



# Z-Wreck Manual

Model: ZA-31

[www.drzamps.com](http://www.drzamps.com)



This symbol warns the user of dangerous voltage levels localized within the enclosure.



This symbol advises the user to read all accompanying literature for safely operating the unit

### **Important Safety Instructions**

- 1) Read these instructions.
  - 2) Keep these instructions.
  - 3) Heed all warnings.
  - 4) Follow all instructions.
  - 5) Do not use this apparatus near water.
  - 6) Clean only with dry cloth.
  - 7) Do not block any ventilation openings. Maintain at least 3 feet of distance around all sides of amplifier. Do not block any ventilation openings with items such as newspapers, tablecloths, curtains, etc.
  - 8) Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
  - 9) Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
  - 10) Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
  - 11) Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
  - 12) Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
  - 13) Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
  - 14) Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. 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.
  - 15) Avoid placing any liquids on or near the amplifier that may splash or drip such as those contained in bottles, cans, glasses, etc.
- \*Dr Z amplifiers are capable of producing very high sound pressure levels which can cause temporary or permanent hearing damage.
- \*If any screw that is actually on the amp chassis needs to be replaced contact Dr Z Amps for the proper size. Screw size is critical for inner chassis clearances.

## General Information

Starting in 2006 Brad Paisley contacted Dr Z about building another amp. After talking about the design and the desired outcome Z asked his friend Ken Fischer to lend a hand. Dr Z built up the prototype amp and sent it off to Ken. Ken did his thing to it and sent it back...including naming the amp the Z Wreck. After a few more tweaks the amp was sent off to Brad and it has become a mainstay in his rig since 2006. When Ken passed away at the end of '06 Dr Z put the amp on a shelf and walked away.

Over the past few years the Z Wreck was mentioned by Brad in various interviews and appeared on a few TV shows and of course quite a few album tracks. Dr Z got numerous requests to put the amp into production, but always declined. Fast forward to May 5th 2010 and the Nashville flood. Brad's original Z Wreck was not harmed in the flood, but all of his road amps were destroyed. Dr Z quickly built 2 replacement Z Wrecks for Brad as the show must go on. This got him thinking...why should such a fine sounding amp be left only for one person to play? With encouragement from Brad to release the amp Dr Z went over the notes he and Ken had exchanged via fax. Dr Z took into account all of the layout and design tweaks he could incorporate and laid the amp out on a clean sheet of paper with an all new aluminum chassis and birch head cabinet.

Every component on the Z Wreck was placed with the utmost attention to short wire lengths and increased separation between the front end and the output section. The heart of the amp is the output transformer designed by Ken for Dr Z in the early 2000s. Also on board is a newly designed power transformer which incorporates a multi tapped secondary that allows for 2 different plate voltage settings: Comfort and Speed. Speed yields a strong attack with increased clarity and dynamic headroom. Every note rings clear in the clean settings and they absolutely scream when the amp is pushed to its natural overdriven voice. The comfort setting drops the plate voltage down for more of a vintage feel. The softer response and overall sweetness of the comfort setting really make it difficult to put the guitar down.

The touch response of the Z Wreck is unequalled. Settings below 12:00 on the volume yield a rich clean sound with no signs of harshness. A 12 string Ric will be right at home for mid 60s Liverpool bliss. Once past 12:00 on the volume you can dial in excellent crunch all the way up to full blooming sustained drive sounds. Does the Z Wreck ROCK? YES!!! Does the Z Wreck TWANG? YES!!! The Z Wreck will deliver exactly what your hands and guitar give it. With the amp volume past noon you can roll your guitar volume back for articulate full bodied clean sounds and turn it up full for excellent drive. The Z Wreck truly is a plug and play amp.

You may be asking "why the matching 2x12 cab?" As stated earlier the Z Wreck was designed on a clean sheet of paper and the cab is no exception. The included 2x12 open back cab comes standard with a Celestion Blue and Celestion Gold wired in series at 16 ohms. This speaker combination in an open back 2x12 is the true voice of the Z Wreck.

Other standard features include a matching set of covers from Studio Slips with the Z Wreck logo embroidered in the lower corner. Dr Z has acquired a massive amount of NOS Russian 6P14P-EV 7189 (EL84) tubes to use in the Z Wreck. These output tubes were chosen because of their superior sonic qualities and excellent life span. A speaker cable and AC cord are also included with the Z Wreck.

