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FXL8 Pro

User Manual

Effects Looper

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MIDI OUT
MUTE
BANK-
BANK+
LOOP 1 OUT
LOOP 2 OUT
LOOP 3 OUT
RETURN
SEND
A
B
C
D
TUNER IN
TUNER ACTIVE

1 General information

This document contains important instructions for the safe operation of the product. Read and follow the safety instructions and all other instructions. Keep the document for future reference. Make sure that it is available to all those using the product. If you sell the product to another user, be sure that they also receive this document.

Our products and documentation are subject to a process of continuous development. They are therefore subject to change. Please refer to the latest version of the documentation, which is ready for download under *www.thomann.de*.

1.1 Symbols and signal words

In this section you will find an overview of the meaning of symbols and signal words that are used in this document.

Signal word	Meaning
DANGER!	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates an immediate dangerous situation that will result in death or serious injury if it is not avoided.
NOTICE!	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in material and environmental damage if it is not avoided.

Warning signs	Type of danger
	Warning – danger zone.

2 Safety instructions

Intended use

This device is intended to be used to integrate multiple effects devices into the signal path between instrument and amplifier. Different configurations can be stored. Use the device only as described in this user manual. Any other use or use under other operating conditions is considered to be improper and may result in personal injury or property damage. No liability will be assumed for damages resulting from improper use.

This device may be used only by persons with sufficient physical, sensorial, and intellectual abilities and having corresponding knowledge and experience. Other persons may use this device only if they are supervised or instructed by a person who is responsible for their safety.

Safety

DANGER!

Risk of injury and choking hazard for children!

Children can suffocate on packaging material and small parts. Children can injure themselves when handling the device. Never allow children to play with the packaging material and the device. Always store packaging material out of the reach of babies and small children. Always dispose of packaging material properly when it is not in use. Never allow children to use the device without supervision. Keep small parts away from children and make sure that the device does not shed any small parts (such knobs) that children could play with.

NOTICE!

Damage to the device if operated in unsuitable ambient conditions!

The device can be damaged if it is operated in unsuitable ambient conditions. Only operate the device indoors within the ambient conditions specified in the "Technical specifications" chapter of this user manual. Avoid operating it in environments with direct sunlight, heavy dirt and strong vibrations. Avoid operating it in environments with strong temperature fluctuations. If temperature fluctuations cannot be avoided (for example after transport in low outside temperatures), do not switch on the device immediately. Never subject the device to liquids or moisture. Never move the device to another location while it is in operation. In environments with increased dirt levels (for example due to dust, smoke, nicotine or mist): Have the device cleaned by qualified specialists at regular intervals to prevent damage due to overheating and other malfunctions.

NOTICE!

Damage to the external power supply due to high voltages!

The device is powered by an external power supply. The external power supply can be damaged if it is operated with the incorrect voltage or if high voltage peaks occur. In the worst case, excess voltages can also cause a risk of injury and fires. Make sure that the voltage specification on the external power supply matches the local power grid before plugging in the power supply. Only operate the external power supply from professionally installed mains sockets that are protected by a residual current circuit breaker (FI). Ensure that the power cord plug is easily accessible at all times if it is the only device to safely disconnect the device from the mains supply. As a precaution, disconnect the power supply from the power grid when storms are approaching or it the device will not be used for a longer period.

NOTICE!

Damage to the device due to use of unsuitable external power supplies!

If the device is operated with an unsuitable external power supply, the device can be damaged by overvoltage or incorrect polarity. If things go badly, using an unsuitable power supply can also cause a risk of injury and fire. Only use the external power supply designated for the device or an equivalent external power supply with identical parameters. If in doubt, compare the voltage specifications on the external power supply and the polarity (+/-) with the specifications in this manual and printed on the device. Voltage and polarity must always match.

