

BEASTBOX

TUBE
PREAMP

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Everything you need to know about your preamp is right here. Give it a read.

Terms

DSP (Digital Signal Processor) — a microchip that processes sound digitally; handles IR emulation in the Beastbox.

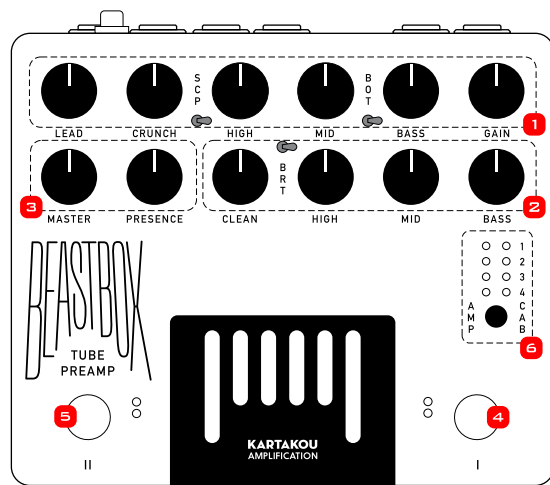
MIDI host. — a device that sends MIDI commands: a computer, DAW, controller, etc. In this context, the source from which the Beastbox receives MIDI commands.

BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) — a low-power wireless protocol. Used in the Beastbox to transmit MIDI commands wirelessly.

microSD — a removable memory card.

Getting Started

Front View



1 Drive Channels Controls

- **Gain** — gain level
- **Bass, Mid, High** — EQ controls
- **Bot** — tightens the low end
- **Scp** — tightens the mids
- **Crunch, Lead** — channels volume

Gain and EQ controls are shared between Crunch and Lead channels; volume is individual per channel.

2 Clean Channel Controls

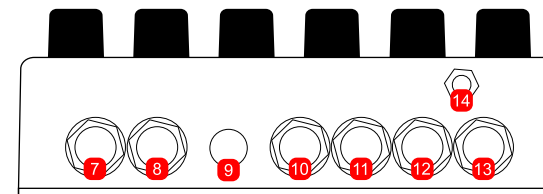
- **Bass, Mid, High** — EQ controls
- **Brt** — brightens Clean
- **Clean** — channel volume

3 Output Section Controls

- **Presence** — sharpens the drive channels
- **Master** — main output volume

- 4 Footswitch I
- 5 Footswitch II
- 6 IR Section

Back View



Inputs

- 7 Input — 1/4" TS guitar input
- 8 FSW — 1/4" TRS footswitch input
- 9 PSU — 12V power supply input

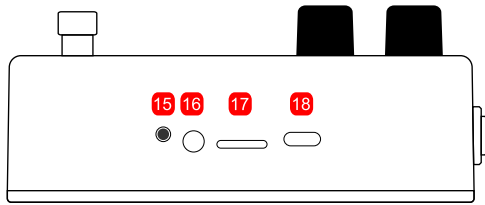
FX Loop

- 10 Send — 1/4" TS effects loop send
- 11 Return — 1/4" TS effects loop return

Outputs

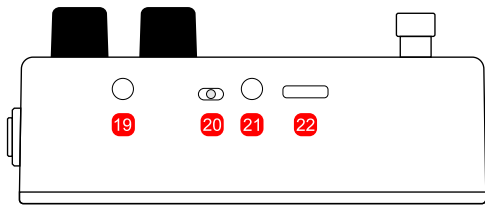
- 12 Output — 1/4" TS amp, interface, etc., output (unbalanced)
- 13 IR Output — 1/4" TRS IR simulated output (balanced)
- 14 ANT — SMA connector for BLE antenna

Right Side



- 15 Left Button — multifunctional button
- 16 MIDI IN — 1/8" TRS MIDI input, A-type
- 17 Card — microSD card slot
- 18 USB — type-c interface

