

Operators Manual:



1. INPUTS (1 AND 2)

The StepABout allows you to preamp and equalize two audio INPUT signals and route them as two audio OUTPUT signals, in various mix combinations. The INPUTs can be from any audio source — a two-channel instrument like The Stick, a pair of mono instruments, or any combination of two signals.

Examples of INPUT combinations could be:

INPUT 1	INPUT 2
Stick bass	Stick melody
Stick bass	electric bass
Stick melody	electric guitar
electric guitar	acoustic guitar
acoustic bass	electric bass
electric guitar 1	electric guitar 2

2. FOOTSWITCHES

The four-button switching matrix routes the INPUT signals to the two OUTPUTs (A and B) in any combination from “full-bypass” to both INPUTs going to both OUTPUTs. When these switches are all bypassed no signal will be present at either OUTPUT A or OUTPUT B, but a mono mix of the two inputs is still sent to the HEADPHONE/TUNER out. A blue LED above each switch indicates when a routing path is active. If you want to plug or unplug your instrument, first bypass all of the routing switches to avoid pops at the OUTPUT jacks.

3. OUTPUTS

MAIN OUTS (A and B)

The two OUTPUTs are TRS 1/4 jacks, for running into balanced or unbalanced effects, mixers, amplifiers or computer audio interfaces. When all of the four routing switches are bypassed, there will be no signal present at these OUTPUTs. The signal level at these OUTPUTs is like a high-level instrument out. Balanced (stereo) and unbalanced (mono) shielded 1/4” cables can be used.



PHONES/TUNER OUT

The signal at this jack is the mix of the two preamplified INPUTs in mono. This is an amplified stereo headphone amp jack, so if you want to use it as a tuner out, some precautions must be made (see below).

The output level controls only the level of the PHONES/TUNER output. The headphone amplifier provides a maximum of 10 dB gain over the preamped signal.

WARNING: using a standard 1/4” mono to 1/4” patch cable or guitar cord in this jack will cause a short in the headphone amp. To use this output as a tuner output, plug in the TRS (stereo) end of a stereo 1/4” insert cable (or a Stick audio cable) into the PHONES/TUNER jack and plug either of the mono ends into the tuner. The other mono end can be used as an additional unswitched output from the StepABout, or left unused.



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 Stick and Chapman Stick are registered trademarks of Stick Enterprises, Inc.

4. BassXX™ PREAMPS

The preamp circuit controls the volume and tone of each INPUT's signal. Five controls - VOLUME, BASS, TREBLE, MIDRANGE FREQUENCY and MIDRANGE GAIN affect each INPUT individually.

VOLUME

Each INPUT has a VOLUME control knob. This adjusts the level of each signal from $-\infty$ to +4 dB of gain. Considerably more gain can be added by boosting the EQ controls.

PREAMP BYPASS

The eq circuit can be bypassed by pulling up on the TREBLE knob, which is the center knob of the BASS/TREBLE stacked potentiometer. In this mode the VOLUME controls still function for each INPUT.

BASS/TREBLE

Each INPUT has its own BASS/TREBLE control. They share a stacked potentiometer, with the BASS control on the outside ring and the TREBLE control in the center. The BASS control boosts and cuts by ± 12 dB, functioning like a shelving eq with a 100Hz top point and less effect below 30 Hz. The TREBLE control boosts and cuts by ± 15 dB.

The TREBLE control is asymmetrical, boosting like a parametric but cutting like a shelving band, as shown in the frequency plot above. The frequency for the TREBLE control is 8 kHz. When boosted this increases the articulation of an instrument's sound without adding hiss. When cut it functions similarly to a passive tone control on a guitar.

MIDRANGE FREQUENCY

Each INPUT has its own knob for MIDRANGE FREQUENCY selection. This controls the center peak of the bell curve for the MIDRANGE GAIN knob. The range is from 240 Hz to 1100 Hz. The bandwidth extends far beyond these center peaks, however, overlapping with the BASS and TREBLE ranges for versatile tone sculpting.