3 Features

The unit is ideal for use and switching of up to eight effects devices in your guitar setup. It is characterized by:

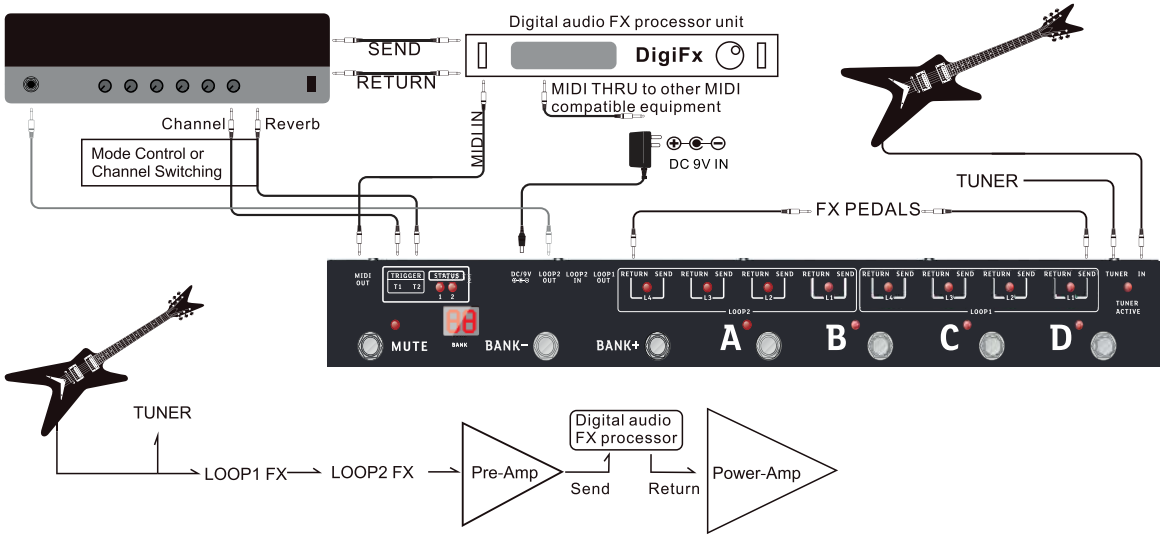
- two separately or jointly usable signal loops for up to four effects units
- premium footswitch with True Bypass function
- Option to store settings for loops in eight memory banks
- two programmable trigger (switching outputs) with which other audio devices can be controlled
- a MIDI output for triggering MIDI compatible devices
- robust metal housing

4 Installation

Unpack and check carefully there is no transportation damage before using the unit. Keep the equipment packaging. To fully protect the product against vibration, dust and moisture during transportation or storage use the original packaging or your own packaging material suitable for transport or storage, respectively.

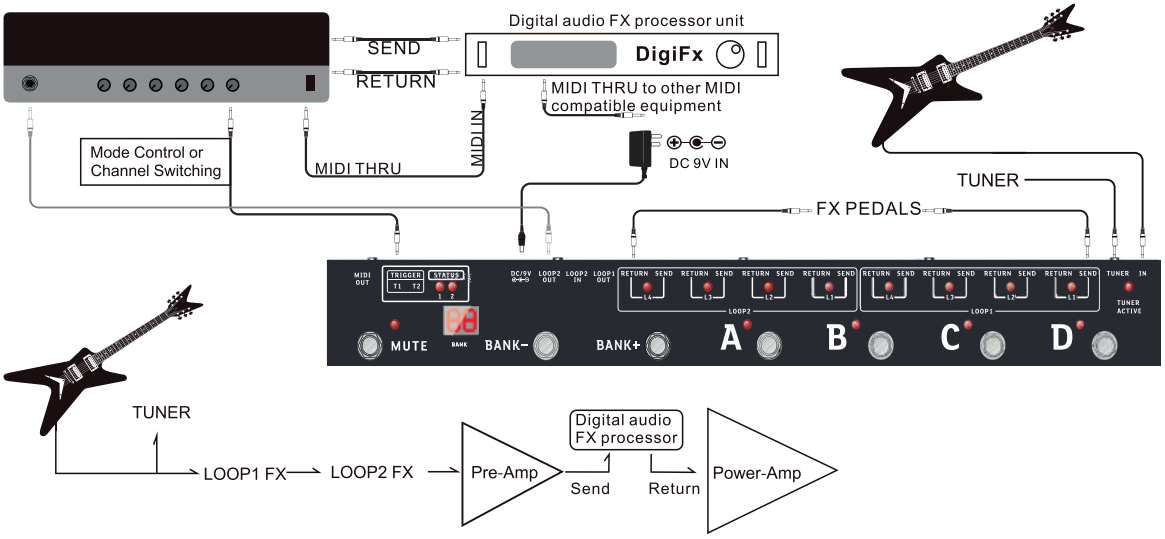
Create all connections while the device is off. Use the shortest possible high-quality cables for all connections. Take care when running the cables to prevent tripping hazards.