Left Side

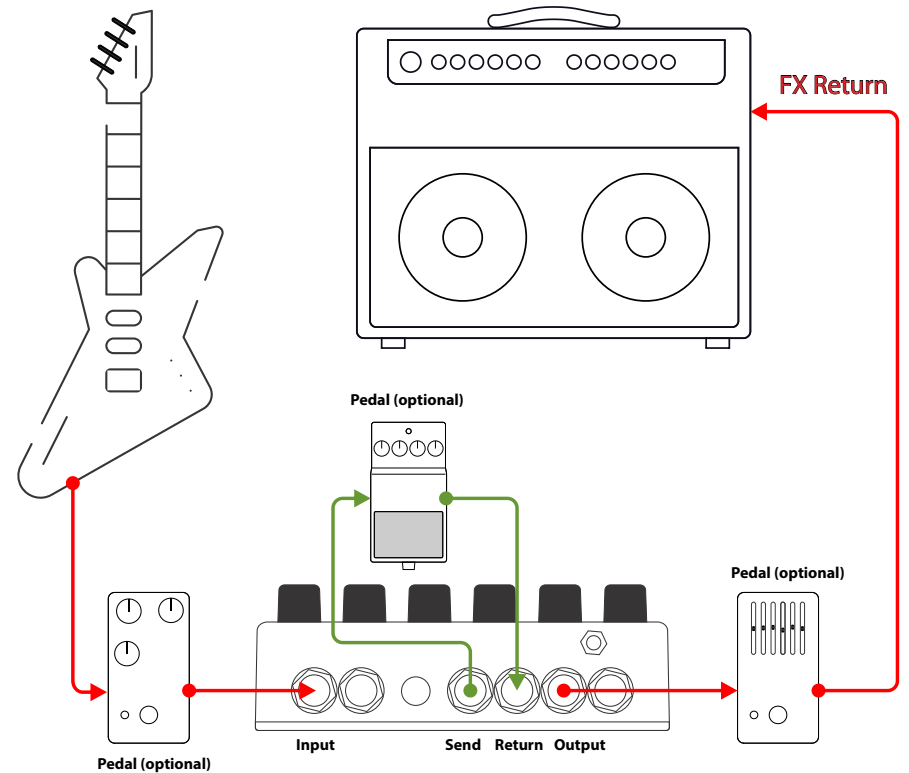


- 19 AUX — 1/8" TRS backtrack input
- 20 Balance — left / center / right headphones balance
- 21 Phones — 1/8" TRS headphones output
- 22 Volume — headphones level

Connection

To a Power Amp

Connect the Beastbox directly to the power amp input of your head or combo. Bypassing the preamp section keeps the tone exactly as intended.



To an Audio Interface

To connect to your audio interface, use one of the outputs:

- Output — no IR emulation
- IR Output — with IR emulation

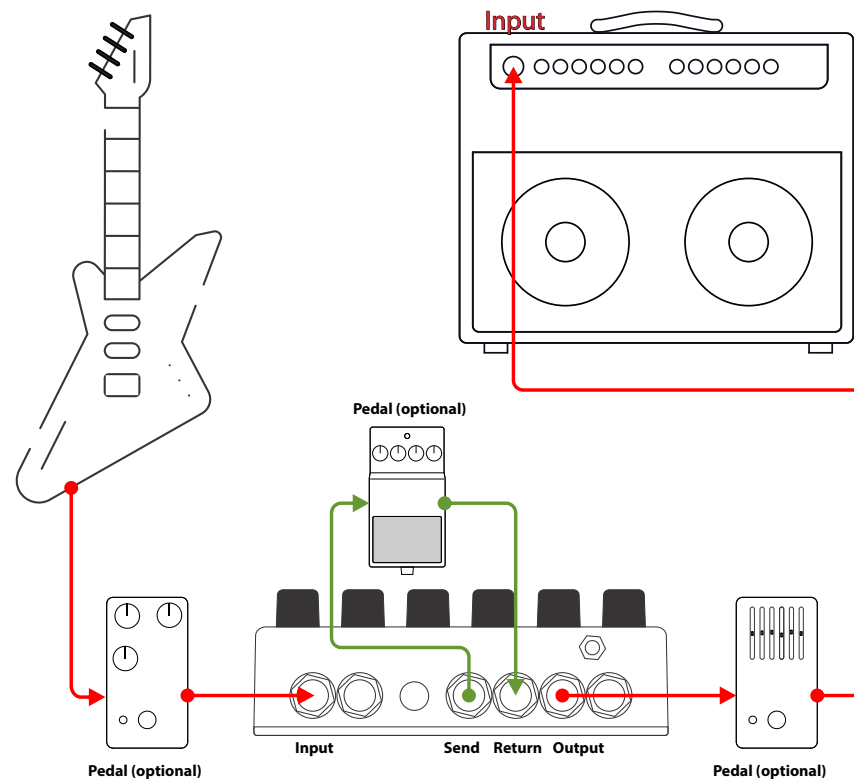
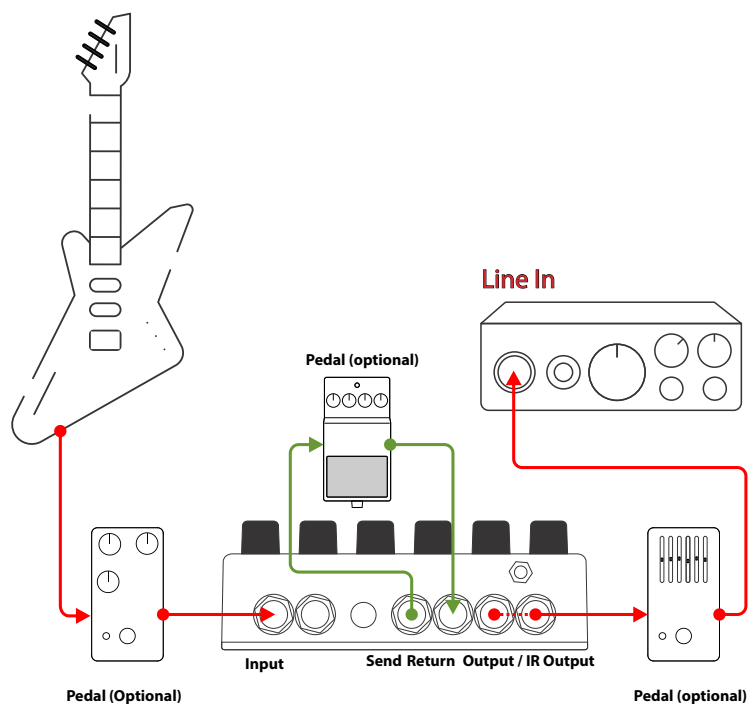
Use the Line In on your interface.

Output is unbalanced, IR Output is balanced — both work with unbalanced inputs.

The Output signal is fully analog. IR Output is processed by the DSP — even with no IR loaded, the signal has been converted to digital and back. If you're adding emulation or effects inside your DAW, use Output to avoid double ADC-DAC conversion.

To the Amp/Combo Input

If your head or combo has no power amp input, connect to the regular Input instead. Note that the preamp section of your amp will modify the Beastbox tone.



Footswitch Functions

Footswitch I

- Short press — toggles between clean and drive channels
- Long press — turns the tube backlight on/off

Footswitch II

- Short press — selects drive channel: Crunch or Lead
- Long press — switches to effects loop control; further short presses toggle the loop
- Long press again — returns to drive channel control

FX Loop

Effects Loop Modes:

- No Trails — effects cuts off instantly
- Trails — effects fade naturally

When the loop is engaged in *No Trails* mode, the loop indicator lights up solid. In *Trails* mode, it blinks once — indicating the active mode. On power-up, the indicator shows the saved mode the same way.

Trails / No Trails can be switched two ways:

- Footswitch II
- MIDI command

Switching Trails / No Trails with Footswitch II

- Disconnect the preamp power supply
- Press and hold Footswitch II
- Connect the Power Supply
- Release after 3 seconds and select the mode with a short press
- Save mode with a long press

To switch Trails / No Trails via MIDI, send the corresponding CC command.

IR Emulation

Beastbox can emulate both an amp and a cabinet simultaneously using impulse response files.

IR is a file containing the acoustic response of a real cabinet and/or amp to a test signal. The Beastbox DSP uses it to realistically reconstruct the sound.

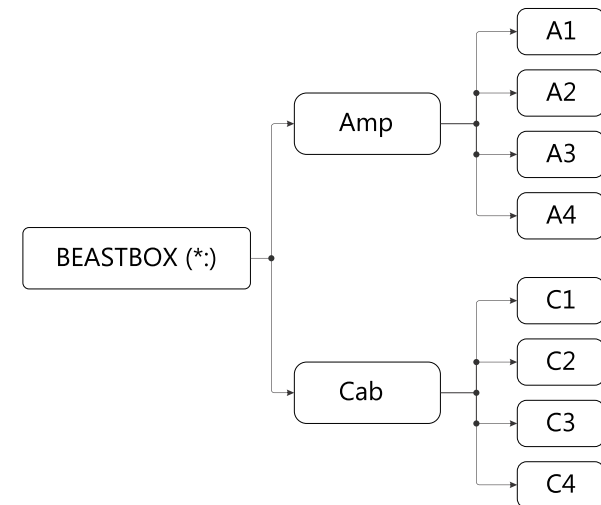
Some IRs already include an amp layer — in that case, loading a separate amp IR may be unnecessary.

