

Aftershock Bass Distortion User's Guide



Welcome

Thank you for purchasing the Aftershock Bass Distortion. This powerful stereo effects pedal features a collection of meticulously crafted Distortion sounds ranging from subtly driven sustain to highly saturated distortion to thick fuzz and beyond. With a simple control set, the Aftershock can work in a wide variety of musical settings, and the powerful MIDI and Neuro control options under the hood provide access to a vast array of additional tonal possibilities.

The Aftershock is housed in a durable, lightweight aluminum housing, packing rack mount power and flexibility into a compact, easy-to-use stompbox.

The USB and Neuro ports transform the Aftershock from a simple distortion pedal into a powerful multi-effects unit. Using the free Neuro App (iOS / Android), a wide range of additional control parameters and effect types (including a large collection of overdrive, fuzz, and distortion sounds) are accessible. When used together with the Neuro Hub, the Aftershock is fully MIDI-controllable and 128 multi-pedal presets, or “scenes,” can be saved for instant recall on the stage or in the studio. The Aftershock can also connect directly to a passive expression pedal for expressive control of any parameter.

The [Quick Start](#) guide will help you with the basics. For more in-depth information about the Aftershock Bass Distortion, move on to the following sections, starting with [Connections](#).

Enjoy!

- The Source Audio Team

Overview

Diverse Distortion Sounds – Choose from traditional Distortion tones such as Tube, Heavy, and Fuzz, or delve deeper into unique sounds cooked up in the Source Audio lab.

Compact Design – The durable, anodized aluminum housing has a slim profile, a small footprint, and sturdy hardware that will withstand the rigors of the road.

Universal Bypass™ – True bypass or buffered bypass? The choice is yours. The Aftershock features high-quality signal relays for true bypass and transparent buffers for analog bypass.

Stacking – Stack two independent distortion circuits in series (or in parallel), all within the same box!

Dual 4-Band EQ + Low Cut – Two independent parametric EQs are included in the Aftershock, allowing for fine tone control. An optional low cut filter tightens up the low end for bass players.

Flexible Routing – The Aftershock is equally at home in a mono rig or a stereo rig. A variety of routing modes such as True Stereo, Cascade, Parallel, Dry Sidechain and External Loop allow the Aftershock to harness the true power of stereo signal chains. Or just use it in Mono mode!

Preset Saving – Save your favorite sound by pressing and holding the footswitch. No need to remember knob positions in the middle of a show.

Neuro Technology – The Neuro App opens up new possibilities for the Aftershock, including completely new effect types, additional control parameters, and access to the Neuro Community, including free presets from artists and other users. The Neuro Hub can store up to 128 presets for the Aftershock, easily recalled with a MIDI controller. You can also download any effects for the L.A. Lady Overdrive and Aftershock Bass Distortion and use them on the Aftershock Bass Distortion.

Deep Control Set – Beyond the four knobs on the face of the Aftershock are many additional parameters. The Neuro App provides access to the inner workings of the Distortion effect for advanced users who want to create a unique signature sound.

Noise Gate – The built-in adjustable noise gate helps remove unwanted noise.

Clean Path – The clean signal can be mixed in with the distortion as desired, perfect for bass players who want to hold down the rhythm section with a clean low end.

MIDI Control – All of the Aftershock's parameters can be accessed and controlled using MIDI via the Neuro Hub or USB. Class compliant USB-MIDI allows the Aftershock to work as a plug-and-play device with recording software running on Mac and Windows, and the MIDI Learn feature makes control mapping simple.

Quick Start

Power

To power the unit, connect the included 9V DC power supply to the jack labeled **DC 9V** on the back panel.

Warning: Using a non-Source Audio supply, especially an unregulated supply, could damage the unit. Please be very cautious when using 3rd-party power supplies.

Guitar/Audio Connections

Using standard ¼" mono cables, connect your guitar, bass, or other instrument to the INPUT 1 jack and your amp (or the next audio device in the signal chain) to the OUTPUT 1 jack.

When the power and audio connections have been made, the Aftershock is ready to play.

Brief Knob, Footswitch, and Button Descriptions

Drive Knob: Controls the amount of gain into the distortion circuit, which sets the amount of distortion and sustain.

Level Knob: Controls the overall output level.

Clean Knob: Controls the amount of clean signal in the output.

Tone Knob: Controls the tone of the distortion.

Effect Switch: Selects between the three basic Distortion effect types – Tube, Heavy, and Fuzz.

Footswitch: Enables or bypasses the Distortion effect. The ON/OFF LED will be lit green when the Distortion effect is engaged.

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Connections

Input Side Connections



Input 1

This is the primary input for guitar, bass, or other instruments. It can also accept line-level inputs. Connect it to your instrument or other audio source using a mono (TS) ¼" cable.

Input 2

Input 2 can act either as an audio input or as the data connection for the Neuro App, or both at the same time.

Input 2 as an Audio Input

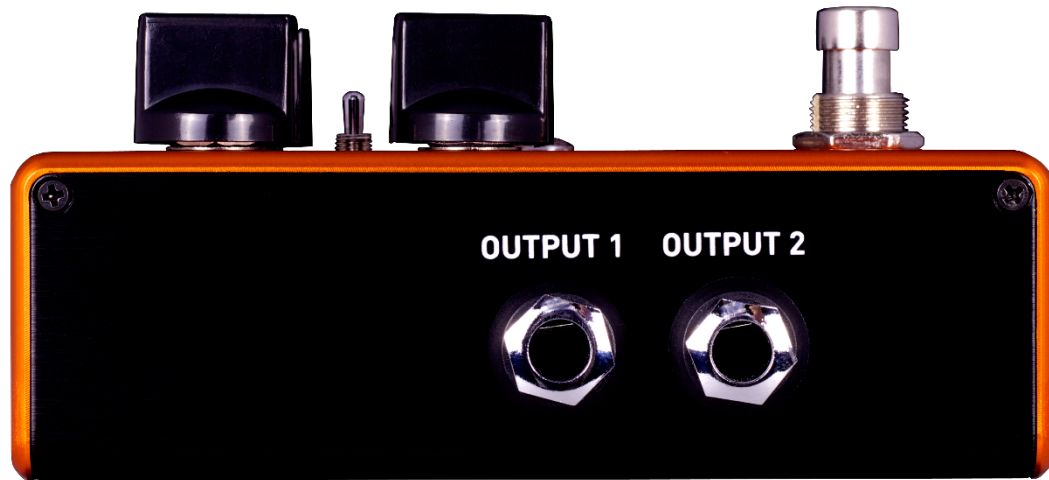
The tip contact on Input 2 acts as a secondary input for guitar, bass, or other instruments. It is only active when the Aftershock is configured with a signal routing that uses stereo inputs. Connect it to your instrument (or the previous effect in the signal chain) using a mono (TS) ¼" cable. By default, the Aftershock will auto-detect the routing mode. Other routing options are available using the Neuro App. For more information about stereo routing, refer to the [Stereo Routing](#) section.

Input 2 as a Neuro App Data Input

The ring contact on Input 2 acts as a data connection for the Neuro App. Connect it to your mobile device using a stereo (TRS) ¼" cable. It can also accept daisy-chained Neuro data from another Neuro-compatible pedal in the chain, provided that a TRS cable is used. The audio signal (if applicable) will be on the tip contact of the plug, and the Neuro App data will be on the ring contact.

Input 2 only accepts data from the Neuro App. Data from the Neuro Hub comes from the Control Input port.

Output Side Connections



Output 1

This is the primary output. Connect it to your amplifier, recording interface, or the next device in your effects signal chain using a mono (TS) ¼" cable.

Output 2

Output 2 can act either as an audio output or as the daisy-chain data connection for the Neuro App, or both.

Output 2 as an Audio Output

The tip contact on Output 2 acts as the secondary audio output. It carries an audio signal when the Aftershock is configured with a signal routing that uses stereo outputs. Connect it to your amplifier, recording interface, or the next device in your effects signal chain using a mono (TS) ¼" cable.

Output 2 as a Neuro App Data Daisy-Chain Output

The ring contact on Output 2 acts as a data connection for the Neuro App, passing data from the Aftershock to the next Source Audio effect in your signal chain. You can daisy-chain the Neuro App data regardless of whether Output 2 is configured to output audio or not. Connect Output 2 to the next device's Neuro App Data input (usually Input 2) using a stereo (TRS) ¼" cable. The audio signal (if applicable) will be on the tip contact of the plug, and the Neuro App data will be on the ring contact.


Power and Control Connections



DC 9V (Power)

Connect to the included 9 Volt DC power supply. The power supply must be regulated at 9 Volts (direct current), able to source at least 180 mA (milliamps) of current, and the plug should have a tip-negative, sleeve-positive polarity (the center tip is ground and the sleeve is power).

USB

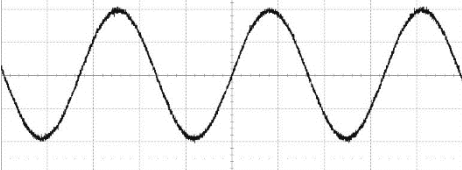
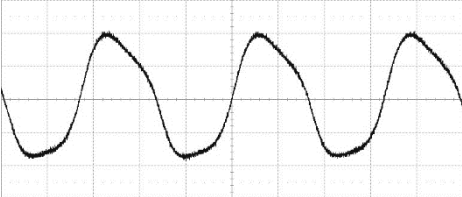
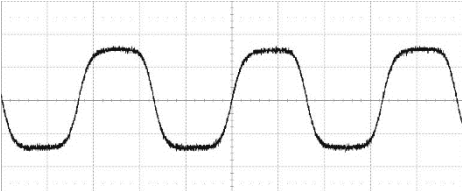
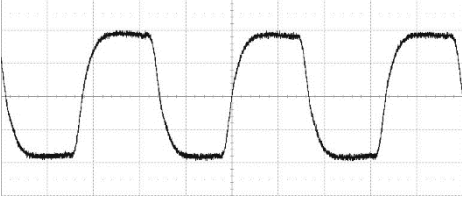
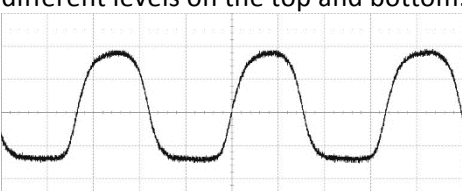
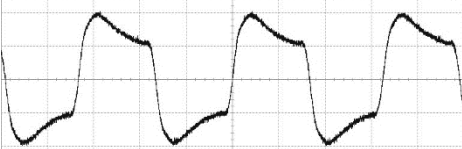
Connect to your computer (Mac or Windows) to the Aftershock's USB port (denoted by the  icon) using a standard mini USB cable. The Aftershock is a class compliant USB device, meaning that it should be recognized by Mac and Windows computers automatically. For more information about the Aftershock's USB capabilities, refer to the [USB](#) section of the User's Guide.