8-channel mode with usage of the MIDI output



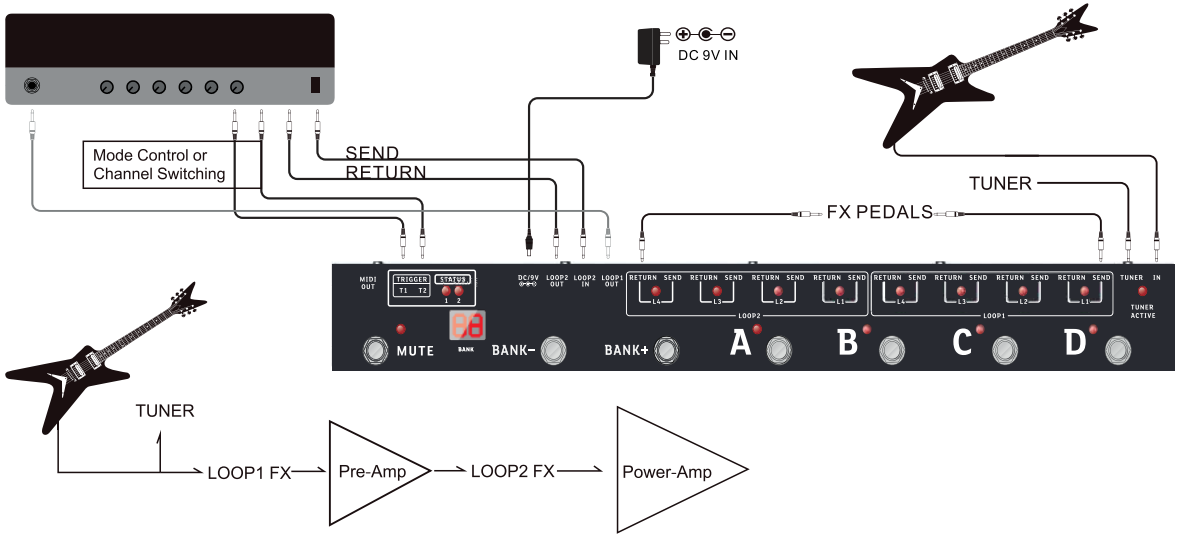
If your instrument is connected to the input *[IN]* and your amplifier to the output *[LOOP2 OUT]*, eight effects processors can be looped into the signal path. In this example, the MIDI output controls an audio processor that is arranged behind the preamp in the signal path.

8-channel mode without usage of the MIDI output



If your instrument is connected to the input *[IN]* and your amplifier to the output *[LOOP2 OUT]*, eight effects processors can be looped into the signal path. In this example, an audio processor arranged behind the preamp in the signal path is controlled by a third device.

