

# Technical Advice Sheet No.1

## Looking After Your Valve Amplifier

Here are the answers to the most commonly asked Marshall service questions. If you follow these simple guidelines you will ensure that you get the longest possible life from your valves (tubes) and maximum performance from your amplifier.

1. With any valve (tube) amplifier always switch on the mains switch two minutes before switching on the Standby.  
This allows the valves (tubes) to reach their full working temperature before use.
2. When replacing output valves (tubes) always replace the whole set, preferably with valves (tubes) of the same make.
3. Never mix valve (tube) types. So if your amplifier has EL34 power valves (tubes) you must always replace them with EL34s. If it has 5881 or 6L6 valves you must use those.
4. Always make sure that the pins on the base of the valve (tube) line up exactly and fit the valve base on the amplifier perfectly.
5. If possible always allow the amp to cool down before moving it.
6. Always use high quality guitar and speaker leads and check them regularly.
7. Never store your amp in damp or overly humid conditions. Garden sheds, greenhouses or garages - not a good idea.
8. Always ensure that any cabinets used have sufficient capacity to handle the full power of your amplifier (bearing in mind that an amplifier can give peaks far in excess of its normal rated Wattage).
9. Always make sure that the amplifier has the correct impedance selected to match the cabinets being used.
10. Always have your amplifier serviced by a qualified technician.