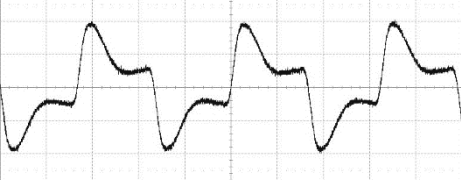
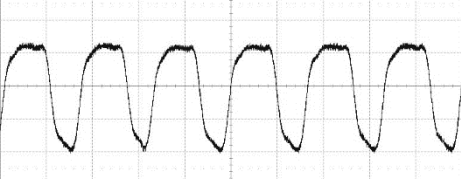
Control Input

The 3.5 mm Control Input port connects to external control devices such as the Dual Expression Pedal, Reflex Universal Expression Pedal, Neuro Hub, and Hot Hand Motion Controller. For more information, refer to the [Expression Pedal Input](#), [Hot Hand Input](#), and [Neuro Hub](#) sections of the User's Guide.

Basic Distortion Operation

Distortion is a type of effect that works by distorting the input signal. Distortion can occur in a variety of ways and results in a wide variety of outputs. This table shows a simple representation of what some different types of distortion look like.

<p>Clean signal: With no distortion, the guitar signal passes through the circuit unaffected. In this example, a pure sine tone is used as a test signal.</p>	
<p>Tube/transistor saturation (soft clipping): Tube and transistor amplifiers enter a saturation state when overdriven and start to distort the shape of the signal. This involves some soft clipping at the peaks and valleys of the signal, and may be symmetrical or asymmetrical in shape.</p>	<p>Asymmetrical:</p>  <p>Symmetrical:</p> 
<p>Diode clipping (hard clipping): Diodes can clamp or limit the signal to a maximum level.</p>	<p>Symmetrical hard clipping: The signal clips equally on the top and bottom.</p>  <p>Asymmetrical hard clipping: The signal clips at different levels on the top and bottom.</p> 
<p>Overshoot: Depending on the characteristics of diodes and transistors in the circuit, the signal may exceed its normal clipping point before settling, which is known as overshoot.</p>	

<p>Extreme overshoot: The overshoot phenomenon can be taken to its extreme for fuzz and metal sounds.</p>	
<p>Octave: A rectifier can be used to double the frequency of the signal, creating an octave fuzz effect with a unique tonal character.</p>	

The various drive circuits in the Aftershock Bass Distortion utilize a combination of these different approaches to create tones inspired by the classics, as well as new groundbreaking tones that bring their own unique flavors.

Effect Types

The Aftershock includes three basic distortion types, with more effects available in the Neuro mobile app.

Tube

The Tube circuit offers an overdriven amp distortion sound with a smooth texture. Good for adding a little extra grind for an “always on” tone.

Heavy

The Heavy circuit creates a hybrid sound somewhere between the big-bottom Electro-Harmonix Big Muff Pi® and gritty Way Huge Swollen Pickle®. Great for power trio grinding bass low end.

Fuzz

A wild, digital sounding fuzz held back by a sensitive noise gate. Similar to a ZVex Woolly Mammoth®. Experiment with different levels of additional noise gate to find some of the most unique sounds hidden in the Aftershock.

Additional Effect Types

Additional effect types can be loaded into the Aftershock using the Neuro App on your mobile device (iOS / Android) or the built-in USB port (Mac / Windows).

The Aftershock Bass Distortion is compatible with Source Audio’s Overdrive and Fuzz effects, so it is possible to load Overdrive, Distortion, and Fuzz effects on the Aftershock at the same time.

Controls



Knobs

Drive Knob

The DRIVE KNOB adjusts the amount of gain applied to the signal. Dial down the drive for a cleaner, more articulate tone or crank it up for over-the-top doses of distortion.

Level Knob

Adjusts the output level of the effect. This is useful for setting the level of the distortion effect compared to the bypassed signal. Note that because the distortion effect compresses the signal in the clipping/saturation stage, the dynamic range of the distorted signal will be less than the dry signal, and the LEVEL KNOB can be used to compensate for the loss of level that results from this compression.

Clean Knob

The Clean Knob adjusts the amount of dry signal on the output. This is very useful for keeping a solid low end with high amounts of drive.

Tone Knob

The Tone Knob adjusts the overall tone of the distortion. Turn clockwise for brighter sounds and counter-clockwise for darker, warmer sounds.

Effect Switch

Selects between the three basic Distortion effect types – Tube, Heavy, or Fuzz. These effects are described in further detail in the [Effect Types](#) section.

LEDs

Engage / Bypass LED

The ENGAGE / BYPASS LED above the footswitch indicates if the Distortion effect is active (lit green) or bypassed (not lit).

When the user preset mode is enabled, the LED will turn red. See the [Preset Storage and Recall](#) section for more information about user presets.

External Control LED

The small LED located between the Depth and Speed knobs is the EXTERNAL CONTROL LED. When lit, it indicates that external control mode (expression, hot hand, or MIDI) is active. For more information, see the [External Control](#) section.

Footswitch

Enables or bypasses the Distortion effect.

Control Input Button

This small button is used when configuring external control. See the [External Control](#) section for more details.

Preset Storage and Recall

The Aftershock features a user preset that can be easily saved and recalled using the footswitch. When a preset is recalled, all of the parameters instantly jump to their saved value, regardless of the position of the knobs. This allows you to save your favorite sound without having to worry about the knob positions.

Saving Your First Preset

- Bypass the Aftershock by clicking the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH once. The ENGAGE/BYPASS LED should be dark at this time.
- Press and hold the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH for 5 seconds and wait for the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED to turn red. You are now in preset mode.
- Set up the effect how you want it to sound, including the EFFECT SWITCH, LEVEL KNOB, DRIVE KNOB, CLEAN KNOB AND TONE KNOB. Once you have made a change, the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED will begin to blink.
- To save your preset, hold the footswitch until the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED blinks rapidly 3 times.
- Now you can engage and bypass the Aftershock using the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH, and each time you engage the effect, your saved preset will be recalled.

Editing a Preset

- Activate your preset (the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED will be solid red).
- Change any parameter you wish (EFFECT SWITCH, LEVEL KNOB, DRIVE KNOB, CLEAN KNOB AND TONE KNOB). Once you have made a change, the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED will begin to blink.
- When you are ready to save, press and hold the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH for a few seconds. The ENGAGE/BYPASS LED will blink three times to show that the preset was saved.

Exiting Preset Mode

- When Preset Mode is active, bypass the effect using the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. The ENGAGE/BYPASS LED should be dark at this time.
- Press and hold the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH for 5 seconds and wait for the ENGAGE/BYPASS LED to turn green. You have now exited Preset Mode.

Universal Bypass™

Most effect pedals offer either true bypass or buffered bypass. The Aftershock contains two separate circuits for bypass mode, allowing you to choose the method you prefer. The true bypass path uses signal relays, which are electromechanical switches. This provides an ultra-low resistance path from the input jacks to the output jacks, which is effectively the same as a wire. The buffered bypass path uses extremely low noise buffers, which provide a very low output impedance and are effective for driving long cables or long chains of effects following the Aftershock's audio output.

Out of the box, the Aftershock operates in true bypass mode. In order to switch to buffered bypass mode, edit the Aftershock's global settings using the Neuro App.

We recommend you choose between the active analog bypass (a.k.a. buffered bypass) and relay-based true bypass based on what is needed in your signal chain. Ideally, the first pedal in a signal chain is a buffered input followed by true bypass in the rest of the signal chain.

Both bypass methods have pros and cons associated with them. Buffered bypass provides consistent input impedance so that if the source is susceptible to variations in input impedance (similar to a guitar pickup), there won't be a noticeable change in tone. True bypass has the benefit of providing a dedicated hardwired bypass signal path. The Aftershock features small-signal relays for true bypass switching that offer reduced pops and clicks compared to the traditional true bypass switching method using a mechanical switch.

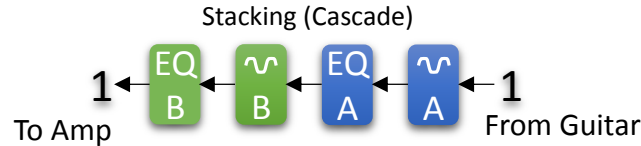
Stacking and Parallel Processing “Inside the Box”

The Aftershock works great as a simple mono Distortion effect, but it has the power to do much more. Within the Aftershock, two completely independent overdrive, fuzz, or distortion circuits can be set up to run stacked (in series), in parallel (side-by-side and mixed), or even in true stereo. Usually, this would require two separate distortion pedals, but the Aftershock can do it all on its own.

Stacking (Series / Cascaded)

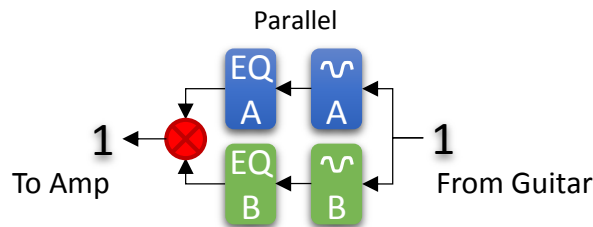
Stacking overdrive, fuzz, and distortion pedals is a common method for creating unique textures that would not be possible with a single pedal. This normally involves putting two pedals in series, one after the other, to create multiple gain stages. Typically, this requires two separate distortion pedals,

but the Aftershock can do it all internally. Each of the two drive stages, called A and B, can be configured independently using any overdrive, fuzz, or distortion circuit, with its own independent settings (drive, level, EQ, noise gate). This routing option is designated as MONO IN/OUT WITH CASCADING CHANNELS in the Neuro App.