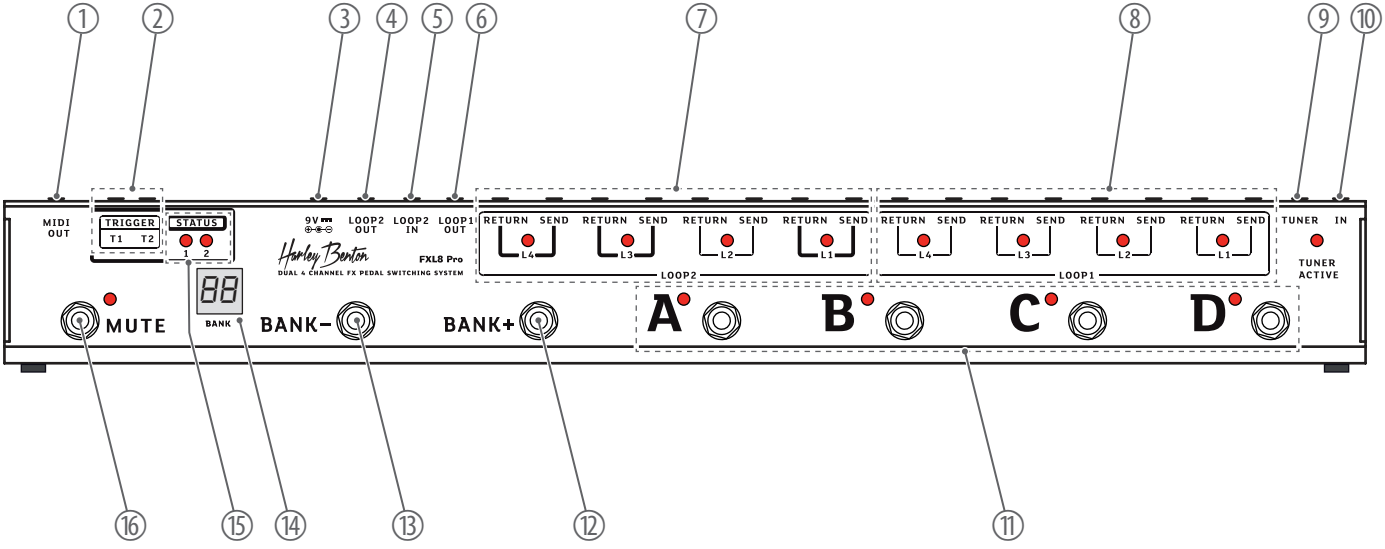
2×4-channel mode



Connect your instrument to the input *[IN]* of the device and the effects input of your amplifier to output *[LOOP1 OUT]*. Connect the effects output of your amplifier to the input *[LOOP2 IN]* and the power stage of your amp to the output *[LOOP2 OUT]*. Connect the inputs, that can be used to control the effects on your amplifier to the programmable trigger outputs *[TRIGGER T1]*, *[TRIGGER T2]*. In this setup, you can use and programme built-in effects of your amp in the same way as effects pedals.

