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Subject: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Sun, 15 Dec 2013 05:00:49 GMT

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When plugging a guitar cord into the both hi and low inputs on the left channel there's a loud distorted pop/noise as it first makes contact with the jack. Also when I click on my boost pedal it makes a loud pop. The right channel works fine. Could it have to do with the 200U Memcor or GE .0047 50 volt cap that bridges the hi and low inputs? Anybody have this phenom? It's a very early A model 4-150-1 with serial# 18383.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [stevem](#) on Sun, 15 Dec 2013 13:09:08 GMT

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Hi.

Your problem with both are more than likly contack issues, as even each input jack has a switch section in it.

These and all the selector swicthes sould get cleaned and lubed, the problem is the jack switches have to be cleaned with the help of some thin uncoated / painted plain cardboard.

If you look at the jack as you load a 1/4" cable end in it you will see the main tip prong start to bend, as this is happening you will see another flat metal section move also.

This is the switch section.

if you pray this section open you will also see two little contack points ( like automotive ing points of old) these two points need to get cleaned.

To do I load up/ saturate a long section of cardboard that is also thin enough to slid into that section of the switch and then pull it back and forth.

This will clean off both point sections at the same time.

To clean all the selector switches pack some torn off sections of paper towel around each switch to catch any excess and spray each swicth with only the amount you need to quit the noise.

While you are in there you might as well clean and lube all the pots in the amp.

Radio shack sells a cleaner / lube and some of the better stocked music stores now have the Detoxit brand of fader cleaner and lube.

Only a small amount of times have I had to resort to replacing a bad input jack, and those times have been when some else has already bent its switch section up.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Sun, 15 Dec 2013 23:31:43 GMT

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Your method fixed one jack but the other still malfunctions. Do you need to replace it with a switch jack or can one use a traditional non- switch type? Thanks for your help on this.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [stevem](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2013 11:32:05 GMT

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Thats good, I guess your half way there.

No they all need to be of the switching type to keep things quite do to where the volume control is placed in the preamp circuit.

Mojotone parts sells the correct replacement Switchcraft jack, Switchcraft part number J12A for under 3 bucks.

If you have more than one amp of any kind, it pays to have some of these on hand!

Did your switches clean up and work out also?

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [stevem](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2013 11:37:25 GMT

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Ho, buy the way while you are at it, it will also pay to put some of the cleaner / lube on a Q tip and run it around the main bore of each jack on the amp and include the speaker jacks.

You may wipe off a ton of crap that effects the gound connection on them.

Many times beer and or soda amd mixed drinks get into there, so sometimes its best to start off with the Q tip thing just wet with water and some dish soap first, then do the cleaner / lube.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2013 17:15:19 GMT

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The j12A is configured different. The original has the switch on the leg with the bumper and the j12A has the switch on the tip leg. How do I do the wiring?

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2013 21:28:29 GMT

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I'm not sure which jack you have, but the standard Kustom jack used in most all of the amps after the Frankies is a Switchcraft #13E. See if that is the same as yours.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Tue, 17 Dec 2013 02:32:48 GMT

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It's a 13 type but a new development is the "high" jack on the left channel was working ok (per orig post) I took the low "bad" one out and hooked the blue wire from left channel to the high input bypassing the low input and the same pop and static happened so I'm suspecting something else

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is the culprit

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Tue, 17 Dec 2013 18:17:39 GMT  
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There are a few things that could cause the problem that you are describing. The input jack grounding and switching is one, another would be a bad (leaky) input cap on the preamp board.

If it gets leaky, the 10uF cap can let a small amount of dc voltage to pass through it. When you plug something into the jacks, this small dc voltage can discharge to ground and cause a pop or noise.

Try this test. Plug a guitar cord into the low input jack. Take a voltmeter and check for dc voltage from tip to ground. You may see a small initial voltage that will disappear when you take the reading, but what you are looking for is a constant dc voltage. Compare the right channel input with the left channel input.