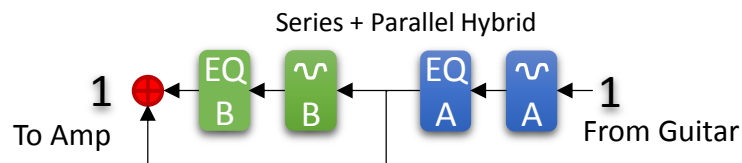
Parallel Processing

Another common way to create new and interesting distortion sounds is to split the guitar signal, run it to two independent pedals in parallel, and then combine (mix) the results. Often, one path will have a relatively low gain and the other will have high gain. This approach can combine high gain power and sustain with low gain clarity, definition, and articulation. The right balance can make parallel processing very effective. Usually this approach requires a lot of hardware: two distortion pedals, a splitter, and a mixer. The Aftershock, however, can do it all internally. Each circuit has its own clean and drive level controls, which allow for very fine balancing between the two sounds. There are two parallel processing routing options available in the Neuro App: MONO IN STEREO PROCESS MONO OUT and MONO IN STEREO PROCESS STEREO OUT.



Series / Parallel Hybrid

By selecting the MONO IN/OUT WITH CASCADING CHANNELS routing option and bringing up the clean mix level on channel B, it's possible to create a series/parallel hybrid sound, as shown in the image below:



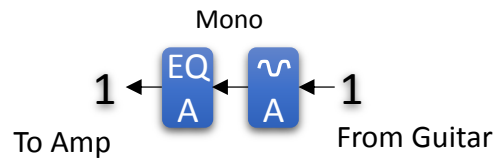
Stereo Routing

The Aftershock works great as a mono Distortion effect, but its stereo inputs and outputs also make it a true stereo effect as well as a flexible signal router. It can act as a stereo splitter, merger, or true stereo effect, and it can also be set up in a number of other unique signal routing modes. By default,

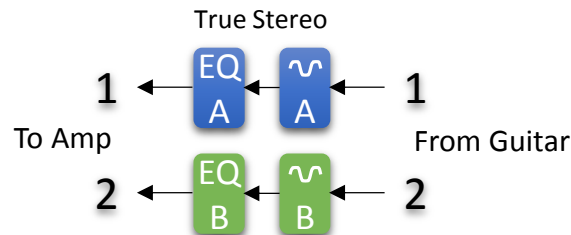
the Aftershock works in true stereo mode (INPUT 1 goes to OUTPUT 1, and INPUT 2 goes to OUTPUT 2). To configure a different stereo routing mode, use the Neuro App.

A few different routing options are displayed below. The right side of each diagram shows inputs 1 and 2, the left side shows outputs 1 and 2, and the distortion and EQ circuits (labeled A and B) are in the center.

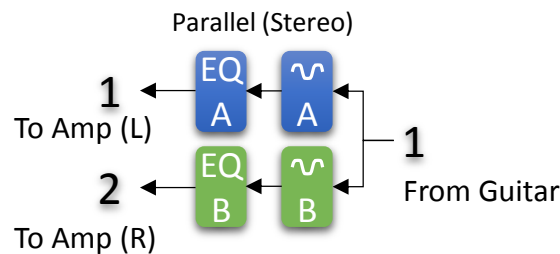
Mono (Default – Auto Select): INPUT 1 goes to distortion circuit A and out to OUTPUT 1.



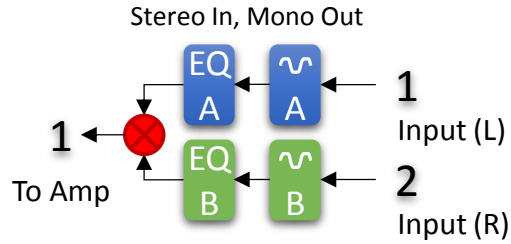
True Stereo (Stereo In, Stereo Out): INPUT 1 goes to distortion circuit A and out to OUTPUT 1. INPUT 2 goes to distortion circuit B and out to OUTPUT 2.



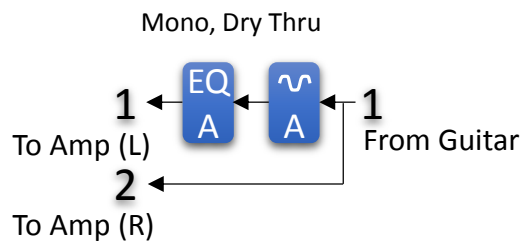
Parallel (Mono In, Stereo Process, Stereo Out): INPUT 1 is split into two identical signals. One signal goes to distortion circuit A and out to OUTPUT 1. The other signal goes to distortion circuit B and out to OUTPUT 2. This essentially turns the Aftershock into a splitter that takes a single input and feeds two amps (or a stereo signal chain).



Stereo In, Mono Out: INPUT 1 goes to distortion circuit A. INPUT 2 goes to distortion circuit B. The outputs of circuits A and B are mixed and sent to OUTPUT 1. This is useful for mixing a stereo source down to a mono output.

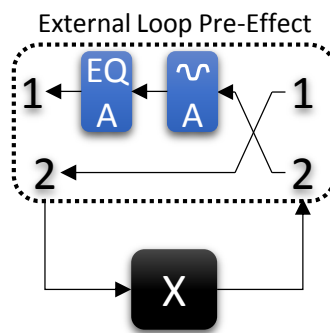


Mono, Dry Thru: INPUT 1 goes to distortion circuit A and out to OUTPUT 1. A copy of the input is also sent to OUTPUT 2. This is useful especially for bass guitars, where having a dry output is useful in maintaining a solid low end (this can also be achieved using the Aftershock’s mix control or LoRetain feature, which are accessible via the Neuro app and MIDI).

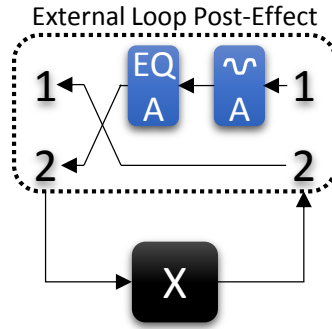


External Loop Pre-Effect: The external loop options allow an external effect (whether a Source Audio product or a third-party product) to be connected to the Aftershock’s INPUT 2 and OUTPUT 2. When the Aftershock is bypassed, the external effect will be out of the circuit. When the Aftershock is enabled, the external effect will be put in series with the Aftershock’s distortion circuit. OUTPUT 2 should connect to the external effect’s input, and the external effect’s output should connect to INPUT 2.

In Pre-Effect mode, the guitar signal will go to the external effect first, and then the Aftershock’s distortion circuit second.



In Post-Effect mode, the guitar signal will go to the Aftershock’s distortion circuit first, and then to the external effect second.



Automatic Routing Mode Selection

By default, the routing mode is automatically chosen. The cables connected to the inputs and outputs are detected and the mode is set according to the below table:

Input(s)	Output(s)	Routing Mode
1 only	1 only	Mono Input, Mono Output
1 and 2	1 only	Stereo Input, Stereo Parallel Processing, Sum to Mono Output
1 only	1 and 2	Mono Input, Stereo Parallel Processing, Stereo Output
1 and 2	1 and 2	Stereo Input, Independent Stereo Processing, Stereo Output

Check the Neuro App for more details on routing options.

Parametric EQ

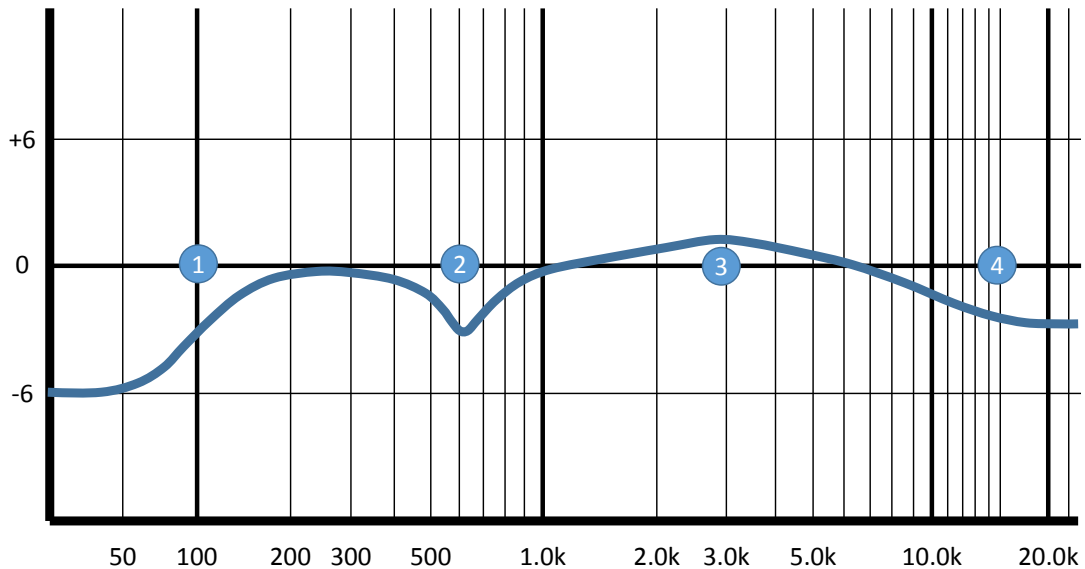
The Aftershock features two built-in 4 band parametric EQs that can be configured using the Neuro App. Different EQ settings can be saved for each of the three effect types, as well as for the user preset. The EQs consist of four independently configurable bands:

- **Bass (Band 1):** Low Shelf
- **Mid A (Band 2):** Peaking (a.k.a. Bell / Band)
- **Mid B (Band 3):** Peaking (a.k.a. Bell / Band)
- **Treble (Band 4):** High Shelf

Each band has configurable frequency, boost/cut, and Q (bandwidth).

