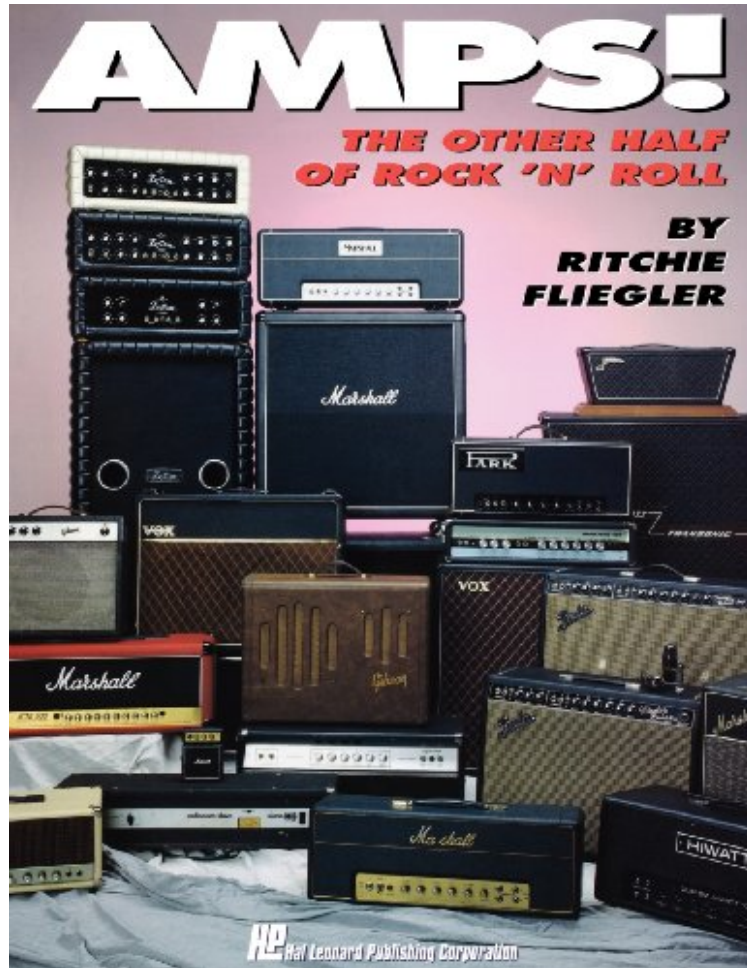


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## Amps!: The Other Half of Rock 'N' Roll

*Ritchie Fliegler*

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**Ritchie Fliegler : Amps!: The Other Half of Rock 'N' Roll** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amps!: The Other Half of Rock 'N' Roll:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Changing the way you think about guitar toneBy Jonathan B. SpearAs the title of this book implies, it is about the role of guitar amplifiers in creating the unique signature sounds that many people instantly associate with various bands and guitarists they've heard over the years. While many musicians and the public tend to focus on the guitar itself in providing a unique sound, amps easily account for half or more of the sound quality and tonality of a performance. This book includes a good technical description of how guitar amps work, what makes them different from other types of amplifiers, and a worthwhile discussion of vintage tube amp tone versus the reissue models now being marketed by various manufacturers. It also has a useful troubleshooting section for dealing with various symptoms of an ailing amp. Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is on the human nature side, providing excellent thumbnail sketches of the various companies and personalities that were

involved in pioneering amplifier innovations, such as Jim Marshall and the legendary Leo Fender. The book also deals with the histories and/or products of other companies (including Vox, Ampeg, MESA/Boogie, Roland, Gibson and others), and has lots of photographs and reproductions of old advertising fliers. My only complaint about the book is that it misses the opportunity to give at least a little bit of technical specifications for the amps that are discussed and pictured. As just one example, on page 21 there is a photograph of a Fender Tweed Deluxe that was taken in Tucson with the caption: "This cinder-block wall art surrounding Tucson's biggest meat packing plant seemed like the logical place to shoot this amp. Musta been the heat." The effort at humor aside, a more useful caption might have been, "This model Tweed Deluxe was manufactured by Fender between 1954 and 1961 and boasted a single 12" Jensen and 15 watts of power." It would have been a mistake for Fliegler to try to provide extensive technical specs on the numerous amps that are pictured throughout the book, but a little more detail in the captions would have been appreciated. I wouldn't want this one narrow criticism to overshadow the value of this entertaining and useful book, which will be of interest to players and collectors alike. The best thing you can say about a book is that it will change the way you think -- and that is exactly what this book will do for the performing guitarist who has underestimated the impact of guitar amplification in providing a unique and personalized sound. As a well known working guitarist and someone who also worked for Marshall, Fliegler has the credentials and experience needed to speak on this subject with a lot of authority.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. General overview and introduction into guitar amps  
By Gregory Bohlmann  
General overview and introduction into guitar amps. I was hoping that this book would get deeper into how amps work and how to fix them. This book was more about different amp manufacturers and their nuances. It was a good read after dinner and I don't regret buying it though. I'm still looking forward to reading this guy's next book, *The Complete Guide to Guitar and Amp Maintenance*. That looks like it digs a little deeper into the tech stuff.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is a nice book and I'm glad to have it  
By Michael L. Buckley  
It is a nice book and I'm glad to have it. It answers questions and gives good background on the various amps. I think the biggest problem is that it ages dictates that it should be update. Still a good book.

(Book). Electric guitar players can choose from a library full of guitar books, but comparatively little has been written about the other 50% of the electric guitar: the amplifier. This book takes a giant step toward redressing the balance, providing the first overall view of amp-dom, including: how amps work, profiles of the major manufacturers, 'transistor dinosaurs' and their place in amp history, reissues vs. vintage amps, and troubleshooting. Terms are defined in the margin as they are introduced, and plenty of photos and diagrams illuminate the text.