MIDRANGE GAIN

Each INPUT has its own knob for MIDRANGE GAIN control. The MIDRANGE can be boosted or cut by ± 12 dB. When boosted the eq curve's peak is broad, for adding midrange thickening. When cut, the peak is narrower, which is helpful in eliminating unwanted resonances.

HEADROOM

While the BassXX preamps have high headroom for low noise operation, turning all of the knobs up to maximum can cause distortion. If this happens, back off on the volume to retain the desired tone settings.

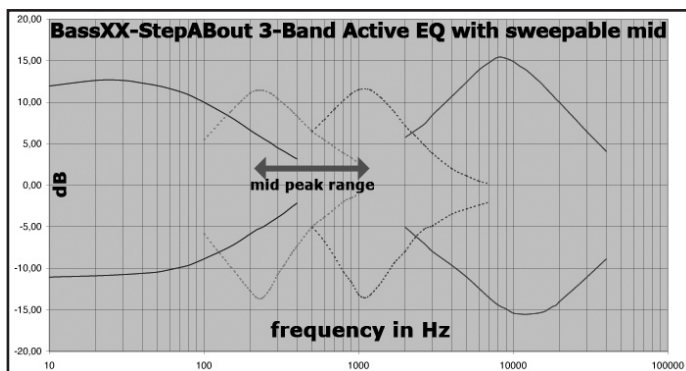
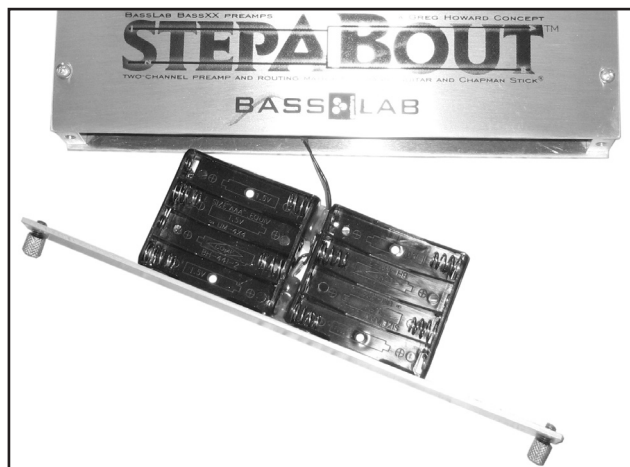
5. POWER

Power is provided by an external 12-18 volt DC power supply or 8 1.5 volt AAA batteries. To turn the unit off make sure the DC power in is not connected or is plugged into an outlet that it turned off, and switch the power switch to "DC 12 volt."

To change the batteries, unscrew the two retaining bolts on the front of the unit and slide out the battery compartment (see image at right).



Low battery level is indicated by a flashing blue light in the upper left corner, next to the "on" status light (see image at left).



SPECIFICATIONS

INPUTS: Two 1/4" TS (mono) jacks (1,2 in), impedance: 2.2 MOhm

BassXX™ Preamps (2)

Bass control: -30 Hz, ± 12 dB - 100Hz ± 9 dB (-3dB point)

Parametric mids: 240 ... 1100 Hz, ± 12 dB

Treble control: 8kHz, ± 15 dB

MAIN OUTPUTS:

Two TRS balanced 1/4" jacks (A,B out) (can also accommodate standard TS plugs)

Output impedance: 50 Ohm symm.

Frequency range: 5Hz to 40kHz ± 1.5 dB

PHONE/TUNER Out: always active mono mix of both inputs, with mix volume control.

Max gain boost over preamped signal: 10dB Headphone amp: DC-coupled for loud clean output. impedance: >32 ohm

DIMENSIONS: 6 1/2" (16.5 cm) deep, 7 7/8" (20 cm) wide, 3" (7.6 cm) high.



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