Ruby Amp

Here is runoffgroove’s ruby amp: simple practice amp based on the 386 amplifier chip. runoffgroove took the datasheet example for the LM386, added a buffer in front, and tweaked a few values to come up with probably the most popular DIY practice amp. Check out the Noisy Cricket and Cigarette amp beavis board projects for similar circuits. Learn more about the ruby at http://www.runoffgroove.com/ruby.html

Hooking up a Speaker

This circuit is designed to power an 8 ohm speaker, but will also work on 4 ohms or 16 ohms. Because the power output is so low (on the order of 500mW) you can hook it up to just about any type of speaker without worry about damaging anything.

Using a Guitar Cab

The amp sounds best hooked up to a guitar speaker, so if you have a speaker cab, hook it up there. Simply run a ¼” mono cable between the i/o breakout box’s output jack and the input jack on your cab.

Using a Small Speaker

If you have a small speaker, you can connect it either directly to the breadboard, or if the speaker’s wires are too big, use the terminal strip on the main board. Run one wire from ground on the breadboard to one of the terminal strips. Run the output wire from the breadboard to another screw on the terminal strip and connect it as shown below: