



ME Team: (From left) Tommy, Abdulla, Robert, Clay

AMPLIFIED ENGINEERING

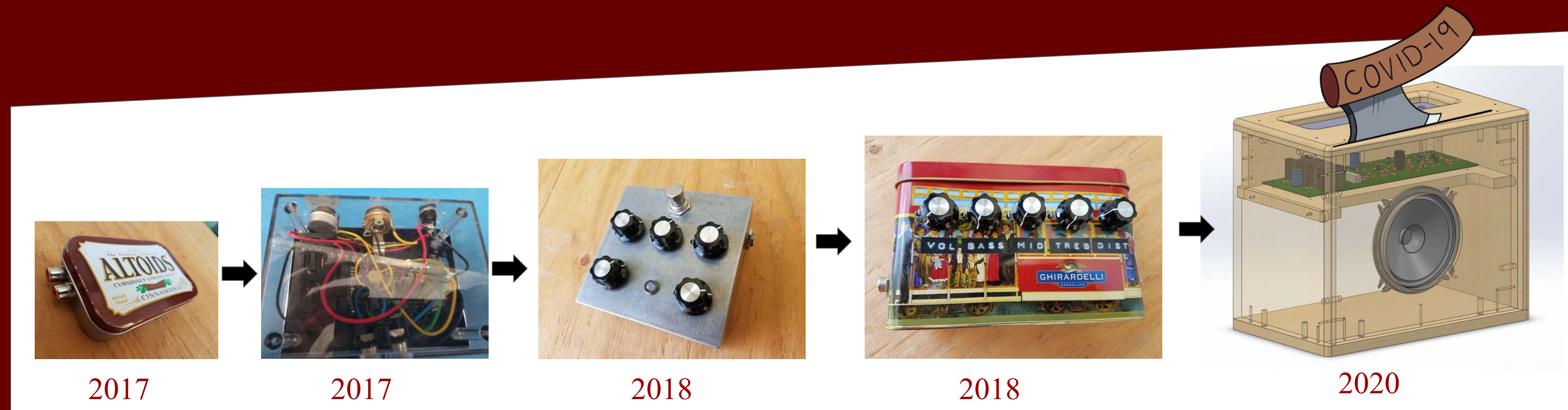
Mechanical Team: Tommy Buchanan | Clay Woodward | Robert Vallejo | Abdulla Obaidan
Electrical Team: Matt Smith | Jesus Cuen Reyes | Vice Nieva |

COVID-19 EFFECTS

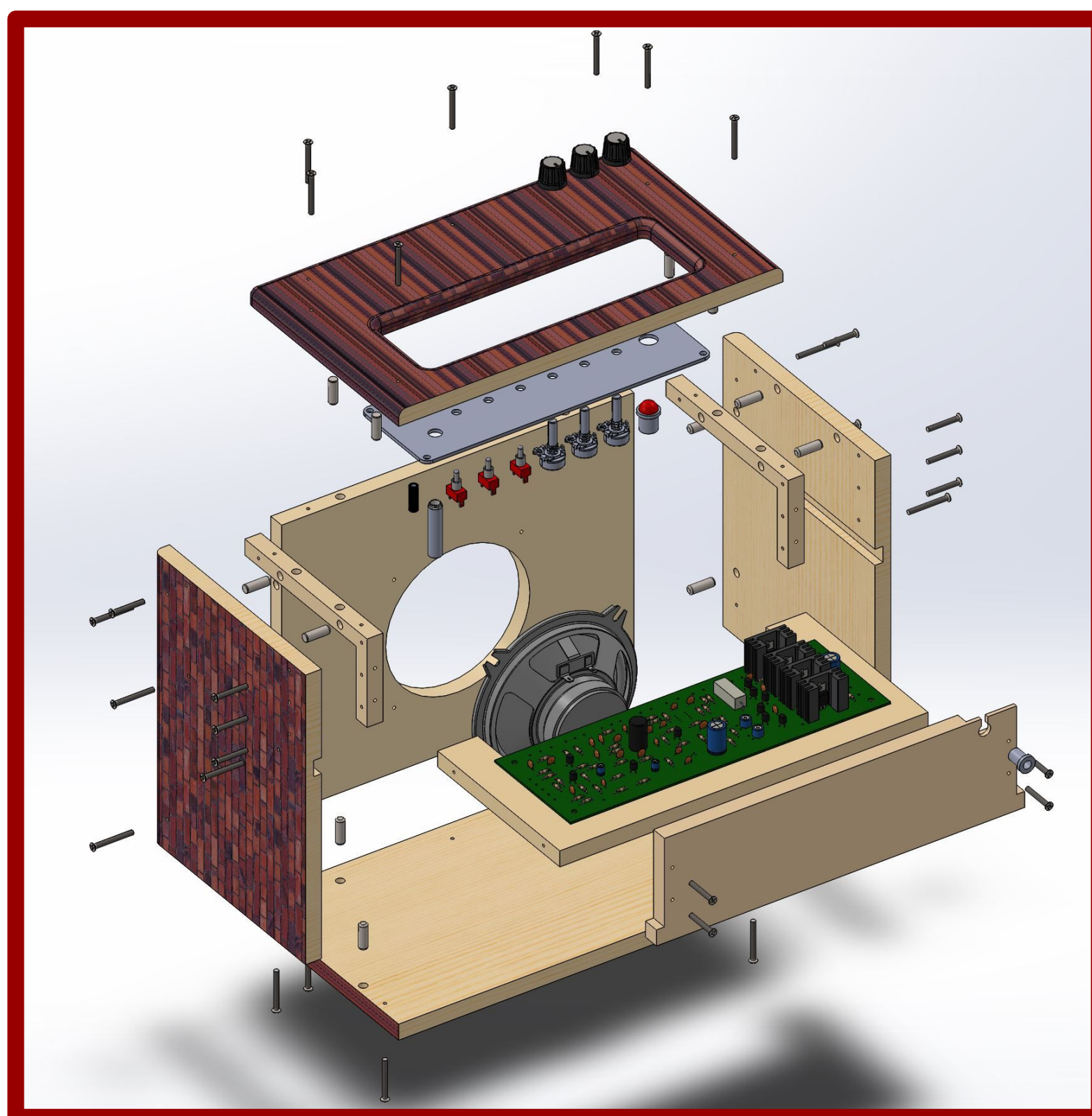
The sudden onset of COVID-19 cases in the US resulted in our inability to meet and test how high school students interact with the difficulties of assembly. We re-evaluated our plans and, despite the additional difficulties, managed to complete the assembly of 8 fully functional units.

OVERVIEW

A guitar amplifier kit aimed towards high school students, providing an interesting and useful introduction to the world of Electrical Engineering. Designed to be low cost with high quality sound, the kit strives to fit the budget of high school students and teach them the basics of electrical engineering with an intuitive assembly guide.

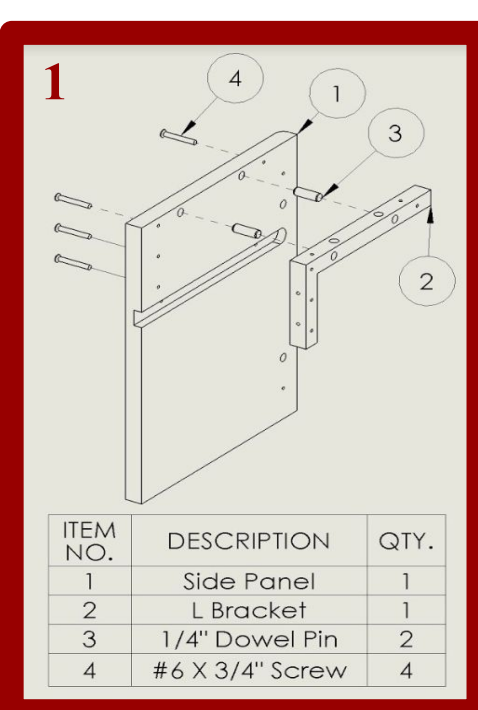


MECHANICAL DESIGN

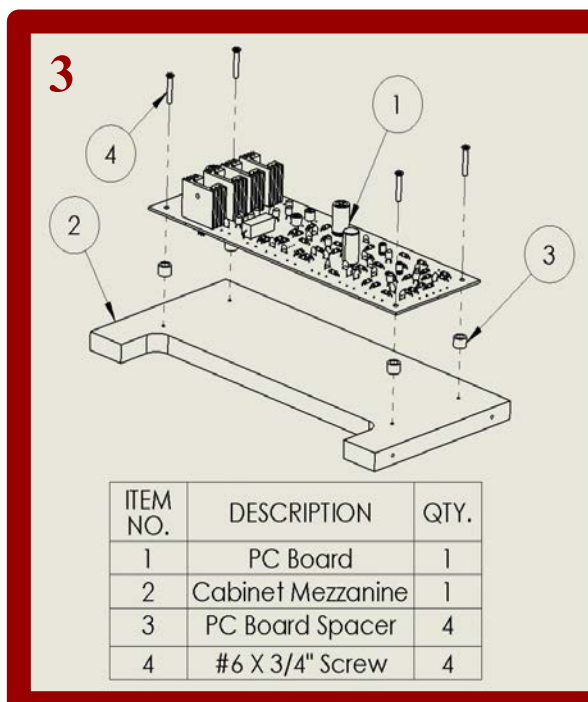


The final design was centered around ease of assembly, manufacturability, portability, aesthetics, and price point. The starter kit assembly process caters towards high school students with limited mechanical experience. The design also considers time and ease of manufacturing as well as ease of portability. Finally, aesthetics and total unit cost were important in the final design. The completed amplifier is constructed of 1/2" baltic birch plywood wrapped in Tolex. It measures 12" x 10" x 7" and weighs under 15 lbs.

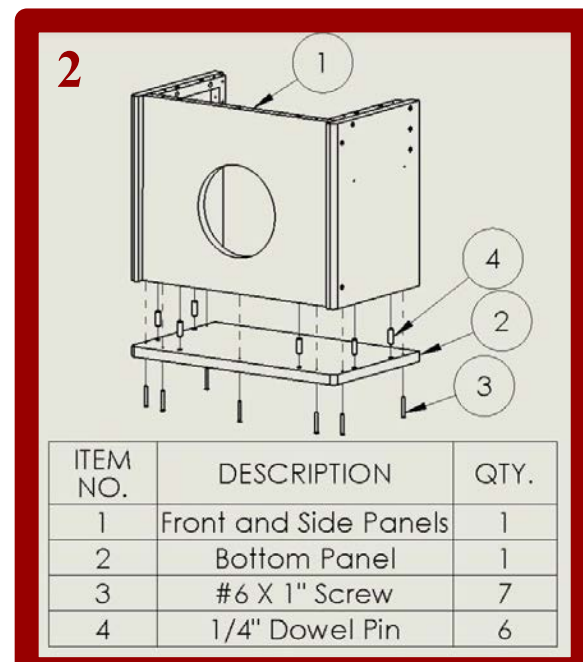
STARTER KIT ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



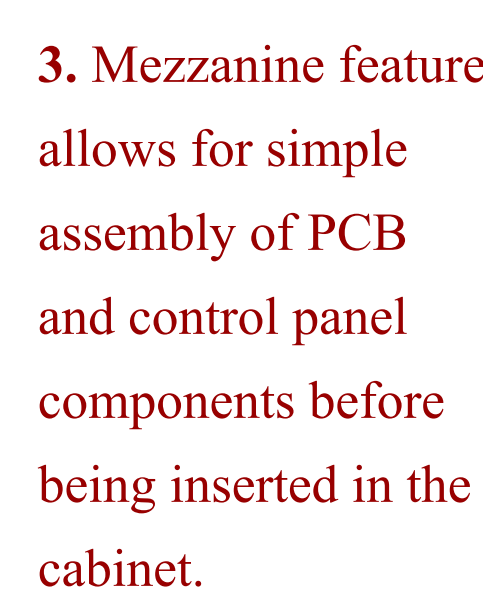
2. Cabinet panels have pre-drilled pilot holes and contain dowel pins to properly to guide the 1" screws.



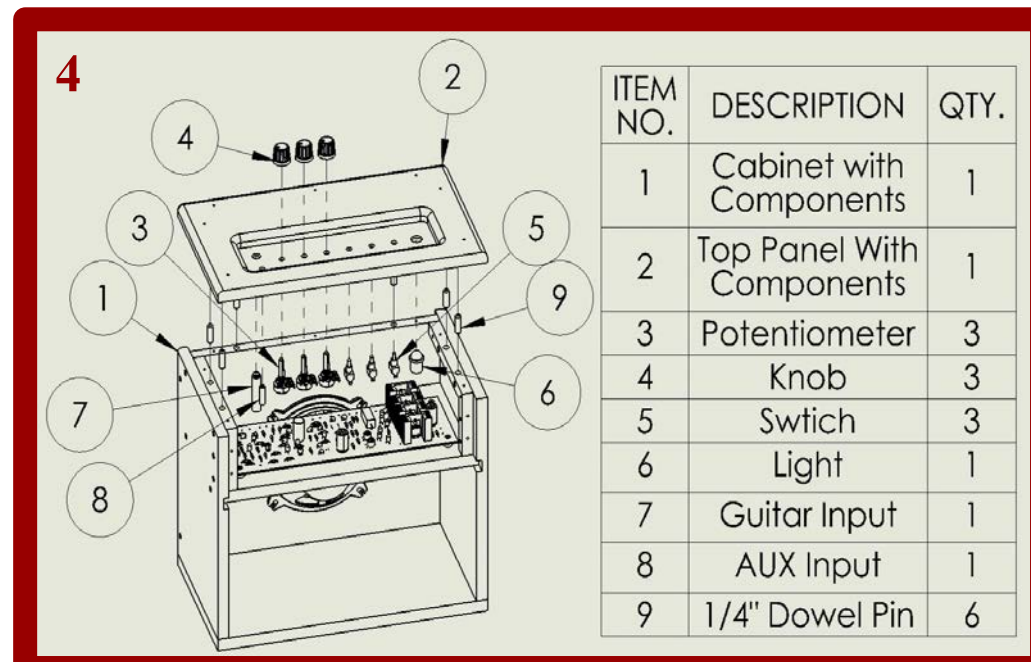
4. The mezzanine with the PCB mounted and control panel components connected slides into the grooves routed on the side panels. Next, the top panel with aluminum panel is secured to the brackets with dowel pins. Finally, the interface components are pushed through the specified holes and secured from the top.



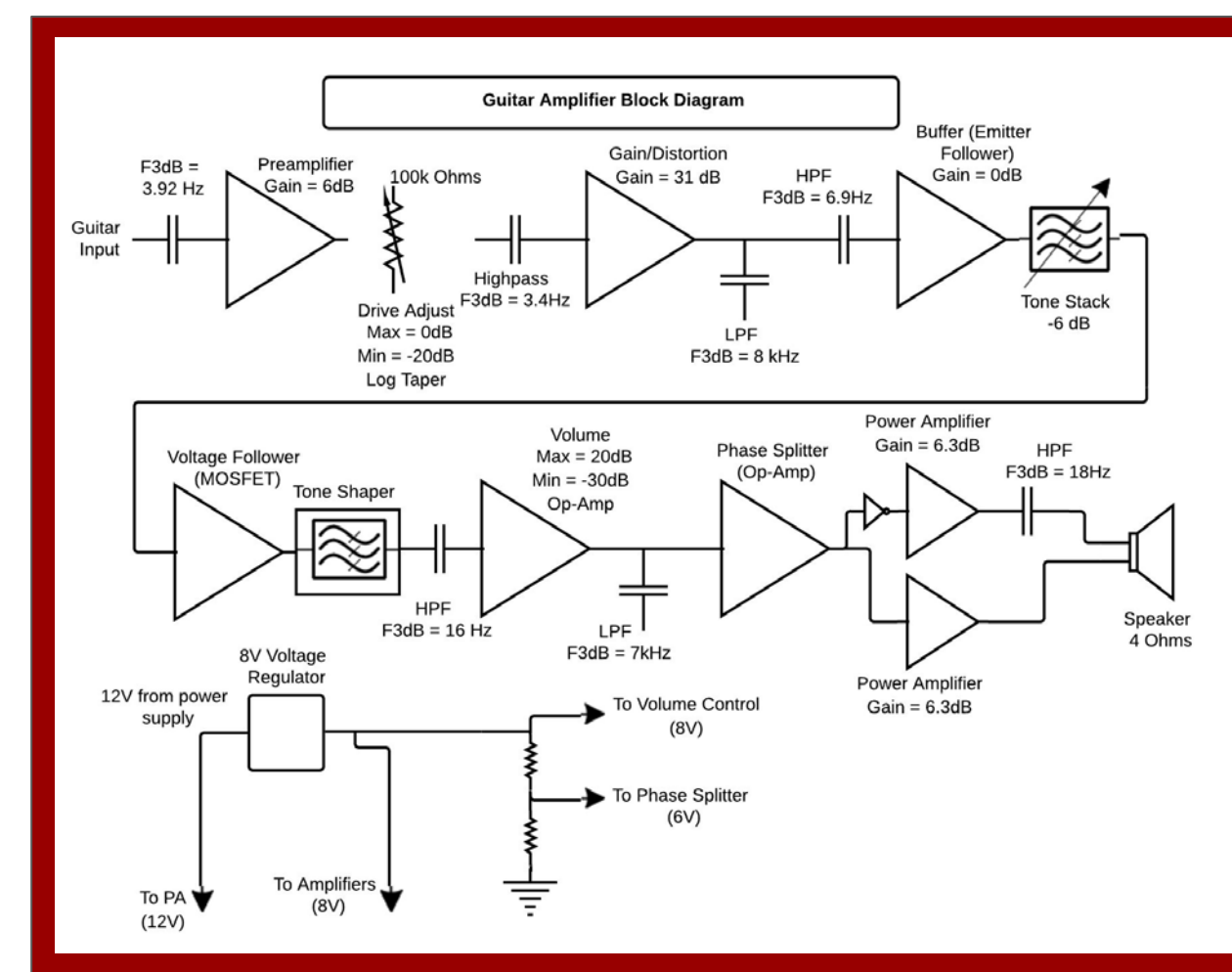
1. Internal brackets are fastened to the side panels for an easy way to mate the rest of the panels and route the cabinet edges.



3. Mezzanine feature allows for simple assembly of PCB and control panel components before being inserted in the cabinet.



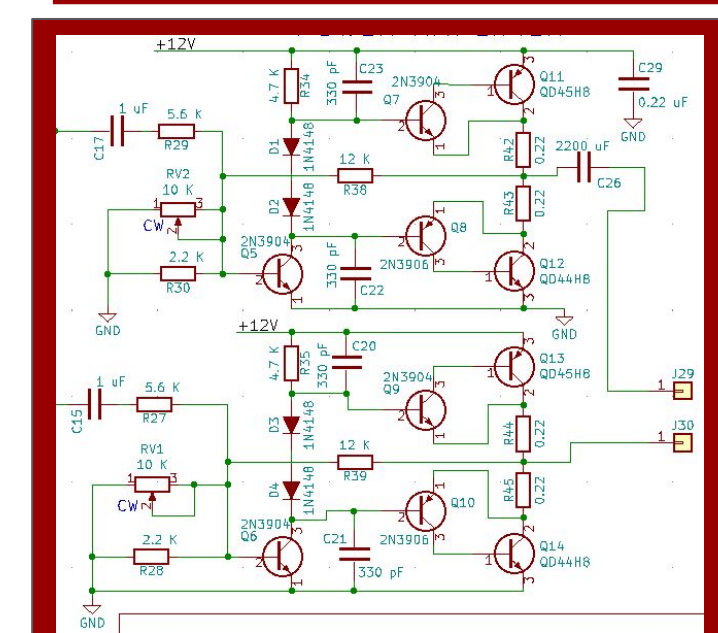
ELECTRICAL DESIGN



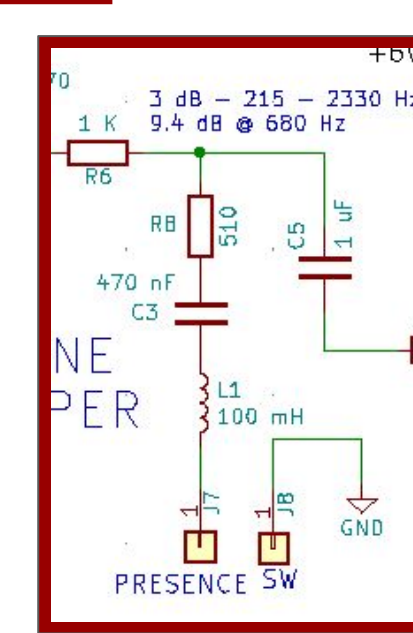
The design follows the general composition of a guitar amplifier with the following stages: preamplification, distortion, tone adjust, volume, gain, and power amplification

The circuit is designed to operate on 12V from a DC supply in order to ensure safety during construction. Previous iterations involved assembling an AC to DC converter, which could be dangerous to the students assembling the units.

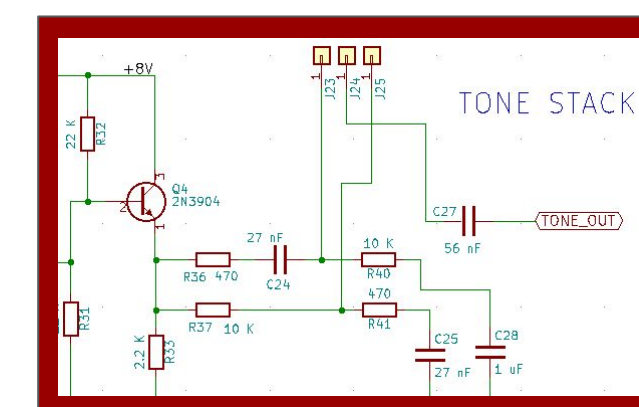
KEY DESIGN COMPONENTS



POWER AMPLIFIER
Complementary Darlington transistors in push-pull arrangement for maximum output voltage range and efficiency

