

## Knight 30 Watt Portable Amplifier 93-146

This is a Knight 30 Watt Portable Amplifier that I was fortunate enough to get this fall. It is pretty representative of small nightclub systems of the 1940s and early 1950s. There was very little information out about this amp, and so I decided to put what I found together for anyone looking for information on one in the future.

Knight sound products were an in-house brand manufactured and sold by the Allied Radio Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. Allied Radio sold early amplification equipment by catalog, and handled all the well known brands of the time, such as Electro-Voice, Astatic, Shure and Turner microphones, speakers from Jensen, Rolla, and others.

I knew it was from the late 40s prior to purchase. To narrow down the identify the model and the year, I bought three original Allied Radio catalogs: 1947, 1948, and 1949.



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### Original 1949 Knight 30 Watt Systems Catalog Entry

It turned out that the unit I now have was featured on pages 90 and 91 of the 1949 catalog. The entire page is posted below as an image, and I will upload high resolution files of the catalog in January.

The one I have was Allied's Knight Model 30 (#93-146). It originally had the #93-046 Phono Top installed, but this was removed. It has three channels: two for microphones, and a phonograph channel that was used to play records when a band was not playing. The unit I have now sold as Knight #93-147, but has had the top removed.

The model came individually, and as part of several bundled systems which included speakers, microphone and stand.

### Knight Model 30 Original Description

Here is page 90 of the 1949 Knight Catalog. I will post high resolutions scans in PDF of the catalog in January.

**30 WATT SYSTEMS**  
Audience Coverage: UP TO 4,000 PERSONS  
Area Coverage: UP TO 20,000 SQ. FT.

**Knight De Luxe 30-Watt Portable Sound System . . . Powerful . . . Complete**

You'll find the perfect answer to 90% of all PA requirements in this advanced Knight 30-watt De Luxe Portable Sound System. Here is the last word in simplified operation, high usable power output, exceptional tone quality, and outstanding versatility.

**Guarantee.** The Knight amplifier is unconditionally guaranteed for one year. It is the only amplifier of its size with an 18-month guarantee. All other components in the system are covered by the standard RCA 3-year warranty.

**Complete System—Nothing Else to Buy.** All cables are supplied. 30 ft. of main cable with connectors at both ends; two 30-ft. speaker cables, each with one end connected to speaker and polarized plug at other end. Everything plugs together as simply as 1-2-3.

**Amplifier Has Everything!** Two hi-impedance mike inputs and 1 phono input—each individually controlled. Provides complete facility in mixing. Stabilized inverse-feedback circuit. Tone control to compensate for varying acoustical conditions.

**New Unidirectional Mikes.** Electro-Voice's new "Cardas," their latest and best crystal microphone. Picks up sound from front only—back is dead. With swivel telescoping floor stand, has widest extension (from 25 to 61") of any floor stand.

**Heavy-Duty 6-L. 12" Speakers.** Two General Electric type 12B1D 12" PM dynamic speakers (with 14.5 oz. Alnico V magnets). Specially "bussed" for protection against overload—an exclusive Knight feature!

**Extra-Value Amplifier Features.** You will appreciate the universal output selector, which permits instant matching to additional speakers or line. Silence-jacks check hum when make a disconnected. Six-contact polarized speaker sockets make connection easy—have safety jumpers which prevent operation of amplifier without speakers connected. Amplifier is fused for protection. AC input is tapped to assure full output regardless of line voltage.

**Easy to Operate.** You don't have to be an expert to set up and operate this portable system. It's so easy to use, an isolated in operation, anyone can get top-notch results. Comes in compact sub-type carrying case, measuring only 22½" x 19½" x 11". Carrying weight complete is only 40 lbs.

**Optional Phono Top.** You can buy the Knight 30-watt Portable System with built-in phono top—a real convenience—no extra case, no more trailing wires to deal with. (See description of optional phono top at lower right).

**Handsome Design.** Portable carrying case is of sturdy construction, covered with good-looking simulated-leather fabric. Amplifier is all-metal construction, finished in pleasing two-tone brown and tan Hammerhead effect. All controls are easily accessible on the brightly illuminated tilted front panel.

**Complete Portable System.** Includes: 1—Knight 30-watt de-luxe amplifier with tubes (see photo top); 1—Electro-Voice "Cardas" crystal microphone with 20-foot cord and plug; 1—3-section adjustable floor stand; 2—6-L. 12" PM Dynamic speakers, each with 30-foot cable and plug; self-contained portable carrying case as illustrated; operating instructions. For 110-125 volts, 60 cycles AC. Sings wt. 75 lbs.

**93-146-7.** Complete, low phono top. . . . . **\$108.75**  
NET . . . . . Terms: \$22.15 down, \$7.68 monthly for 12 months.

**30-WATT AMPLIFIER ONLY**

Here is an outstanding value in a PA amplifier. Ideal for replacement purposes or as a new unit around which to design a system using components of your own choice. Exceptionally fine for recording work. Housed in a sturdy built-all-steel case. Amplifier is complete with tubes, set of mike, phono and speaker plugs, instructions (see photo top). Diagram on base plate. Unconditionally guaranteed for one year. For 110-125 volts, 60 cycles. Sings wt. 51 lbs.

**93-146.** NET . . . . . **\$54.75**  
Terms: \$10.55 down, \$5.16 monthly for 3 months.

**93-046. Phono Top** for Knight 30-watt amplifier. Has slide-down 78 RPM motor, 9" turntable and Shure "Gilder" crystal pickup with long-play precision-tipped needle; switch, arm-rest, needle-cup, and plug-in connections. Installed on 30-watt amplifier without charge when ordered with amplifier or complete system. Shipping weight, 10 lbs. NET . . . . . **\$13.50**

### Knight Model 30 Technical Information

The factory specifications are in the box on the right side of the catalog page above.

The original tube line up was:

- (2) 6SJ7
- (2) 6SC7
- (2) 6L6G
- (1) 5U4G

**Tube changes:** The 6L6s were replaced with Sovtek 5881's. One 6SC7 was changed to a 6SL7. The rectifier is an unmarked tube, and is missing the positioning pin on the bottom, and so has a white mark for alignment with a mark on the chassis.

This amp is in "better than original" condition, as it was serviced and customized or "voiced" for harmonica by Jim Rossen. The turntable "Phono Top" was removed, of course, and the hole covered at my request with a sheet of metal. The chickenhead knob on the far right was a power switch, and was simply replaced with a more modern toggle for on and off. The original cord was replaced with a heavy duty three prong one. The amp was re-capped and rewired. I can't speak to what was done with the rewiring, but will photograph the bottom in January.

I will scan and post the original schematic from the case in January.

Here is how Jim described his changes to the channels:

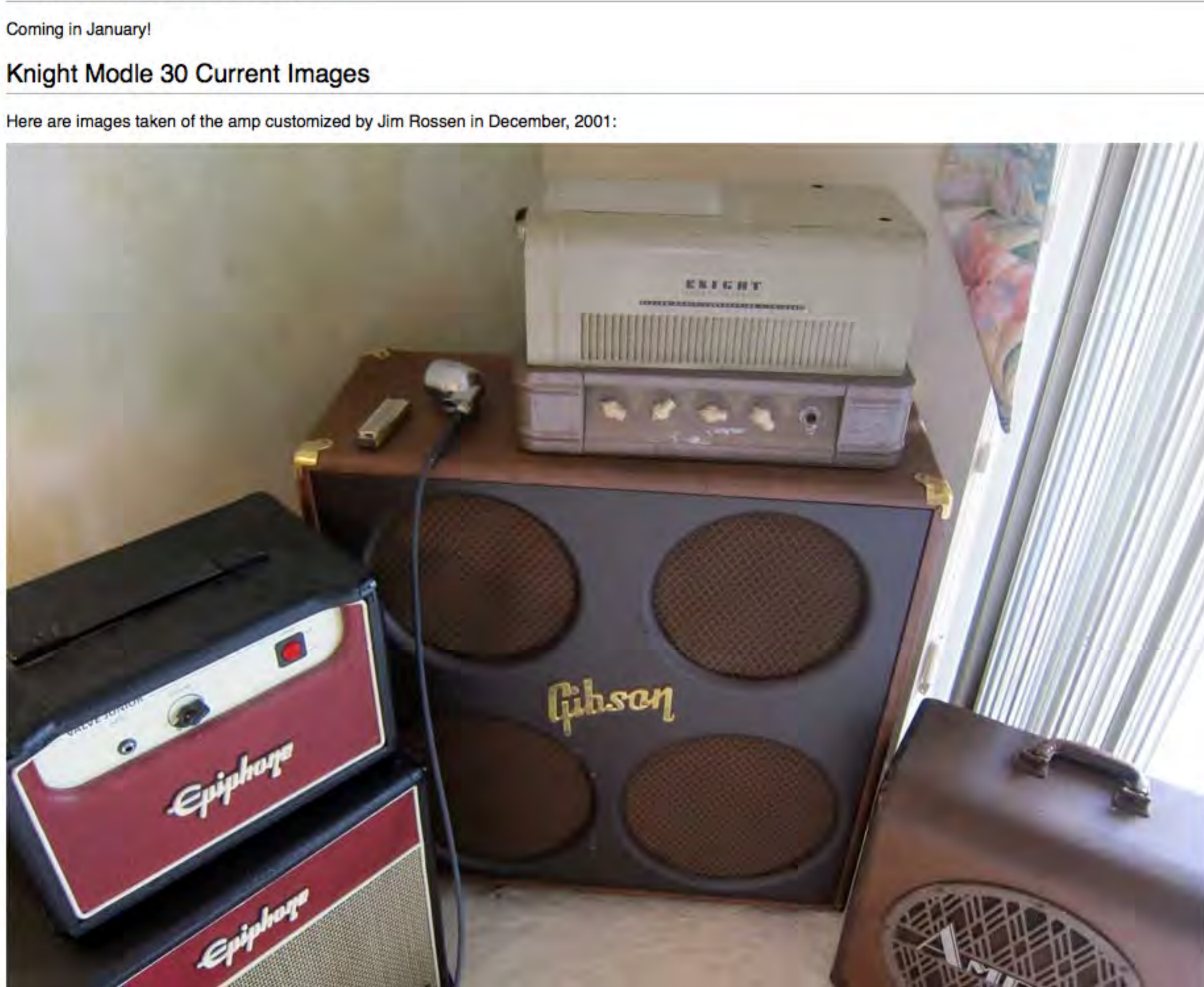
- Channel 1 (far left knob) - Similar to a Masco ME18 with grid leak biased pentode first gain stage
- Channel 2 (second from left) - Similar to a Gibson Maestro with cathode biased pentode first gain stage
- Channel 3 (Phono knob) - Similar to a Sonny Jr 1 amp with paralleled twin triode first gain stage

### Knight Model 30 Audio Clips

Coming in January!

### Knight Model 30 Current Images

Here are images taken of the amp customized by Jim Rossen in December, 2001:



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