5 Connections and controls

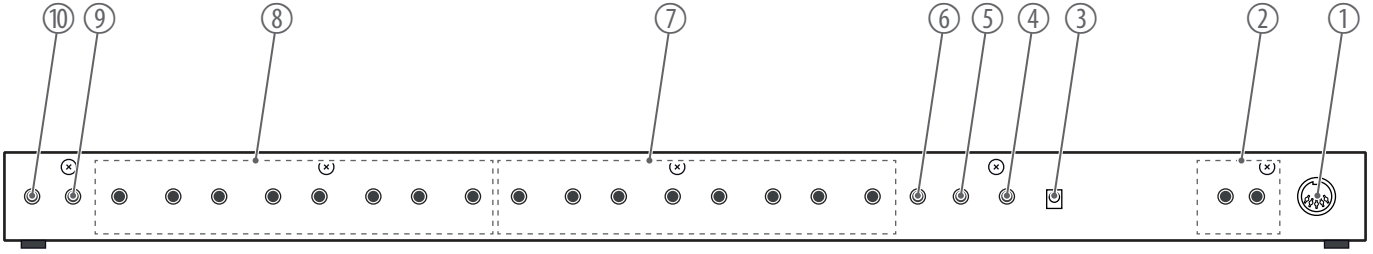
Top



1	*[MIDI OUT]* | Output for controlling a connected audio device with MIDI interface
2	*[TRIGGER T1]*, *[TRIGGER T2]* | Output sockets for two programmable switching outputs
3	*[9V]* | Connection for the external power supply with 9 V DC. When connecting, observe the correct polarity - the centre must be negative.
4	*[LOOP2 OUT]* | Output socket, depending on the setting for the total output or the loop output (signal loop) 2. Use a standard instrument cable (6.35-mm jack) to connect the input of your amplifier here.
5	*[LOOP2 IN]* | Input for loop (signal loop) 2
6	*[LOOP1 OUT]* | Output of loop (signal loop) 1
7	*[LOOP2 RETURN / SEND]* | Use these connections to include up to four external effects devices into loop (signal loop) 2. Use shielded cables (6.35-mm jack) to connect each of the SEND sockets to the input of the effects device and its output to the RETURN socket. An indicator LED is assigned to each channel. It lights up when the channel is active.
8	*[LOOP1 RETURN / SEND]* | Use these connections to include up to four external effects devices into loop (signal loop) 1. Use shielded cables (6.35-mm jack) to connect each of the SEND sockets to the input of the effects device and its output to the RETURN socket. An indicator LED is assigned to each channel. It lights up when the channel is active.
9	*[TUNER]* | Output for an external tuner. The assigned indicator LED lights up when the output is active.
10	*[IN]* | Input socket. Use a shielded cable with 6.35-mm jack to connect your instrument here.
11	*[A]*, *[B]*, *[C]*, *[D]* | Use the "True-Bypass" foot switches *[A]* to *[D]* to switch the selected effects groups on and off. The corresponding indicator LED of the activated effects groups light up.
12	*[BANK +]* | Foot switch for selecting the next higher memory bank
13	*[BANK –]* | Foot switch for selecting the next lower memory bank

14	*[BANK]* display	In normal operation, the device displays the number of the currently active memory bank here. In programming mode, parameters and the set values are displayed.
15	*[STATUS 1]*, *[STATUS 2]*	Indicator LEDs for the two switching outputs. The LED lights up when the switching output is active.
16	*[MUTE]*	Foot switch for selecting the operating mode. Press the foot switch successively to toggle between the operating modes “Mute” (muted), “Tune” (tuning), “Edit” (programming mode) and “Normal”. The associated indicator LED lights up for as long as the audio signal is not switched to the output.

Back



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9	*[TUNER]* | Output for an external tuner. The assigned indicator LED lights up when the output is active.
10	*[IN]* | Input socket. Use a shielded cable with 6.35-mm jack to connect your instrument here.

6 Operating

Control for tuner and mute

1. When the device is not in edit mode, press *[MUTE]*. The device activates the *[TUNER OUT]* output, to which you can connect a tuner to tune your instrument.
2. If you press *[MUTE]* again, the outputs *[LOOP1 OUT]* and *[LOOP2 OUT]* are muted. You can tune your instrument without hearing the tones from the amp.
3. If you press *[MUTE]* again, the outputs *[LOOP1 OUT]* and *[LOOP2 OUT]* become active again and the *[TUNER OUT]* output is turned off.

Selecting a memory bank

1. When the device is not in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to change the memory bank.
2. The selected setting will not take effect immediately. You have to press *[A]*, *[B]*, *[C]* or *[D]* to apply the settings. During the changeover, the display shows the number of the memory bank and *'A'*, *'B'*, *'C'* or *'D'*.

Using the edit function

When the device is not in edit mode and the bypass is not active, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to switch to edit mode. The display then shows *'EH'* to indicate that edit mode was entered. Press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to select the item to be edited. The following assignment applies:

Display	Editing of
'EH'	4 effects channels of loop 2
'EL'	4 effects channels of loop 1
'ET'	Action of trigger 1 and 2 with active patch
'EB'	Action of trigger 1 and 2 with non-active patch
'EM'	Operating mode of trigger 1 and 2: ■ M: Momentary contact (Mom) ■ L: Permanent contact (Latch) Refer to the user manual of the device to be controlled by the trigger signals.
'EP'	Polarity of trigger 1 and 2: ■ ON ■ OFF Refer to the user manual of the device to be controlled by the trigger signals.

Display	Editing of
'MA'	MIDI setting during patch status transition from “non-active” to “active”. Refer to the user manual of the device to be controlled via the MIDI interface.
'MB'	MIDI setting during patch status transition from “active” to “non-active”. Refer to the user manual of the device to be controlled via the MIDI interface.