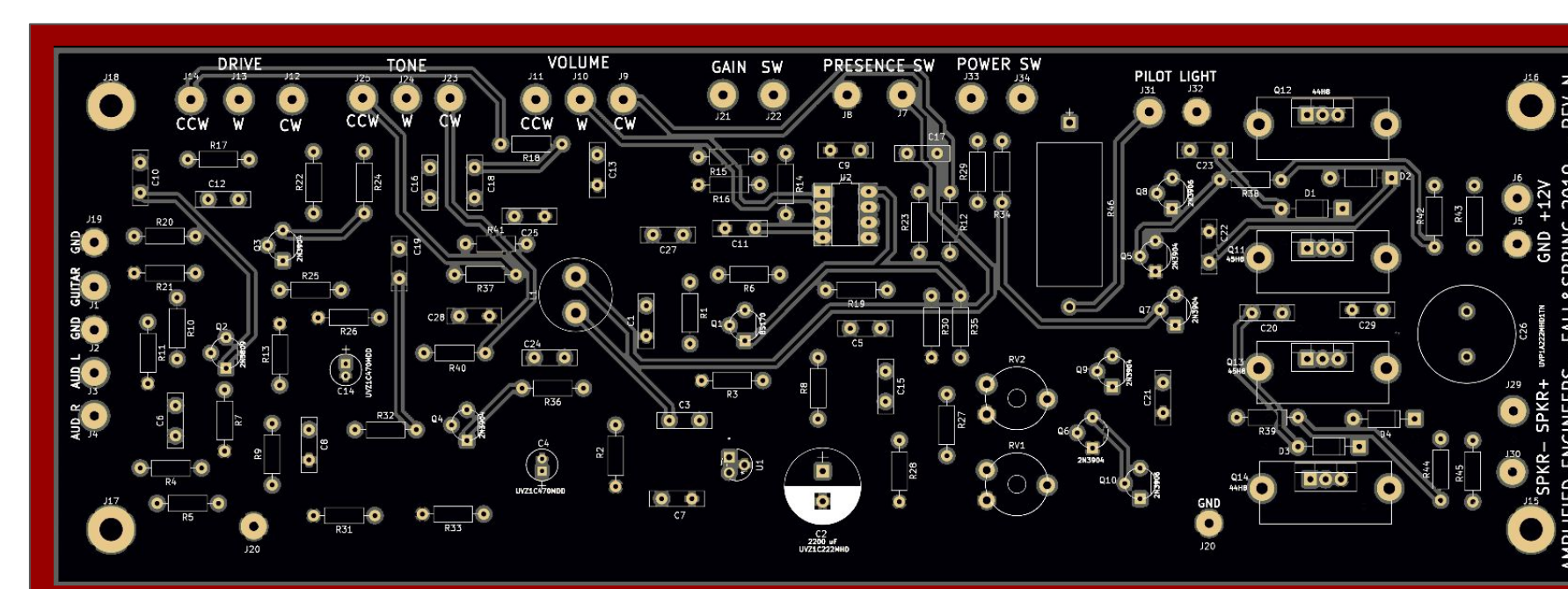


PASSIVE NOTCH FILTER
This series RLC segment of the circuit provides a dip in the 600Hz - 1kHz range to create a "brighter" sound



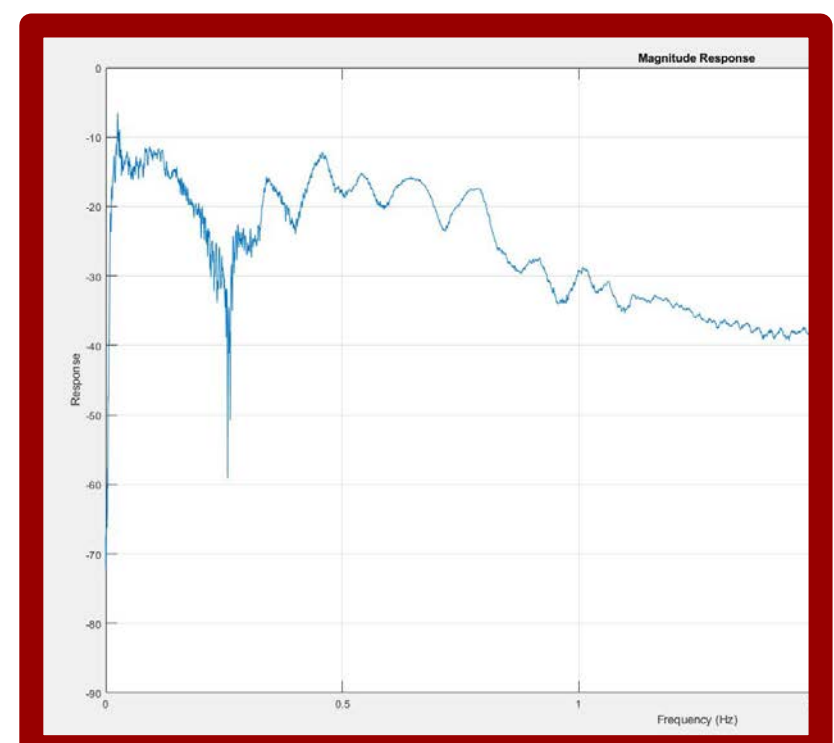
TONE CONTROL
This elegant design allows tone control with the use of just one potentiometer

