



Air Brake Manual

www.drzamps.com

General Information

The Z Air Brake has two major applications. One is for stage use, the other is for studio or home use.

For stage use, the Z Air Brake is a useful tool to limit your overall dB level at any time during a performance. Example: the beginning of the night (when the club isn't full) click the Air Brake to a level of attenuation to allow for smooth tone at a lower volume level. As the night progresses, reach back and remove degrees of attenuation until the desired level is reached. This will allow you to manage your amp's overall volume without varying from your amp's favorite settings.

At home, the Air Brake is useful for lower volume while still allowing for full output tube distortion. The Air Brake has a "bedroom" level control that, when selected, will allow for fine adjustment and maximum attenuation down to 1 watt (with amps less than 100 watts.)

Overview

The Z Airbrake is an essential tool with many applications. This attenuator was designed to let you maintain your amp's tone and dynamic response while keeping the overall volume under control. On stage and in the studio the Z Airbrake gives you great flexibility for different volume levels. At home the "Bedroom Level" can be used to really attenuate the overall volume down to 1 watt or less.

Top Controls

Attenuator: This is a rotary switch that selects the amount of attenuation. 0 position is true bypass. Positions 1-4 adds 1.8 dB of attenuation per click.

Bedroom Level: A rheostat that will adjust the amp's output from -7.2 dB down to -30 dB.

Side Jacks

From Amp: Connect a speaker cable from this jack to your amp's speaker out jack.

To Speaker: Connect a speaker cable from this jack to your speaker cabinet. It is optimal to match your amp speaker out to the external speaker rating. (ex: 8 ohm speaker out jack on amp with 8 ohm speaker cab.) Speaker jacks are wired in parallel. Only connect matching speaker loads, and when connecting to the amplifiers output, halve the speaker load of the each cab (ex: two 8 ohm speaker cabinets connect through the Air Brake to the 4 ohm output of the amplifier).

Specifications

Max Wattage	100 watts
Controls	Attenuation, Bedroom Level
Colors	Black
Dimension & Weight	10 1/2" W x 5 1/8" H x 6 1/8" D, 3 lbs.

Attenuation Fine Adjustment

Instructions:

You are able to fine tune the amount of attenuation between positions 1 and 2, positions 2 and 3, and positions 3 and 4 by opening the Air Brake up.* Attenuation levels between 0 and 1 and 4 and Bedroom are fixed settings and can not be adjusted.

1. Unplug amplifier from the AC outlet.
2. Unplug Air Brake from speaker cab and amplifier.
3. Use a 1/4" nut driver or ratchet to remove the back panel.
4. Make note of where the attenuator clamps are for position 2, 3, and 4 (Figure A). **Use a fine marker or pencil to mark both sides of the clamp for easy adjustment back to stock values.**

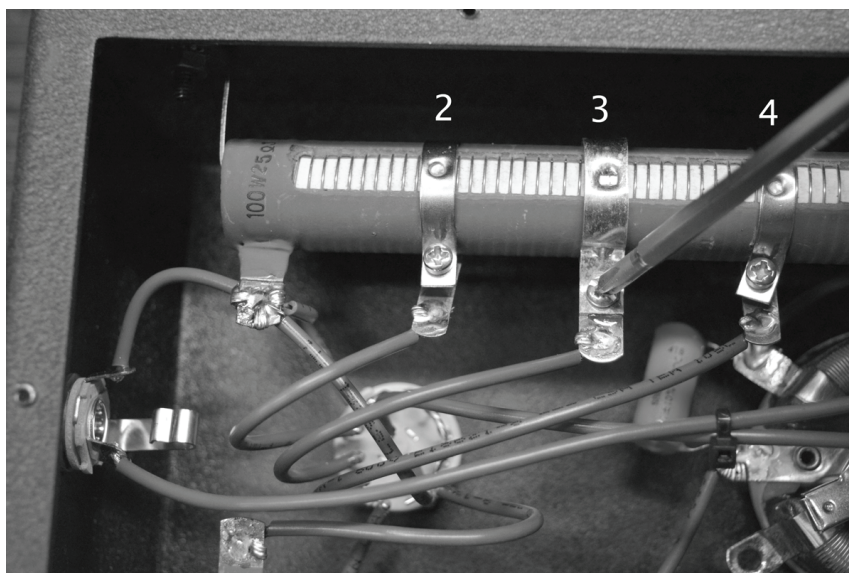


Figure A

5. Using a phillips head screwdriver, loosen the clamps so that they may freely move from left and right on the resistor (Figure A).