A simple example of these four bands in action is shown in the graph below. In this example, Band 1 is a low shelf filter at 100 Hz with a 6 dB cut, Band 2 is a peaking filter at 620 Hz with a 3 dB cut and relatively high Q, Band 3 is a peaking filter at 3 kHz with a 1.5 dB boost and relatively low Q, and Band 4 is a high shelf filter at 10 kHz with a 2.5 dB cut.

Parametric Equalizer



By default, Band 1 is a shelf when it is boosted (gain > 0 dB) and a high pass when it is cut (gain < 0 dB). By default, Band 4 is a shelf when it is boosted (gain > 0 dB) and a low pass when it is cut (gain < 0 dB). Using the Neuro App, Bands 1 and 4 can optionally be configured as shelves when cutting (gain < 0 dB), with optional values for slope and rolloff.

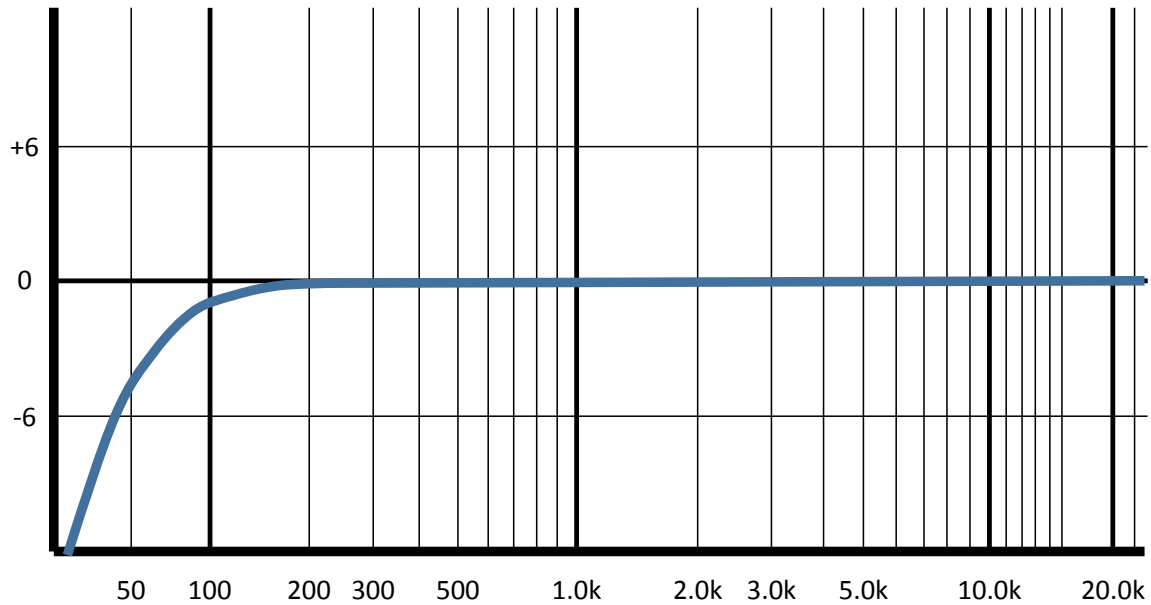
The left channel and right channel can each have unique boost/cut values for each of the 4 bands. However, the filter types and cutoff frequencies (or center frequencies) must be the same for both channels.

The physical TONE KNOB directly controls the boost or cut of the parametric EQ's bass and treble bands.

Low Cut Filter

The Aftershock also includes two low cut filters (a.k.a. high pass filter) with an adjustable frequency. This filter is very useful for cutting out low frequencies that do not contribute to the sound of the instrument, as well as subsonic frequencies which cannot be heard at all. Bass players often use low cut filters set very low (around 10 Hz to 30 Hz) to reduce speaker excursion and improve the clarity of the bass. Guitarists often use low cut filters set somewhat higher (around 80 Hz) in order to give the bass player additional room in the low end of the mix.

Configurable Low Cut Filter



The Parametric EQ and the Low Cut filter are configurable using the Neuro App. By default, the parametric EQ is disabled (flat), and the Low Cut filter is set to 10 Hz.

Voice Control

Each overdrive/fuzz/distortion circuit features a VOICE control that is a gradual timbre adjustment affecting the overall character of the sound. It generally affects the midrange in subtle ways, so a high VOICE setting will generally provide a midrange boost, whereas a low VOICE setting will provide a midrange cut. Many different sounds are available using the VOICE control, which can be controlled via the Neuro App.

Noise Gate

Overdrive, fuzz, and distortion effects introduce a lot of gain into the signal chain, and this gain amplifies not just the guitar signal, but also any noise present in the system. As a result, overdrive, fuzz and distortion effects tend to increase the amount of noise in the signal chain, especially when the guitar is silent or playing at very low levels. In order to correct this problem, guitarists often use noise gates prior to the distortion stages in their signal chains. The Aftershock includes a built-in noise gate to help reduce noise and preserve the guitar signal. The noise gate consists of a traditional gain reduction circuit as well as a filter gate, which works by attenuating high noisy frequencies when necessary. By default, the noise gate is not active. The volume gate and filter gate can independently be enabled and configured using the Neuro App. The gate will automatically be linked in stereo modes or independently configured in stacking and parallel modes.

External Control

The CONTROL INPUT port opens up a wide array of external control options, allowing for direct control over many of the Aftershock's built-in parameters. It can be used as an expression input or as a data port for the Neuro Hub.

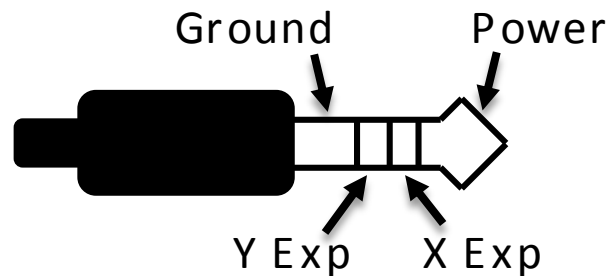
Expression Control

The Aftershock's effects parameters can be controlled directly by an expression pedal or Hot Hand connected to the CONTROL INPUT port.

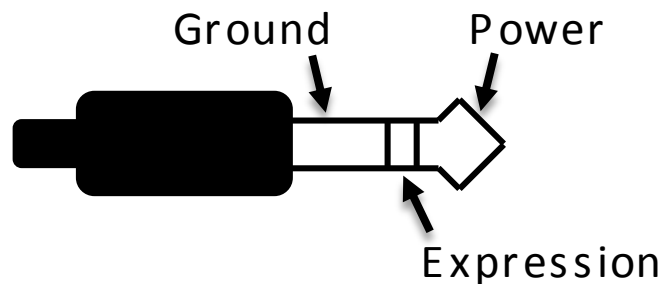
Expression Pedal Input

The Dual Expression Pedal or Reflex Universal Expression Pedal, both from Source Audio, can be directly connected to the CONTROL INPUT using a 3.5 mm, TRRS cable.

In the case of an expression pedal with a TRRS plug, like Source Audio's expression pedals, the tip connection is power, the first ring is the X axis expression signal, the second ring is the Y axis expression signal, and the sleeve connection is ground.



Third party passive expression pedals can be used as well, as long as they have a TRS (Tip Ring Sleeve) plug with power on the tip, expression (the wiper of the potentiometer) on the ring, and ground on the sleeve, as seen in the diagram below.



Expression pedals with TS (Tip Sleeve) plugs will not work correctly with the Aftershock.

The resistance of the expression pedal does not matter. The Aftershock will automatically adjust itself to the range of the expression pedal when it is configured.

Most expression pedals use a 1/4" plug, but the Aftershock's CONTROL PORT is 3.5 mm. To make the connection, a simple TRS plug converter (1/4" to 3.5 mm) can be used.

Note that although the CONTROL INPUT expects a 4-contact TRRS plug, most 3rd party expression pedals use a 3-contact TRS plug. This is OK – using a simple 3-contact TRS plug converter, the expression pedal’s output will be connected to the Aftershock’s CONTROL INPUT and the extra contact is ignored.

Configuring the Expression Pedal

It is easier than ever to set up expression control using the Aftershock’s new calibration and mapping method. When the expression pedal is connected to the Aftershock, follow these simple steps to calibrate it and map it to control different effect parameters.

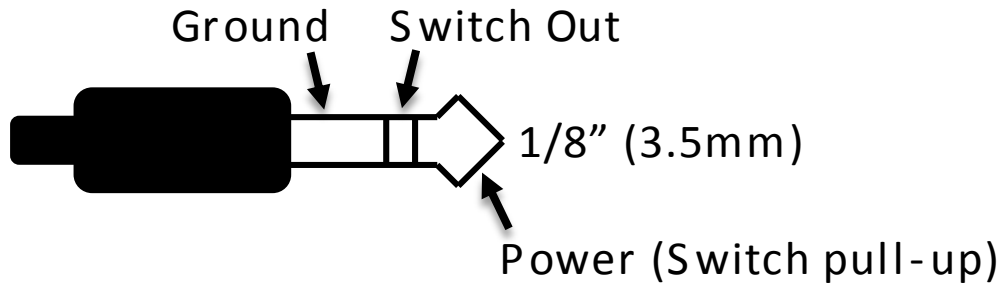
1. Press the CONTROL INPUT button to turn on Control Input mode. The CONTROL LED should be lit green.
2. Press and hold the CONTROL INPUT button until the CONTROL LED begins to blink slowly (approximately one blink per second).
3. Move the expression pedal over the range of motion you would like to use to control the Aftershock. If you would like to use the expression pedal’s full range of motion, then make sure to move the pedal all the way from its minimum position to its maximum position. Note that you can create “dead zones,” if desired, by only moving the expression pedal over a limited region of its full range of motion.
4. After setting the expression pedal range, click the Aftershock’s footswitch once. The calibration is now complete, and the CONTROL LED will blink faster (about 2 blinks per second). Now, it is time to map the expression pedal to the effect parameters.
5. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the expression pedal to the minimum desired position, then click the Aftershock’s footswitch. The CONTROL LED will now blink even faster (about 4 blinks per second). Note that you may control one or more knobs with the expression pedal, up to four total knobs.
6. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the expression pedal to their maximum desired position, then click the footswitch. The CONTROL LED will now be lit solid green. Note that you may control one or more knobs with the expression pedal, up to four total knobs.
7. After setting the minimum and maximum knob positions, the parameter mapping is complete.