Editing a loop combination

1. When the device is in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *'EH'* (for loop 2) or *'EL'* (for loop 1) (see *'Using the edit function' on page 20*).

Since the operation is the same for both loops, only *'EL'* (for loop 1) is shown in this example.

2. To turn the channels belonging to the selected loop on and off, simply press *[A]*, *[B]*, *[C]* or *[D]* accordingly:

- A: L4 (effects channel 4)
- B: L3 (effects channel 3)
- C: L2 (effects channel 2)
- D: L1 (effects channel 1)

By pressing the respective foot switch the corresponding effect channel is turned on or off.

3. When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

Setting the triggers

To set the behaviour of the trigger, you should successively set polarity, operating mode, behaviour with an active patch and behaviour with a non-active patch. Experienced users can also directly select the relevant setting.

Setting the trigger polarity

1. When the device is in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *'EP'*.
2. Now you can set the polarity of T1 and T2. The assigned two indicator LEDs show the selected polarity. Press *[A]* (for T1) or *[B]* (for T2). If, for example, you want to set the polarity for T1, press *[A]* and observe the indicator LED *[T1]*.
3. When the polarity settings are complete, you can use *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to skip to another sub-item of the menu.

   When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

Setting the trigger operating mode

1. When the device is in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *'EM'*.
2. Now you can set the operating mode for T1 and T2. The assigned two indicator LEDs show the selected operating mode. Press *[A]* (for T1) or *[B]* (for T2). If, for example, you want to set the operating mode for T1, press *[A]* and observe the indicator LED *[T1]*. If the LED lights up, this indicates momentary contact (Mom). If the LED does not light up, this indicates permanent contact (Latch).

3. When the operating mode settings are complete, you can use *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to skip to another sub-item of the menu.

   When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

Setting the action of trigger 1 and 2 with active patch

1. When the device is in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *'ET'*.
2. Now you can set how trigger 1 and trigger 2 work with activated patch (non-bypass). "Activated patch" means that the effect channels assigned in a loop are switched on. The assigned two indicator LEDs show the selected action. Press *[A]* (for T1) or *[B]* (for T2). If, for example, you want to set the action for T1, press *[A]* and observe the indicator LED *[T1]*. If the LED lights up, this indicates that the device function is active. If the LED does not light up, this means that the device is not active.
3. When the trigger actions on active patch settings are complete, you can use *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to skip to another sub-item of the menu.

   When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

Setting the action of trigger 1 and 2 with non-active patch

1. When the device is in edit mode, press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *'EB'*.
2. Now you can set how trigger 1 and trigger 2 work with non-activated patch (bypass). "Non-activated patch" means that the effect channels assigned in a loop are switched off, resulting in a "clean" signal path. Nevertheless, you can use the triggers to induce actions on another audio device; you can, for example, activate effects that are built into the amplifier.

   The assigned two indicator LEDs show the selected action. Press *[A]* (for T1) or *[B]* (for T2). If, for example, you want to set the action for T1, press *[A]* and observe the indicator LED *[T1]*. If the LED lights up, this indicates that the device function is active. If the LED does not light up, this means that the device is not active.
3. When the trigger actions on non-active patch settings are complete, you can use *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* to skip to another sub-item of the menu.

   When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

MIDI settings

The device uses the value range 1…128 for MIDI signals. Some other MIDI devices may use the 0…127 value range.

For MIDI commands that are to be sent to devices that use the value range 0…127, the MIDI command must always be selected one higher so that the values correspond. Failure to do so can cause unintended effects.

***Example:** To send a controller value (CC) of 127, it is necessary to set 128 on the device.*

The device can send two sets of MIDI data (for example MIDI CC+ or MIDI CC+CC). To use the MIDI functions, the following sequence must be followed:

Ex -> Ax -> Cx - Nx, where “x” is 1 or 2, as in E1, A1, C1, N1 or E2, A2, C2, N2.

