



Z-Wreck Manual

Model: ZA-31
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

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. After Dr. Z built up the prototype, he sent it to Ken. Ken did his thing to it and sent it back...including naming the amp the Z Wreck. After a few more tweaks this 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 following years, the Z Wreck was mentioned by Brad in various interviews, 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 unscathed in the flood, but all of his road amps were destroyed. Dr. Z quickly built 2 replacement Z Wrecks for Brad; the show must go on. Hearing this amps again, he thought..."why should such a fine sounding amp be left only for one person to play?" With encouragement from Brad, Dr. Z went over the notes he and Ken had exchanged via fax. He took into account all of the layout and design tweaks he could incorporate, laying the amp out on a clean sheet of paper with an all new aluminum chassis.

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. Onboard is a custom-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 into 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 makes 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, chiming clean sounds then turn it up for excellent over-drive. The Z Wreck becomes an instrument in-itself, giving you an unparalleled connection from your fingers to your guitar.

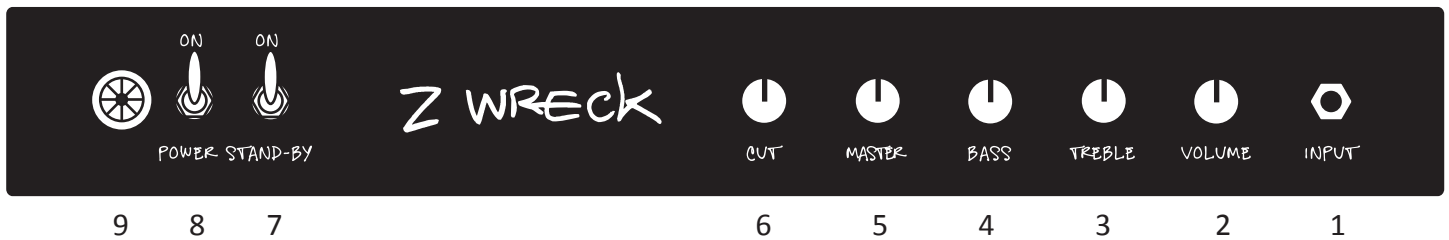
Dr. Z has acquired a massive amount of NOS Russian 6N14n (EL84) tubes to use in the Z Wreck. These output tubes were chosen because of their superior sonic qualities and extended lifespan, easily doubling that of a standard EL84, and were often used in Ken Fischer's builds. They come stock in all Z Wreck amplifiers.

*New for 2026: Over the last few years we have been incorporating our proprietary half power switch and a specifically tuned post-phase inverter master volume control as an optional upgrade to the original Z Wreck. As of this year, these mods, affectionately called "the Works," come included on all Z Wreck amps. Enjoy the comfort/speed option along with a unique half power circuit and Dr. Z's smooth, responsive master volume control, giving you the utmost control over the Z Wreck's unadulterated power at any volume level.

Specifications

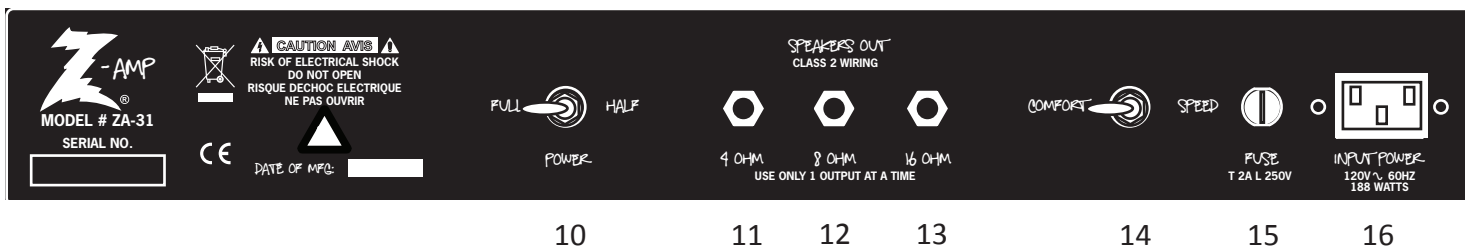
Power Output	30/15 Watts
Output Tubes	4 - 6N14N (EL84) Cathode Biased
Preamp Tubes	3 - 12AX7
Rectifier	1 - 5AR4
Controls	Volume, Bass, Treble, Cut, Master, 1/2 Power, Comfort/Speed
Dimensions & Weight	Head: 20 5/8"W x 9 1/2"D x 9 1/8"H, 38 lbs. 1x12 Combo: 22 1/2"W x 10 1/2"D x 20"H, 53 lbs.

FRONT PANEL



- 1. Input:** Input jack for your guitar.
- 2. Volume:** Controls the gain of the input signal. Set low for clean (before 11:00), high for distortion (past 12:00).
- 3. Treble:** Controls overall high frequency response.
- 4. Bass:** Controls overall low frequency response.
- 5. Master:** Controls the overall volume (loudness) of the amplifier.
- 6. Cut:** Controls overall tone/presence response. Turn clockwise for chime, counter-clockwise for a smoother tone.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Power:** Switch up to turn on amplifier. Switch down to turn off amplifier.
- 9. Power Indicator:** Lights up when power is switched on. If LED fails replace with a 6.3 volt #44 Bayonet Base(BA9S).

REAR PANEL



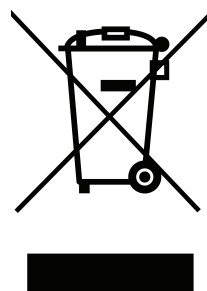
- 10. Half-Power Switch:** Changes the output power from full (30 watts) to half (15 watts) for a decrease of approximately 3 dB in volume. More importantly, it will change the overall clean headroom and compression characteristics with full power having more headroom and a faster response and half having a more compressed response that will overdrive at lower volume levels.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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, softer feel.
- 15. Fuse:** The fuse protects the amp from electrical faults. Replace only with the same rating and type stated below fuse holder (2A 250v SLO BLO). If the amp repeatedly blows the fuse contact your dealer or Dr Z Amps.
- 16. 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



EC/EU Declaration of Conformity

Document: CE – ZA-31

Manufacturer: Dr. Z Amplification
17011 Broadway Ave.
Maple Heights, OH 44137 -3407
USA

We declare that the designated product (s)
DR. Z Z-WRECK
is/are in conformity with the European Directives:

2014/30/EU EMC Directive of 26 February 2014

2011/65/EU RoHS Directive of 8 June 2011

2014/35/EU Electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits

This declaration certifies compliance with the indicated directives but implies no warranty of properties. The safety instructions of the accompanying documentation shall be observed. This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

Issuer: Dr. Z Amplification
17011 Broadway Ave.
Maple Heights, OH 44137 -3407
USA

Place, date: Maple Heights, OH USA , 01.AUGUST.2016

Legally binding signature:

M.D. Zaite, General Manager, Dr. Z Amps