Note: The parameter range can be inverted by swapping the minimum and maximum position of the knobs during configuration.

External Switch used as Expression Input (Expression “Toggle”)

An external switch can also work as a sort of expression pedal that only has two positions: on and off. The external switch can be either momentary or latching.

To use this mode, connect an external switch to CONTROL INPUT. The following plug configuration is required:

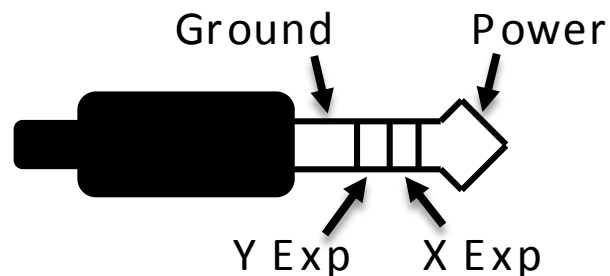


Follow these steps for configuration:

1. Press the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON to enable external control. The CONTROL LED should be lit red.
2. Press and hold the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON until the CONTROL LED begins to blink slowly (approximately one blink per second).
3. Tap the external switch once.
4. Click the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH once. The CONTROL LED will blink faster (about 2 blinks per second). Now, it is time to map the external switch to the effect parameters.
5. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the external switch to the maximum desired position, then click the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. The CONTROL LED will now blink even faster (about 4 blinks per second). Note that you may control one or more knobs with the external switch, up to six total knobs.
6. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the expression pedal to the minimum desired position, then click the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. The CONTROL LED will now be lit solid red.
7. After setting the minimum and maximum knob positions, the parameter mapping is complete.

Hot Hand Input

The Hot Hand 3 Wireless Effects Controller can be connected directly to the Aftershock's CONTROL INPUT for motion control of the Aftershock's effects parameters. The Hot Hand has two axes of expression: X and Y. These signals are carried on the two rings of the TRRS cable that comes from the Hot Hand receiver.



Configuring the Hot Hand

When the Hot Hand is connected to the Aftershock, follow these simple steps to calibrate it and map it to control different effect parameters.

1. Press the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON to turn on Control Input mode. The CONTROL LED should be lit green.
2. Press and hold the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON until the CONTROL LED begins to blink slowly (approximately one blink per second).
3. Move the Hot Hand ring over the range of motion you would like to use to control the Aftershock. The easiest way to do this is to move the ring in the same way that you intend to move it as you perform. The Aftershock will intelligently select the X or Y axis of the Hot Hand automatically, based on the motion of the ring.
4. After setting Hot Hand range of motion, click the Aftershock's ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH once. The calibration is now complete, and the CONTROL LED will blink faster (about 2 blinks per second). Now, it is time to map the Hot Hand to the effect parameters.
5. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the Hot Hand to their minimum desired position, then click the Aftershock's ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. The CONTROL LED will now blink even faster (about 4 blinks per second). Note that you may control one or more knobs with the Hot Hand, up to four total knobs.
6. Move the knob(s) you wish to control with the Hot Hand to their maximum desired position, then click the Aftershock's ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. The CONTROL LED will now be lit solid green. Note that you may control one or more knobs with the Hot Hand, up to four total knobs.
7. After setting the minimum and maximum knob positions, the parameter mapping is complete.

Note: The parameter range can be inverted by swapping the minimum and maximum position of the knobs during calibration.

Reset Expression Control Mapping

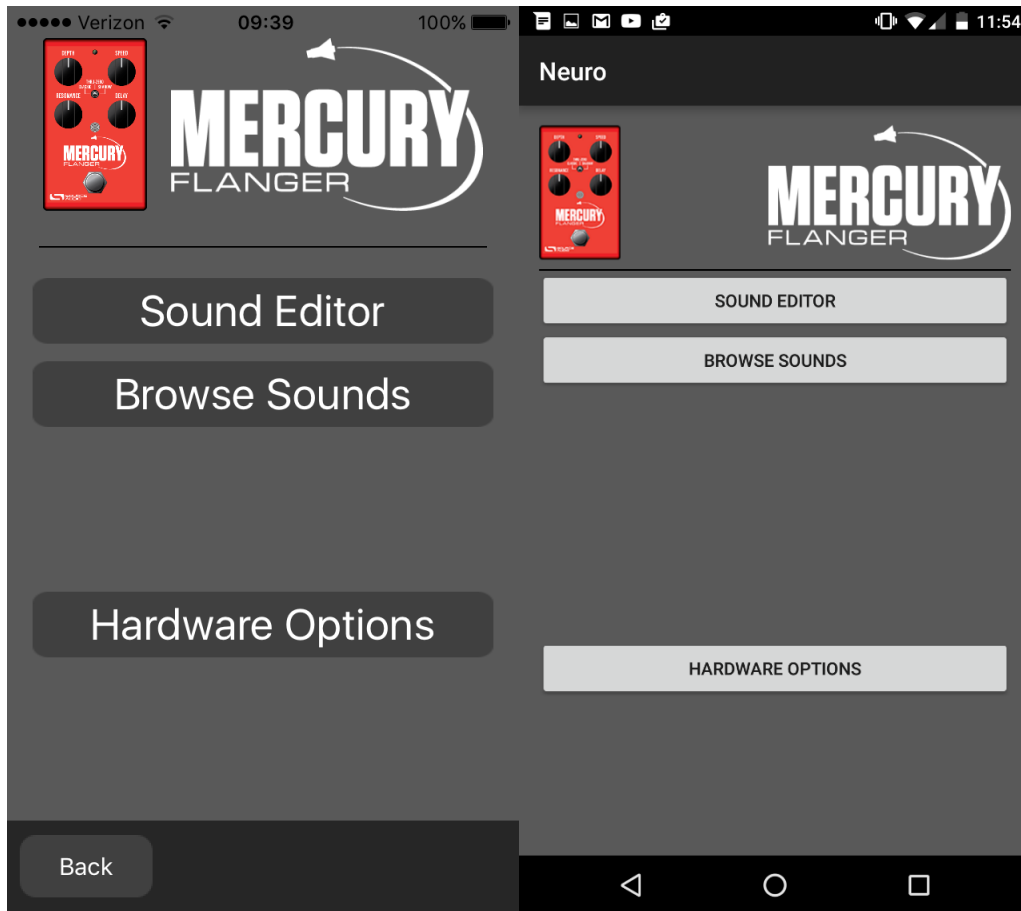
To clear the expression control mapping (Expression or Hot Hand), first press the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON and turn off Control Input mode. The CONTROL LED should be dark. Then, press and hold the CONTROL INPUT BUTTON until the CONTROL LED blinks. This clears all Expression, Hot Hand, and MIDI mapping.

Neuro App

The Neuro App is available as a free download for iOS and Android devices. Get the iOS version from the App Store or the Android version from the Play Store. The Neuro App provides access to a number of parameters that are not accessible on the control knobs, as well additional effect types. In order to use the Neuro App, use the included 3.5 mm to ¼" TRS cable to make a connection between the headphone jack on your mobile device and the Input 2 jack on the hardware. The Neuro App uses special audio signals sent over your mobile device's headphone jack to remotely control the pedal. Make sure the headphone volume on your mobile device is set to maximum when using the Neuro App for the most reliable device to pedal communication.



Main Menu

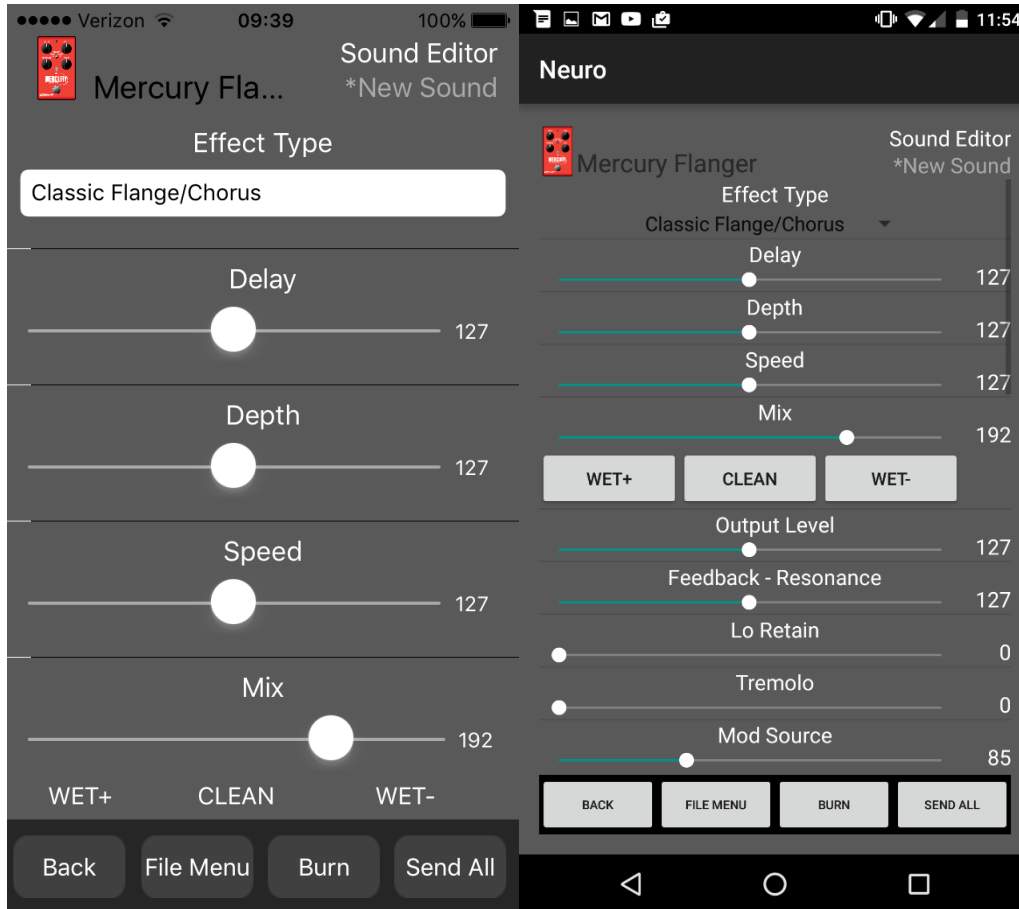


The main menu includes links to the three main sections of the app:

- Sound Editor allows the user to edit the current effect or create a new sound from scratch. These sounds can be burned into the internal preset memory (three sounds corresponding to the three positions of the effect selector switch, and an additional preset accessible via the footswitch), saved to a preset file in the app, emailed to friends, posted to the Neuro Community site, and more.