To set the MIDI functions, you first have to enter edit mode. Press *[BANK +]* or *[BANK –]* until the display shows *‘MA’* or *‘MB’*. The MA section is used to determine which MIDI data is sent during patch status transition from non-active (bypass) to active. The MB section is used to determine which MIDI data is sent during patch status transition from active to non-active (bypass).

MIDI settings in the MA section

When the display shows *‘MA’* you can press *[A]* or *[B]* to successively call up options E1, A1, C1, N1, E2, A2, C2 and N2. You can select the desired parameter for an option by pressing *[C]* or *[D]*. Press *[MUTE]* briefly to return to option selection.

The following table shows the setting options for E1, A1, C1 and N1 and thus for MIDI message 1. The setting options for MIDI message 2 (E2, A2, C2 and N2) are correspondingly identical. Make sure when choosing the parameters that they do not cancel each other out. For example, if identical values are chosen for A1 and A2, E1 is set to “PC” and E2 to “OF”, then “Program Change” will not be performed, because the same transmission channel is used both times.

Option	Possible parameters	
E1: Message type of MIDI message 1 (MIDI message 1 message type)		
	OF	Turns the built-in MIDI controller off, the device does not send MIDI data.

Option	Possible parameters	
	PC	The device sends a “Program Change” message.
	CC	The device sends a “Control Change” message.
A1: Transmission channel of MIDI message 1 (MIDI message 1 transmit channel), available only if E1 is not equal to “OF”.		
	01…16	Number of the transmission channel
	If E1 is equal to “OF” the display shows *‘––’* and no value can be set.	
C1: Parameter 1 of MIDI message 1 (MIDI message 1 parameter 1), available only if E1 is not equal to “OF”.		
	01…2.8	The displayed number represents the set value. For values above 100, the decimal point shifts. For example, value 128 is displayed as *‘2.8’*. If E1 is equal to “PC”, the number set for C1 represents one of 128 possible tones. If E1 is equal to “CC”, the number set for C1 represents the number of a controller in your MIDI setup. A Program Change message is normally used to change the sound preset; a Control Change message is used to select parameters for an effect (delay time, modulation depth, etc.). Example 1: If you want to change the tone settings of an effects processor, you must first determine which MIDI channel the effects processor receives. Then set E1 to “PC” (this causes a “Program Change” message to be sent). Example 2: If you want to change the delay time of your effects processor you must first set the transmission channel to the value that the effects processor uses. Then set C1 to the correct MIDI controller number for your effects processor. You can then use N1 to send the correct value. N1 is discussed in the next section.

Option	Possible parameters	
	If E1 is equal to “OF” the display shows *‘––’* and no value can be set.	
N1: Parameter 2 of MIDI message 1 (MIDI message 1 parameter 2), available only if E1 is equal to “CC”.		
	01…2.8	The displayed number represents the set value. For values above 100, the decimal point shifts. For example, value 128 is displayed as *‘2.8’*. If E1 is equal to “CC”, the number set for N1 represents the value transmitted by a “Control Change” message. A “Control Change” message consists of a transmission channel, the controller number and the transmitted value. Such a message is normally used to change a parameter of an effect. Therefore, the value for C1 must match the value which is used by the controlled device. The used numbers of the transmission channels must match as well. Example 1: Controller 12 of your effects processor controls the delay effect, it receives control messages on MIDI channel 15 and can use values 1 to 128 to represent delay values between 0.02 s and 1 s. If you want to set the delay time to 1 s via MIDI connection, you have to set up the four options of MIDI message 1 as follows: ■ E1: “CC” ■ A1: 15 ■ C1: 12 ■ N1: 128
	If E1 is not equal to “CC” the display shows *‘––’* and no value can be set.	

MIDI settings in the MB section

You can use the MIDI settings in the MB section to trigger actions on the connected MIDI devices if the effects channels assigned to a loop are turned off and the signal path is “clean”.

When the display shows *‘MB’* you can press *[A]* or *[B]* to successively call up options E1, A1, C1, N1, E2, A2, C2 and N2. The setting options and their meanings are identical to the settings in the MA section.