## Specifications

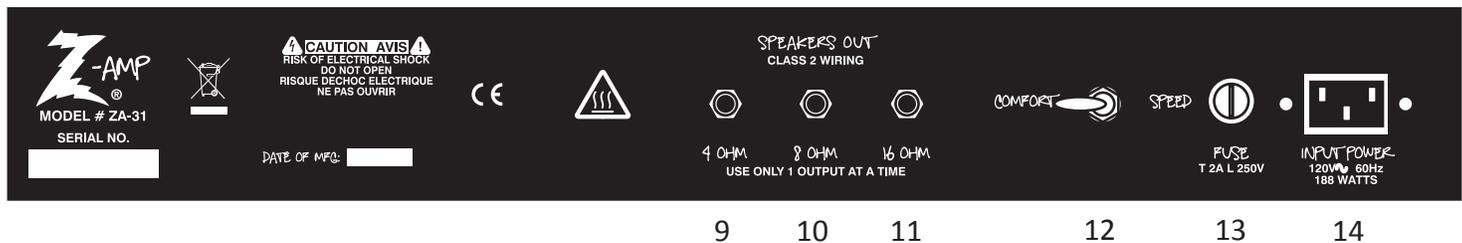
<b>Power Output</b>	30 Watts
<b>Output Tubes</b>	4 - 7189 (EL84) Cathode Biased
<b>Preamp Tubes</b>	3 - 12AX7
<b>Rectifier</b>	1 - 5AR4
<b>Controls</b>	Volume, Bass, Treble, Cut
<b>Configurations</b>	Quantum Silver Set (Head & 2x12 Cab- Celestion Blue/Gold standard), Navy Blue 1x12 Combo (Celestion Gold), Stand Alone Head is also available.
<b>Colors</b>	Quantum Silver Set : silver tolex with hardwood fronts. 1x12 Combo: navy blue. Head (Stand Alone): red, blonde, black.
<b>Dimensions &amp; Weight</b>	Head: 20 5/8"W x 9 1/2"D x 9 1/8"H, 38 lbs. 2x12 Cab: 27 1/2"W x 10"D x 21 1/2"H, 61 lbs. 1x12 Combo: 22 1/2"W x 10 1/2"D x 20"H, 53 lbs.

## FRONT PANEL



- 1. Power Indicator:** Lights up when power is switched on. If bulb fails replace with type T47.
- 2. Power:** Switch up to turn on amplifier. Switch down to turn off amplifier.
- 3. Stand-By:** Leave in off position for 1 minute when powering up the amp. Turn on for play. Place in off position for extended break periods.
- 4. Cut:** Controls overall tone/presence response. Turn clockwise for chime.
- 5. Bass:** Controls overall low frequency response.
- 6. Treble:** Controls overall high frequency response.
- 7. Volume:** Controls loudness of amp.
- 8. Input:** Input jack for your guitar.

## REAR PANEL



- 9. 4 OHM Speaker Jack:** Plug in 4 ohm speaker here. Always have a speaker plugged into the amp when it is powered on. Always match the speaker impedance to the proper speaker out jack. This will allow the amp to sound its best and avoid damage.
- 10. 8 OHM Speaker Jack:** Plug in 8 ohm speaker here. Always have a speaker plugged into the amp when it is powered on. Always match the speaker impedance to the proper speaker out jack. This will allow the amp to sound its best and avoid damage.
- 11. 16 OHM Speaker Jack:** Plug in 16 ohm speaker here. Always have a speaker plugged into the amp when it is powered on. Always match the speaker impedance to the proper speaker out jack. This will allow the amp to sound its best and avoid damage.
- 12. Speed/Comfort Switch:** Switches between two different plate voltages from the power transformer. Speed yields a strong attack with increased clarity and dynamic headroom. Comfort drops the voltage for a more vintage feel.
- 13. Fuse:** The fuse protects the amp from electrical faults. Replace only with the same rating and type stated below fuse holder. If the amp repeatedly blows the fuse contact your dealer or Dr Z Amps.
- 14. AC Inlet:** (Class I Wiring). This device is used for disconnection from power mains and must remain readily operable. The power indicator light does not indicate connection to power mains. The power cord must be disconnected to disconnect amplifier from power mains.



MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

INPUT VOLTAGE: \_\_\_\_\_



MADE IN USA



Dr Z Amps 17011 Broadway Ave. Maple Heights, OH 44137 USA

**CE**

## **DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY**

We, Dr Z Amps, declare, taking this declaration under our\*total responsibility, that guitar amplifier model Z-Wreck (ZA-31) is in conformity with EN 55013, EN 61000-3-2, EN 61000-3-3, and EN 55020 in accordance with the Directive 2006/95/EC of 12 December 2006, and in conformity with the 2011/65/ECC Rohs Directive.

11-19-2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Zaite".

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Michael Zaite, General Manager Dr Z Amps