer 500 will not be harmed by phantom power through the D.I. Phantom power is a power supply that can be switched on at the channel input of some mixing consoles and is used to power some types of microphones. Use of phantom power (usually labeled as 48V) will have no effect on the D.I. or the amplifier in general.

---

## B. Rear Panel Features

### Speaker Outputs:

Two speakon outputs are provided. Any combination may be used as long as the load does not go below 4 ohms. The speakon jacks are wired +1, -1

### Tuner Output:

One ¼" Tuner output is provided. When the amplifier is muted your signal will still reach the tuner.

### Input Voltage Selector:

The *Input Voltage* switch allows you to change the operating voltage if you travel with your Tone Hammer 500. You can select between 115V for 100-120V and 230V for 220, 230 or 240V.



## IV. Warranty Information

The Tone Hammer® 500 is covered under limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 3 years. This warranty is non-transferable.

The warranty period starts from the date of purchase from an authorized Aguilar dealer. Please retain your sales receipt, as it is necessary to obtain warranty service.

Before sending your unit to Aguilar for repair, you must receive a return authorization number from us. Please contact us via email (techsupport@aguilaramp.com). Do not send any products to us without first receiving a return authorization from Aguilar.

You are responsible for all shipping charges. You must ship the unit to us freight prepaid. We will return the unit to you freight collect. Aguilar Amplification LLC is not responsible for shipping damage, either to or from our service center. Claims must be filed with the carrier.

The only company in the US authorized to perform work under this warranty is Aguilar Amplification LLC of New York, NY.

**Warranty service outside the USA:** Warranty Service may be different in your country. Please contact the Aguilar distributor in your country for terms and procedures.

**Aguilar Amplification LLC**  
**599 Broadway, 7th fl.**  
**NY, NY 10012**

As a Tone Hammer® 500 owner, you are in great company!



► Adam Clayton - U2



► John Patitucci - Wayne Shorter



► George Porter Jr. - The Meters



► Eric Holden - Shakira