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Subject: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted

Posted by [IdahoPicker](#) on Wed, 07 Oct 2015 01:26:13 GMT

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Hi all,

I'm new to this forum, brought here by a customer's Kustom Frankenstein head he needs repaired.

I'm rather green at fixing solid state amps, so I could use a few suggestions.

I can find no numbers, nothing printed on the boards, so it's difficult to pinpoint which schematic to use. The closest schematic I could find is the K200 wide panel.

This amp sounds great on the left channel, but the right is very weak and distorted, particularly in the low notes. Looking the circuit over, it appears to me that the problem would be isolated to the right channel pre-amp. Would a problem in the power section affect only one channel?

I appreciate the help!

Thanks!

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Subject: Re: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Wed, 07 Oct 2015 05:44:54 GMT

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Welcome to the place.

Yes, the K200 that is marked wide panel is for all of the Frankenstein heads. If one side is working, then the problem is in the second preamp only. I assume that the amp you have has no effects.

Because you have one working channel, you can use the working one to compare readings with. I'd start by reading the voltages that are marked on the schematic and see if there are any that are really far off. On a 40 year old amp, the electrolytic coupling caps would be suspect and leaky transistors are always possible. The fact that the low frequencies are most affected, I'd be thinking coupling caps.

Let us know how it goes.

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Subject: Re: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted

Posted by [stevem](#) on Wed, 07 Oct 2015 10:31:32 GMT

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Greetings to ya!

Every time I get this issue on one of these amps more times than not its due to one or more of the electrolytic caps on the preamp board having gone south!

If you have a Cap testing ESR meter they are easy to fine , but the truth is with the age of these amps all of these Caps on both preamp boards and the reverb board should get replaced, and note that on the reverb board and the rear wall mounted regulator / driver board there are bigger electrolytic caps that need to get replaced also.

If I recall right the schematic states 80uf Caps, but the last one I had on the bench had 90uf, that being said just replace them with 100uf Caps at a 10 volt or higher rating than what's printed on them.

The bigger value Caps are 500uf I believe ?

Many times the two large power supply can filters in these amps are still good as long as the amp got used 4 to 6 times a year to keep them formed and in OK shape .

Post back if you need more help!

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Subject: Re: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted  
Posted by [IdahoPicker](#) on Tue, 13 Oct 2015 04:27:26 GMT

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Well, it turned out to be a bad capacitor. I tested all of them in circuit, and only one tested below its rated value. Many thanks to you all for the advice! The same customer is bringing in yet another Frankenstein next week, toull likely be hearing about it.

Thanks again!

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Subject: Re: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted  
Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Tue, 13 Oct 2015 06:23:38 GMT

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Glad to hear that you got it working. They are really simple amps to service.

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Subject: Re: Frankenstein Bass Head, right channel weak and distorted  
Posted by [steven](#) on Tue, 13 Oct 2015 10:30:06 GMT

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Good to hear!

Did you get a chance test the amp for its level of clean output power?

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