- Browse Sounds opens a library of sounds to choose from, divided into User, Factory, Published, and Web categories. This is a place to organize and share your favorite settings. You can also explore sounds and settings made by other users.
- Hardware Options allows access to the global options for the hardware. Global options are “set and forget” type settings that are NOT saved per preset.

Sound Editor



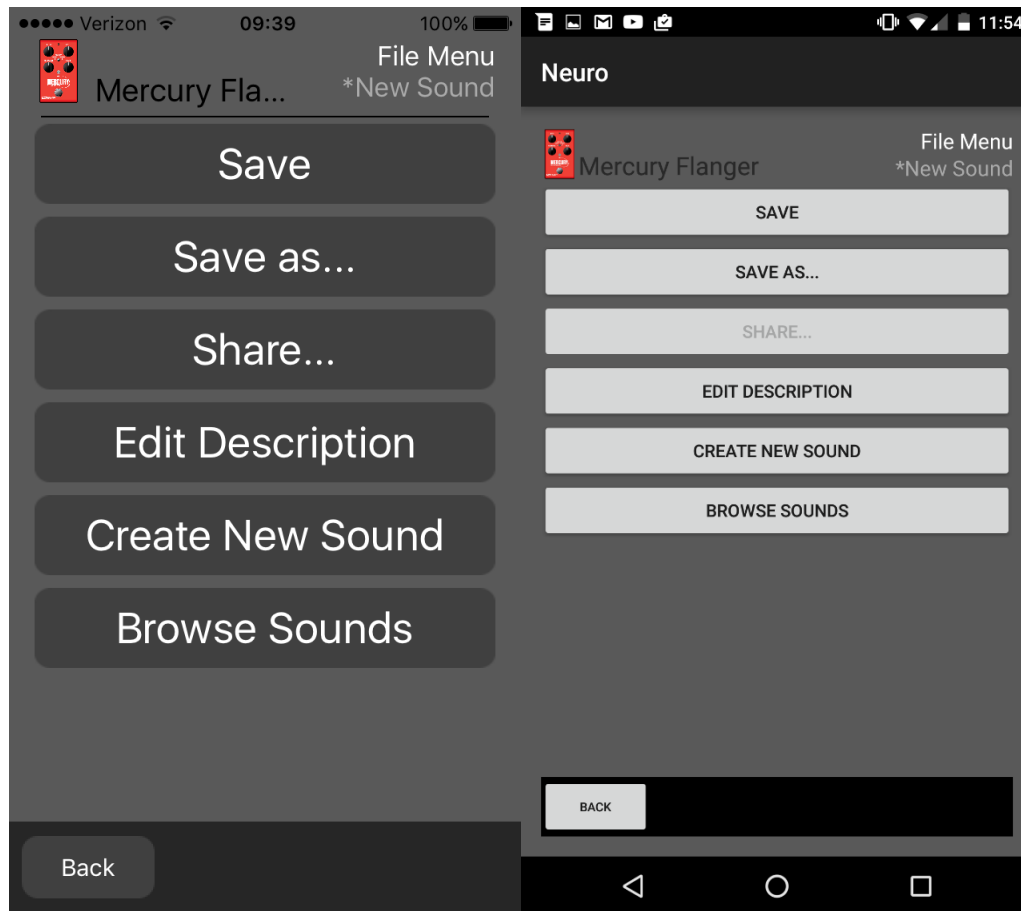
The Sound Editor displays a wide range of parameters that can be changed to create different sounds. The Sound Editor works kind of like a remote control for a TV – only the parameters you touch on the screen will be modified on the hardware; all other parameters remain unchanged.

The links at the bottom of the screen allow access to the File Menu, the Burn command, and the Send All command.

Send All

If you wish to update all of the parameters on the hardware so that they match what is shown on the Sound Editor screen, tap the Send All button. This sends every parameter setting over to the hardware and guarantees that its settings will exactly match what is shown in the app.

File Menu



The File Menu displays different options for the sound you're currently editing in the Sound Editor.

Save

Saves the current settings from the Sound Editor. If you haven't saved yet, this will perform a Save As.

Save As

Allows you to save the current settings to a new file. You can choose a file name and description.

Share

Allows you to send the current settings to a friend as a text message or email attachment.

Edit Description

Edits the description that accompanies the preset in the Browse Sounds menu.

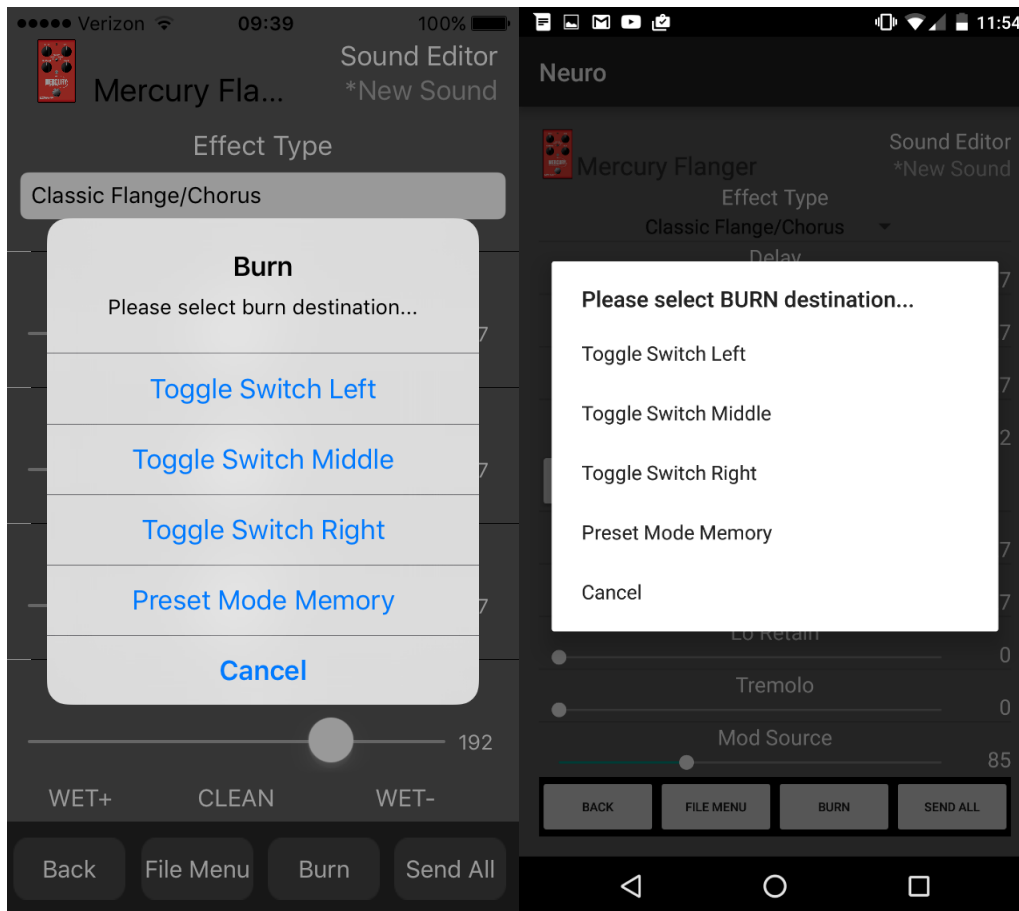
Create New Sound

Closes the current sound being edited and opens a new sound for editing with default settings.

Browse Sounds

Returns to the Browse Sounds screen, which displays a list of user and web presets.

Burn



The Burn command takes the current sound that is running in the hardware and “burns” it to the internal memory for later use. Burn works as a “what you hear is what you get” type of control; it will save all of the settings in their current state, as you hear them, and put those into memory. This will not necessarily match the exact settings shown in the Sound Editor for all parameters **unless** you have performed a [Send All](#) command first.