When all settings are completed, press *[MUTE]* for more than one second to save the settings. To exit edit mode without saving, press *[MUTE]* only briefly.

7 Technical specifications

Input connections	Power supply	1 × socket for power adapter
	Loop In	1 × 6.35-mm jack socket
Output connections	Amplifier	1 × 6.35-mm jack socket
	MIDI Out	1 × DIN socket, 5-pin
	Switching outputs	2 × 6.35-mm jack socket
	Loop Out	2 × 6.35-mm jack socket
	Loop Return/Send	16 × 6.35-mm jack socket
	Tuner	1 × 6.35-mm jack socket
Power supply		External power adapter, 100 - 240 V ~ 50/60 Hz
Power adapter	Secondary current	240 mA
	Secondary voltage	9 V ⎓
	Polarity	Centre negative
International Protection Rating		IP20
Dimensions (W × H × D)		541 mm × 53 mm × 67 mm
Weight		1.68 kg

Ambient conditions	Temperature range	0 °C…40 °C
	Relative humidity	20%…80% (non-condensing)

Further information

LED display	Yes
Design	Floor effects pedal
Type	Looper
Connection for power supply	Yes
MIDI interface	Yes
Power supply included	No, optionally available (item no. 409939)

8 Plug and connection assignment

Introduction

This chapter will help you select the right cables and plugs to connect your valuable equipment in such a way that a perfect sound experience is ensured.

Please note these advices, because especially in 'Sound & Light' caution is indicated: Even if a plug fits into the socket, an incorrect connection may result in a destroyed power amp, a short circuit or 'just' in poor transmission quality!

Balanced and unbalanced transmission

Unbalanced transmission is mainly used in semi-professional environment and in hifi use. Instrument cables with two conductors (one core plus shielding) are typical representatives of the unbalanced transmission. One conductor is ground and shielding while the signal is transmitted through the core.

Unbalanced transmission is susceptible to electromagnetic interference, especially at low levels, such as microphone signals and when using long cables.

In a professional environment, therefore, the balanced transmission is preferred, because this enables an undisturbed transmission of signals over long distances. In addition to the conductors 'Ground' and 'Signal', in a balanced transmission a second core is added. This also transfers the signal, but phase-shifted by 180°.

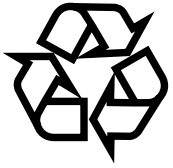
Since the interference affects both cores equally, by subtracting the phase-shifted signals, the interfering signal is completely neutralized. The result is a pure signal without any noise interference.

1/4" TS phone plug (mono, unbalanced)

1	Signal
2	Ground, shielding

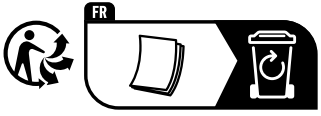
9 Protecting the environment

Disposal of the packing material



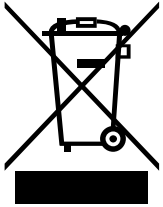
Environmentally friendly materials have been chosen for the packaging. These materials can be sent for normal recycling. Ensure that plastic bags, packaging, etc. are disposed of in the proper manner.

Do not dispose of these materials with your normal household waste, but make sure that they are collected for recycling. Please follow the instructions and markings on the packaging.



Observe the disposal note regarding documentation in France.

Disposal of your old device



This product is subject to the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) as amended.

Do not dispose of your old device with your normal household waste; instead, deliver it for controlled disposal by an approved waste disposal firm or through your local waste facility. If in doubt, consult your local waste management facility. You can also return the device to a retailer if they offer to take the device back for free or if they are legally obliged to do so. When disposing of the device, comply with the rules and regulations that apply in your country. You can also return your old device to Thomann GmbH at no charge. Check the current conditions on *www.thomann.de*.

Proper disposal protects the environment as well as the health of your fellow human beings. This is because the proper handling of old devices negates the potential negative effects of hazardous substances, and because it conserves resources by recycling them.

Also note that waste avoidance is a valuable contribution to environmental protection. Repairing a device or passing it on to another user is an ecologically valuable alternative to disposal.

If your old device contains personal data, delete those data before disposing of it.