**Dr. Z Amplification is not responsible for any damage to your equipment by disassembling your Air Brake. It is the doctor's opinion that these adjustments are subtle and stock values were picked for a reason, so if you have any concern with your ability to follow these instructions then it's best to leave your equipment alone.*

Attenuation Fine Adjustment (Continued)

6. Moving the clamp to the right will increase attenuation and lower volume. Moving the clamp to the left will decrease attenuation and raise the volume (Figure B).

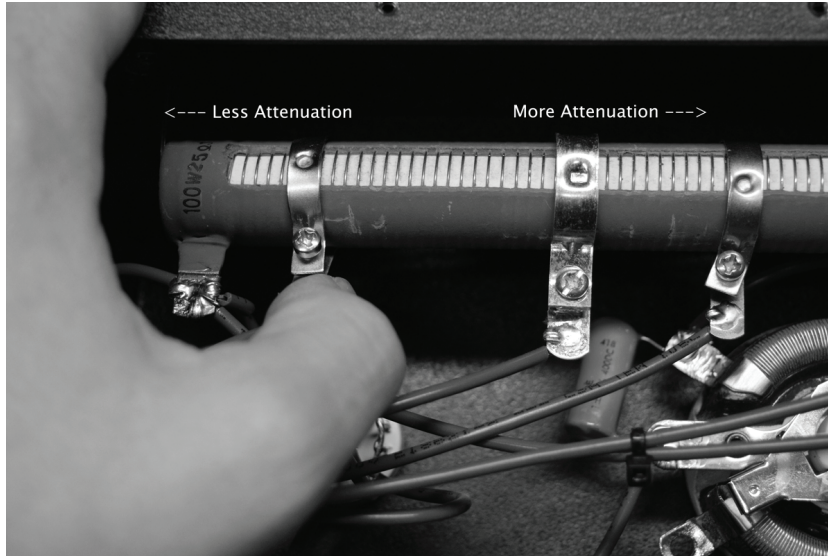


Figure B

7. After adjusting the clamps, tighten the screw to secure the clamp, making sure that the clamp indent is making contact with a copper winding on the resistor. If the indent is not making contact with the winding, the attenuator will not work (Figure C).

8. After making sure the clamp indent is making contact with the resistor winding (Figure C), secure the back panel onto your Air Brake with a 1/4" nut driver, plug in and enjoy.

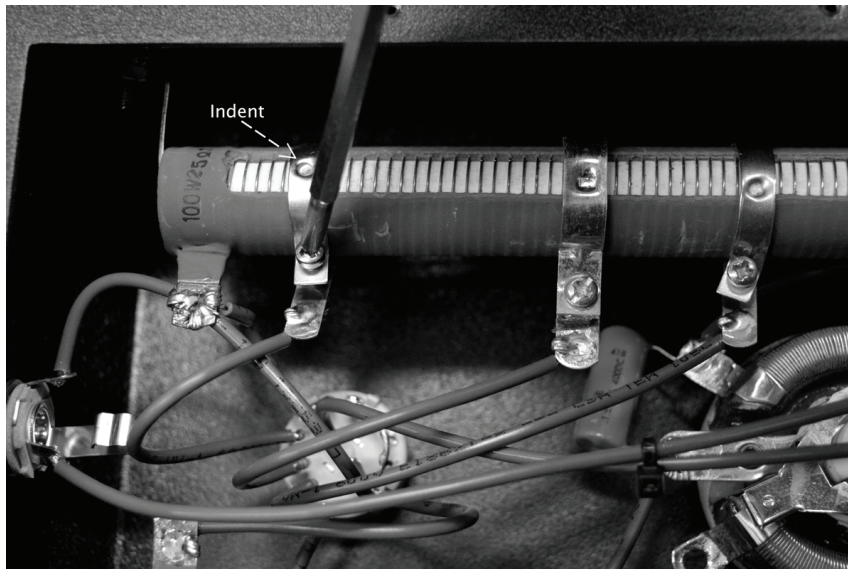


Figure C

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