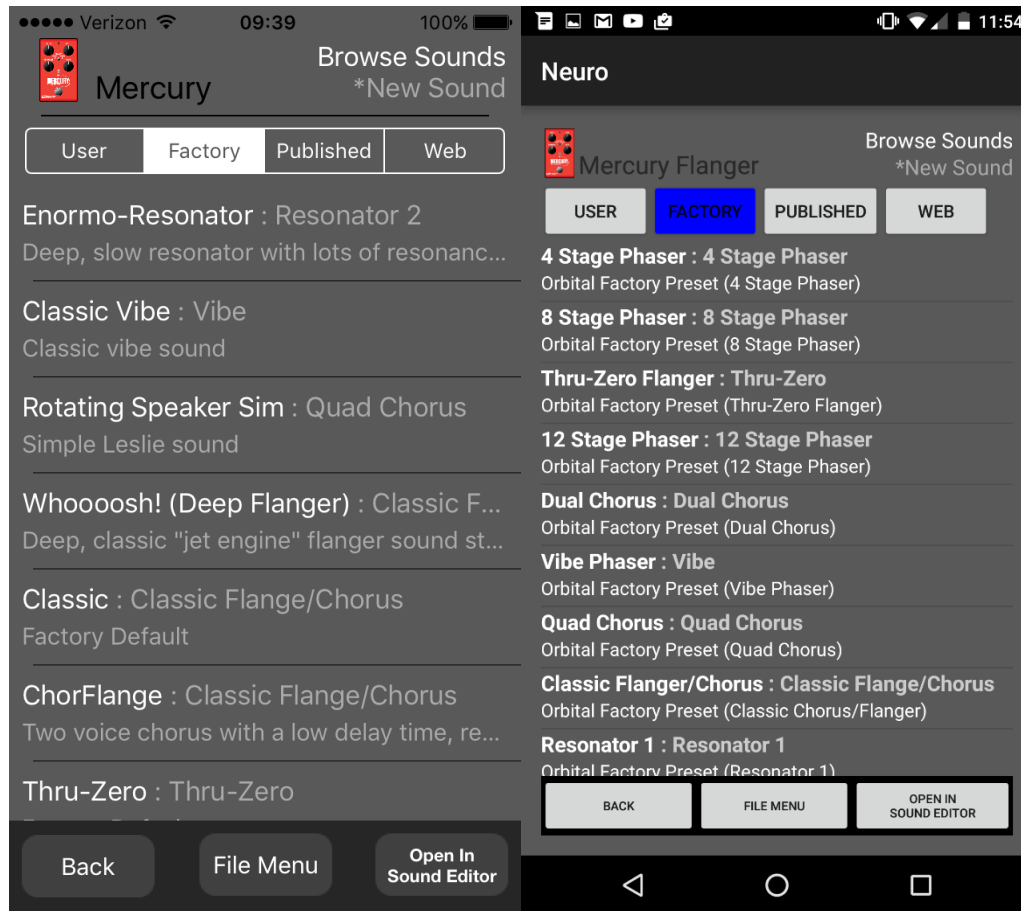
After selecting the Burn command, a list of target locations in memory is displayed. There are a total of 4 options: the 3 factory slots that correspond to the effect selector switch, and the 1 slot in preset memory.

Replacing an Effect on the Effect Switch

It is possible to replace one of the main effect types with one of the extended effect types or with a user-created sound. To do this, follow these steps:

- Load the sound in the Sound Editor.
- Hit the Send All button.
- Hit the Burn button.
- Select one of the Effect Selector Switch positions to overwrite it.

Browse Sounds



The Browse Sounds screen displays lists of presets that can be easily loaded into the hardware. Just tap on a preset name to send it to the hardware, and you should be able to hear it instantly.

Presets are divided into four sections:

- **User:** Presets that you have created and saved.
- **Factory:** Presets that were created by Source Audio. New presets will automatically be added to this list as Source Audio creates them.
- **Published:** Presets that you have created and uploaded to the Neuro Community for other users.
- **Web:** Presets created and shared by other users.

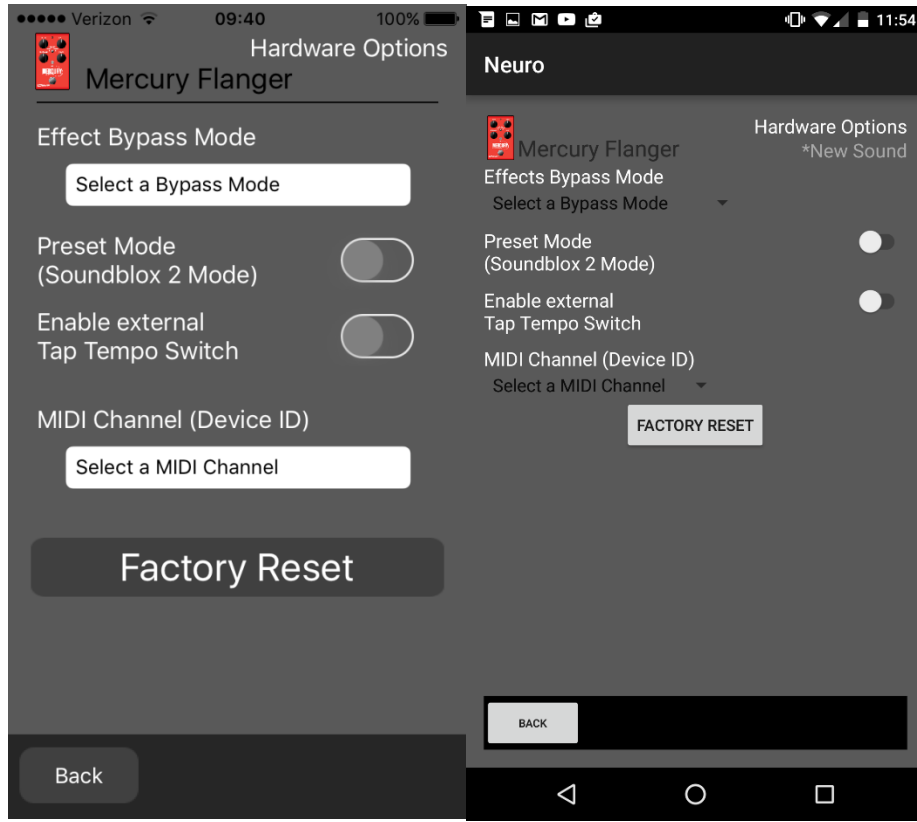
Open In Sound Editor

The Open In Sound Editor button allows you to take the currently selected preset and open it in the Sound Editor for editing and customization.

Deleting or Publishing Presets

Swipe to the left on any preset name for additional options. Tap DELETE to remove the preset from your device. Tap PUBLISH to publish the preset – this lets other Neuro users enjoy your creation!

Hardware Options



This screen shows some advanced options.

Effect Bypass Mode

Selects which bypass path will be used for presets that use hardware bypass mode.

- True Bypass (Relay) uses two relays for true bypass switching.
- Active Analog (Buffered) bypass uses a buffer to help prevent signal loss and clicking.

MIDI Channel (Device ID)

Selects which channel (1 to 16) the hardware will respond to on Hub and USB-MIDI inputs.

Preset Mode (Soundblox 2 Mode)

Enables the preset saved in memory to be loaded each time the effect is enabled using the footswitch. This loads all settings from the preset and ignores the knob positions. When Preset Mode is enabled, the main LED will be red instead of green. Preset Mode can also be enabled/disabled by pressing and holding the footswitch for a few seconds.

Enable External Tap Tempo Switch

Allows the Source Audio tap tempo switch to be connected to the Control Input Port. This allows the tempo for the LFO to be tapped in directly. The Control LED will blink in time with the tempo if this mode is enabled.

Factory Reset

Resets the internal memory (including all presets and effect types) to the factory default settings.

Quick Preset Mode

Allows preset mode to be enabled/disabled in 0.8 seconds instead of 5 seconds (by holding down the footswitch).

Example Neuro Daisy-Chain Connections

Mono Audio Path with Neuro Daisy-Chain

In the case of a purely mono audio signal path, the Neuro data can be input to the first effect directly from the mobile device and then carried on to the second effect via TRS cable.

Source Audio makes couplers that are designed specifically for connecting multiple One Series products in series. These couplers are available on the [Source Audio Online Store](#).



Mono-To-Stereo Audio Path with Neuro Daisy-Chain

In the case of a signal path that splits a mono input to stereo outputs, the Neuro data can be input to the first effect directly from the mobile device and then carried on to the second effect via TRS cable. The audio signal is carried on the same cable.



Neuro Hub (Formerly the Soundblox Hub)

The Source Audio Neuro Hub (sold separately), unites Source Audio pedals from the Soundblox 2 and One Series families to create a single, stage-ready system. It features shared MIDI, passive expression pedal input, Hot Hand connectivity, and USB, and can connect to up to five Source Audio pedals. The Neuro Hub features a powerful scene saving functionality, which allows you to create up to 128 multi-pedal presets known as scenes, each recallable via MIDI program change messages. Connect the Neuro Hub to your computer via USB for updates, saving and editing multi-pedal presets, and more. To connect the Aftershock to the Neuro hub, use a 3.5 mm TRRS cable and make a connection between the Aftershock's CONTROL INPUT jack and any of the Neuro Hub's multi-function outputs. For more information, refer to the Neuro Hub documentation on the Source Audio website.

MIDI

Using a USB connection or the Neuro Hub (sold separately), the Aftershock can be controlled by generic MIDI messages. Each of the Aftershock's parameters (even those that are not assigned to a control knob) is directly accessible via MIDI continuous controller messages. MIDI messages can be sent directly via USB or forwarded on to the Aftershock via the Neuro Hub.

MIDI Learn

MIDI Continuous Control messages

In order to assign a MIDI continuous controller to one of the four knobs, the EFFECT SELECTOR SWITCH, or the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH, follow these steps:

1. Press the CONTROL INPUT button to turn on CONTROL INPUT mode. The CONTROL LED should be lit green.
2. Press and hold the CONTROL INPUT button until the CONTROL LED begins to blink slowly (approximately one blink per second).
3. Send a MIDI continuous control message to the Aftershock via USB or the Neuro Hub. When a valid continuous control message is received, the CONTROL LED will begin to blink faster (about two blinks per second).

4. To assign this continuous controller to a knob, turn the corresponding knob. To assign it to the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH, press the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH. To assign it to the EFFECT SELECTOR SWITCH, toggle the effect type switch.
5. Once the MIDI continuous controller has been assigned, the CONTROL LED will be solid green. This shows that the mapping was successful. **Note:** The CONTROL LED blinks any time a MIDI message is received, so it's possible that the CONTROL LED will continue blinking even after the MIDI mapping is complete – this shows that MIDI messages are still being sent to the Aftershock.

For parameters like drive and level, which are normally controlled by knobs, the full range of continuous control values from 0 to 127 will be mapped to the range of the knob.

For the ON/OFF FOOTSWITCH, continuous control values in the range from 0 to 63 will bypass the Aftershock and values in the range from 64 to 127 will enable the Aftershock.

For the EFFECT SELECTOR SWITCH, continuous control values map directly to each effect type. See the [FAQ](#) for details.

Any MIDI CC, from 0 to 127, can be mapped to a control on the Aftershock.

Each CC number can only be mapped to control one parameter at any given time. If you attempt to map a CC that has already been assigned to another parameter, the previous mapping will be overridden.

Several CCs can potentially be mapped to the same parameter, although this is not very useful.