PCB DESIGN



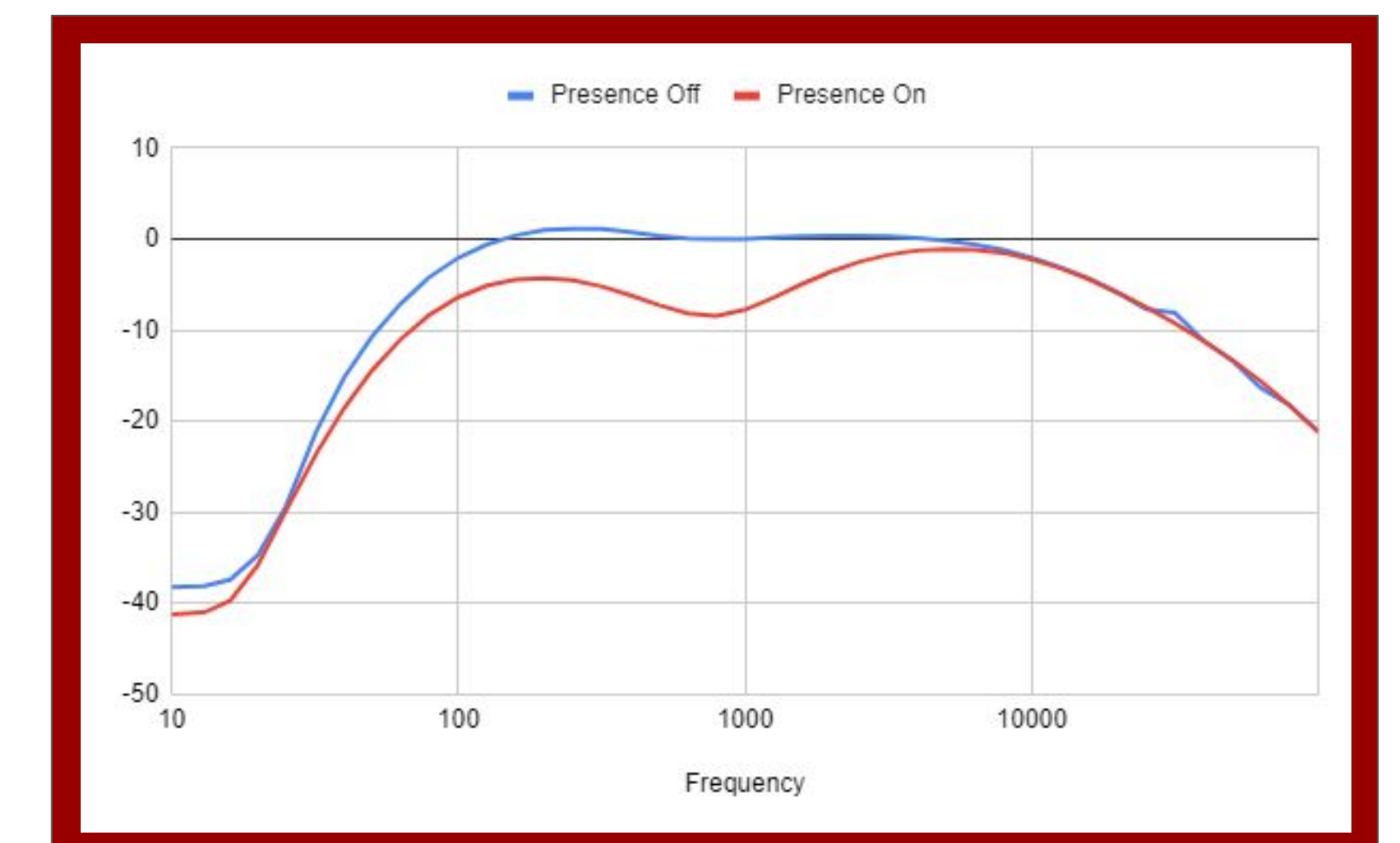
The PCB layout was designed in conjunction with the ME team in order to ensure a proper fit with the final cabinet design. Some of the components are rather tall and could have resulted in collision without careful planning.

TESTING/RESULTS



ACOUSTIC TESTING

By testing the acoustic characteristics of the various cabinet designs in a semi-anechoic room, we were able to compare different mechanical designs and optimize the cabinet for the best possible sound. We measured the acoustic response with an adaptive filter, allowing us to plot the amplitude at different frequencies



FREQUENCY RESPONSE TESTING

In order to create the option for a "brighter" sound, we implemented a passive notch filter that provides a dip from 600 - 1kHz. The plot above shows the measured frequency response with (red) and without (blue) the presence switch enabled.