This will only work on the low inputs as the high pass cap for the high input will block any dc voltage from the preamp.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2013 05:36:23 GMT  
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I replaced the low input on the suspect channel and there's less of a pop when plugging in. It sounds good but when you turn the volume on the guitar it causes loud distorted static. When the volume is stationary it's fine. That must be a clue. I inspected all boards and there's no sign of leaky cap or repairs. It's not the guitar because it doesn't happen with my other amp head. Thanks for your help.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2013 07:00:28 GMT  
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5.4 from tip to ground (amp on) on suspect channel and nada on other.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [stevem](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2013 11:39:58 GMT  
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DC voltage on a pot will make for scratchyness on a other wise good pot, you need to replace that

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cap that Bill posted about, and I would also do the one on the other channel while you are in there.

Thats the good news.

The bad news is that all of those other electrolytic caps ( caps with a band at one end) in the amp are on the way out also to one degree or another, so be prepared for other problems / maylays to turn up.

The best thing you can do in regards to all the other caps that have not fully gone DC leaky, including the two big main can type filters is to leave the amp on for a day, just idling.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2013 18:13:15 GMT

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You won't be able to see a leaky cap, at least not the kind I was talking about. It doesn't leak something physical, it leaks voltage between the two leads. A capacitor is supposed to block any dc voltage from one leg to the other while letting ac voltage pass through. If the dielectric breaks down the two legs can become connected in a way that they no longer block dc voltages and can eventually short out completely. If this happens to a large filter cap, it will short out the main dc voltage to ground and blow the fuse. It may also take out a diode or two before the fuse shuts things down.

In the preamp that you are working on, a 10uF electrolytic capacitor is the first thing that the signal passes through to get to the first amplification stage. There are about 8-9 dc volts that are used to operate the transistors and this input cap blocks those dc voltages from getting to the inputs where the dc voltages would be shorted to ground at the jacks.

Your test reading of 5.4 volts dc shows that the input cap is letting that about half of that dc voltage pass through it and to the input jacks. This dc voltage is causing the pop and distortion noises and is causing the volume pot of your guitar to make scratchy noises.

I would not use this channel until you get the problem fixed, as putting dc on the guitar volume pot is not a good thing to do. It can cause faster wear on the carbon trace of the pot.

If you plan to repair this yourself, you will need to remove the pc board from the front panel and solder in a new cap. As Steve suggested, if one cap has gone bad the others are probably on their way to cap heaven as well. I personally do not recommend total recaps, as they often cause more problem than they are worth. I would suggest that you replace all of the same 10uF caps on the one preamp board as long as you have it out. Looking at the schematic it looks like there are 4 of them.

You could just go ahead and replace all of the electrolytics on the board as long as it is out of the amp.

Good luck with the repairs.

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2013 19:17:34 GMT  
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Thanks so much-Jim

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [Greenfields](#) on Wed, 14 May 2014 18:34:04 GMT  
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I have a K200-A Head and matching 2x15 Altec Lansing speaker (guitar speakers not bass) Cabinet from I believe 1968.

when I use my Vox Tone Bender Fuzz Pedal,

I have this same issue with the First Channel. Second channel Does work perfectly. Perhaps thats just how they were made. Weird

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [Greenfields](#) on Wed, 14 May 2014 18:37:59 GMT  
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first channel= Left  
second channel=right

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [kustomhead](#) on Wed, 14 May 2014 18:56:37 GMT  
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I ended up selling it and now just have my K200B-4 head and a K50-2 1X12 combo. Both function perfectly, for now anyway! I don't think they were made that way because on the A-1 heads both channels are the same unlike the B heads where the left channel is "Bright" and the right is "Normal. It's just weird!

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Subject: Re: loud pop early K200A-1  
Posted by [steven](#) on Thu, 15 May 2014 11:25:15 GMT  
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Greenfields, its likely that your 200A has a leaky cap off of the input jack to the first gain stage / transistor on that channel.  
If you have a voltmeter and hook it up to the end of a short guitar cable do you read any small DC voltage?

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