When using MIDI Learn, the Aftershock listens for the first MIDI CC message sent to it and then ignores any subsequent CC messages until the mapping is complete. This means that you must make sure that only send the MIDI CC message to the Aftershock that you intend to use for the MIDI Learn mapping. Some DAWs send multiple MIDI messages when the play or pause buttons are pressed, and this can lead to unintended MIDI mappings. Check your DAW documentation in order to learn about messages that are sent at the beginning or end of playback.

Reset MIDI Mapping

To clear MIDI mapping, first press the CONTROL INPUT button and turn off Control Input mode. The CONTROL LED should be dark. Then, press and hold the CONTROL INPUT button until the CONTROL LED blinks. This clears all Expression, Hot Hand, and MIDI mapping.

MIDI Channel

By default, the Aftershock responds to MIDI Channel 1. The Aftershock ignores all MIDI messages sent to it that are not on its assigned channel. To change the Aftershock's MIDI channel, edit the Aftershock's global settings using the Neuro App.

MIDI Clock

Since the Aftershock has no time-dependent parameters, it will ignore MIDI clock.

USB

The Aftershock's USB port is plug-and-play ready for Windows and Mac computers. The Aftershock uses class-compliant drivers, so no special drivers are needed. Just power up the Aftershock and

connect it to the computer using a USB cable. The computer should automatically recognize the Aftershock, which will be identified as “Source Audio One Series” in the operating system.

USB connectivity brings many benefits, such as the ability to download firmware updates to the Aftershock, configuration of advanced parameters, accessing new effect types created by the Source Audio engineers, and MIDI connectivity to audio production software running on the computer.

USB-MIDI

The Aftershock will appear as a MIDI device in your computer’s operating system. As a result, the Aftershock can communicate with audio production software that utilizes MIDI, such as Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Logic Pro, and more. MIDI messages can be sent directly to the Aftershock using the USB connection, which allows for full automation of the Aftershock within host software such as a DAW. For example, the drive level can be automated by outputting MIDI continuous controller messages from the host software to the Aftershock via the USB connection.

Specifications

Dimensions

- Length: 11.63 cm (4.58 inches)
- Width: 7.00 cm (2.75 inches)
- Height (not including knobs and footswitch): 3.71 cm (1.46 inches)
- Height (including knobs and footswitch): 5.61 cm (2.21 inches)

Weight

- 280 grams (0.625 pounds)

Power

- 180 mA @ 9V DC (max 220 mA with Hot Hand Wireless Adapter)
- Negative tip (positive sleeve) barrel power jack, 2.1 mm inner diameter, 5.5 mm outer diameter

Audio Performance

- Maximum Input Level: +6 dBV = 8.2 dBu = 2 V RMS = 5.6 V p-p
- Input Impedance: 1 MegaOhm (1 MΩ)
- Output Impedance: 600 Ohm (600 Ω)
- 108 dB DNR Audio Path
- 24-bit Audio Conversion
- 56-bit Digital Data Path
- Universal Bypass™ (relay-based true bypass and analog buffered bypass)

Troubleshooting

General

Restore factory settings: In order to revert the Aftershock to its factory settings, clearing all user data, presets, expression mappings and custom effect types, use the Neuro App and choose the Factory Reset option.

Noise

Power source: Ensure that the proper power supply is being used.

Near noise source: Move pedal away from power supplies and other equipment.

Other equipment: Remove other effects from signal chain; see if noise persists.

Bad cables: Swap out audio cables.

USB ground loop: When connected to a computer using a USB cable, noise can appear in the audio signal. This usually results from ground loop noise due to the Aftershock and computer running on separate power supplies. In the case of laptops, the noise can often be mitigated by disconnecting the computer's power supply and running it on a battery. External display monitors are often the primary source of noise, and powering down monitors can also resolve noise issues. Unfortunately, some USB hubs and motherboards are inherently noisy, so it's not always possible to eliminate USB noise entirely.

Hot Hand Doesn't Work

Low power: Ensure that the proper power supply is being used.

Not calibrated properly: Calibrate the Hot Hand. See the [Hot Hand Input](#) section for more details.

Not connected properly: Check Hot Hand connections.

Unit Appears Dead / No LEDs Lit

Wrong power supply: Use correct power supply. See the [DC 9V \(Power\)](#) section for more details.

Corroded power cable plug: Check power plug for corrosion on sleeve. Swap out power supply if necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I change the routing mode for my pedal without changing anything about the sounds?

- Connect the Neuro App cable and go to the Sound Editor in the app.
- Flip the EFFECT SELECTOR SWITCH on the hardware to the left position.
- In the app, go to the I/O Routing Option (bottom of the list), select it, and the desired routing mode. Then tap Done. You should see the CONTROL LED blink when the message is received.
- Tap the BURN button in the Neuro App. This opens a menu for burning locations.
- Select "Toggle Switch Left". This burns any changes you made into memory. Since you only changed the I/O Routing mode, that will be the only thing that is changed. The rest of the parameters for that sound will remain unchanged.
- Repeat these steps for the middle switch position and the right switch position.

What kind of instruments can I connect to the Aftershock's inputs?

The Aftershock's audio inputs are high impedance (~ 1 MΩ) and they can accept high impedance signal sources like guitars/basses with passive pickups, as well as low impedance sources like line-

level audio circuits, guitars/basses with active pickups, electronic keyboards, or mixer outputs. The input circuit can handle signals ranging up to 5.6 Volts, peak-to-peak.

Can I power the Aftershock directly over USB, without using the 9 Volt supply?

No. USB provides 5 Volts, but the Aftershock needs 9 Volts, so the Aftershock cannot be powered directly from USB. Make sure that you have plugged in the included 9V DC power supply when connecting to the Aftershock's USB port.

When connecting the Aftershock to a recording interface or mixer, should I use a Lo-Z (microphone) or Hi-Z (line / instrument) input?

The Aftershock's output will be low impedance when the effect is active or in buffered bypass mode, but it will be high impedance when using true bypass mode and a guitar with passive pickups. Therefore, it is recommended that you use a high impedance (Hi-Z) input on your recording interface or mixer to avoid signal loss.

Why doesn't the Aftershock respond to MIDI messages being sent to it?

By default, the Aftershock should respond to MIDI continuous controller messages on channel 1 (in technical terms, this means that the lower 4 bits in the command byte of MIDI messages should be 0000 in binary or 0 in hexadecimal). The Aftershock's MIDI channel can be configured using the Neuro App. Channel numbers in MIDI use zero-based counting, so MIDI channel 1 is described as 0 in hexadecimal, MIDI channel 2 is described as 1 in hexadecimal, and so on, concluding with MIDI channel 16, which is described as F in hexadecimal. A continuous controller message starts with a hexadecimal B and is followed by the channel number (0 through F). So, the command byte from your MIDI controller should be formatted as shown in the following table:

MIDI Channel (Decimal)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CC Command Byte (Hex)	B0	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF

Each continuous controller command byte is followed by two bytes, the CC number and the value. So, each CC message consists of a total of three bytes. If the Aftershock is not responding to MIDI, make sure that your MIDI controller is properly configured and sending messages in the format described above.

How do I enable extended effect types via MIDI?

Refer to the [MIDI Learn](#) section to map a MIDI continuous controller to the Effect Type switch. Then, send a CC message with one of the following values to enable a certain effect type:

CC Value	Effect Type
0	Tube Drive
1	Smooth Tube
2	Power Stage
3	Crunch Tube
4	TS9000
5	Big Pi

6	El Raton
7	Fuzz Façade
8	Bender
9	Metal
10	Octave Fuzz
11	Gated Fuzz
12	Bass Tube Drive
13	Bass Smooth Tube
14	Bass Power Stage
15	Bass Crunch Tube
16	Bass TS9000
17	Bass Big Pi
18	Bass El Raton
19	Bass Fuzz Façade
20	Bass Bender
21	Bass Metal
22	Bass Octave Fuzz
23	Bass Gated Fuzz
24	Tone Drive

Additional effect types may become available in future updates.

Rubber Feet

The Aftershock comes standard with a flat aluminum bottom, making it easy to apply Velcro and mount to a pedalboard. Additionally, adhesive rubber feet are included in the Aftershock’s box. Applying the rubber feet to the Aftershock can help prevent it from sliding on flat surfaces such as a hardwood floor.

Waste Disposal Notes



If possible, dispose of the device at an electronics recycling center. Do not dispose of the device with the household waste.

For full compliance with EN 61000-4-6 standard, input cable must be less than 3 meters in length.

Warranty

Limited Transferrable Warranty

Source Audio, LLC (hereinafter “Source Audio”) warrants that your new Source Audio One Series Aftershock Bass Distortion, when purchased at an authorized Source Audio dealer in the United States of America (“USA”), shall be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal

use for a period of two (2) years from the date of purchase by the original purchaser. Please contact your dealer for information on warranty and service outside of the USA.

Under this Limited Warranty, Source Audio's sole obligation and the purchaser's sole remedy shall be repair, replacement, or upgrade, at Source Audio's sole discretion, of any product that, if properly used and maintained, proves to be defective upon inspection by Source Audio. Source Audio reserves the right to update any unit returned for repair and to change or improve the design of the product at any time without notice. Source Audio reserves the right to use reconditioned parts and assemblies as warranty replacements for authorized repairs. Any product repaired, replaced, or upgraded pursuant to this Limited Warranty will be warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period.

This Limited Warranty is extended to the original retail purchaser. This Limited Warranty can be transferred to anyone who may subsequently purchase this product provided that such transfer is made within the applicable warranty period and Source Audio is provided with all of the following information: (i) all warranty registration information (as set forth on the registration card) for the new owner, (ii) proof of the transfer, within thirty (30) days of the transfer, and (iii) a photocopy of the original sales receipt. Warranty coverage shall be determined by Source Audio in its sole discretion. This is your sole warranty. Source Audio does not authorize and third party, including any dealer or sales representatives, to assume any liability on behalf of Source Audio or to make any warranty on behalf of Source Audio.

Warranty Information

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Source Audio LLC
120 Cummings Park, Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 932-8080 or at www.sourceaudio.net

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Version History

February 19, 2016: Initial Release



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