Loading Your Own IRs

IRs can be loaded into the Beastbox internal memory or read directly from a microSD card.

Loading IRs to Internal Memory

- Connect the preamp to your computer via USB. It will appear as a flash drive with the following folder structure (Pic 01)
- Delete old / load new IRs into the corresponding folders — one file per folder
- Eject Beastbox using "Safely Remove Hardware" before disconnecting



Pic 01

Always eject the Beastbox using "Safely Remove Hardware" — this keeps your files safe.

Each folder 01...04 holds one IR file. Any filename works. Format: WAV, 48 kHz, 24-bit.

If something goes wrong, format the preamp as a flash drive: FAT32, default cluster size, any drive name. Then recreate the folder structure.

Using IRs from microSD

- Make sure the card is formatted as FAT32
- Create the required folder structure on the card (Pic 01)
- Add one IR file per folder
- Eject the card from your computer using "Safely Remove Hardware"
- Insert the card into the Beastbox — done!

When a microSD card is inserted, the Beastbox reads IRs from it instead of internal memory. If the card is damaged, files are missing or in the wrong format — IRs won't load and the IR output will pass through dry.

IR Selection

Short press on the IR button selects the folder to load IR into the DSP. Long press toggles between Amp and Cab columns.

IRs are assigned per channel. Whatever you select on Clean stays on Clean — Lead and Crunch work the same way. Switching channels loads the IRs linked to that channel.

Getting Started with MIDI

If MIDI is new to you — bear with us, just a little. MIDI is a set of standardized commands that tell a device how to change its settings. For guitar rigs, CC (Control Change) and PC (Program Change) commands are all you really need.

Beastbox has two MIDI interfaces:

- Wired — 1/8" TRS, A-type cable
- Wireless — Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)

Wired MIDI Connection

Plug the 1/8" TRS cable into the Beastbox MIDI IN, and the other end into your MIDI host. That's it.

To connect to a DIN5 port, use the included DIN5 to 1/8" TRS A-type adapter.

BLE Pairing

- Enable Bluetooth device discovery on your host
- Connect a power supply to Beastbox
- Find *KartakoŮ | Beastbox* in the Bluetooth device list
- Tap *Connect*
- Done!

On power-up, the Beastbox connects to the first known host that responds.

A few things worth knowing:

- Beastbox connects to one MIDI host at a time
- The connection window is open for the first 30 seconds after power-up
- If the connection drops, Beastbox will try to reconnect automatically
- The BLE antenna must be attached for reliable operation

Mac recognizes Beastbox as a MIDI device automatically. On Windows, drivers need to be installed: [download link](#)

CC commands let you:

- Switch channels: Clean / Crunch / Lead
- Toggle the effects loop
- Select IRs
- Control IR output volume
- Control master volume

Supported MIDI Commands

CC#3	0-127	IR Output Volume
CC#7	0-127	Master Volume
CC#9	0-64 65-127	Trails Off Trails On
CC#20	0-127 (any)	Enable Clean
CC#21	0-127 (any)	Enable Crunch
CC#22	0-127 (any)	Enable Lead
CC#23	0-64 65-127	FX On FX Off
CC#24	0 1-4	Bypass AMP IR Select AMP IR
CC#25	0 1-4	Bypass CAB IR Select CAB IR

Changing the MIDI Channel

- Disconnect Beastbox power supply
- Press and hold the Side Button
- Power on while holding the button — release when the IR section LED starts blinking
- Select the new channel using the IR button
- Save by short press the Side Button

On power-up, Beastbox blinks the IR section LED to indicate the saved MIDI channel.

The MIDI TH port relays signal from both MIDI IN and Bluetooth at the same time — making Beastbox a wireless MIDI hub. Use a 1/8" TRS A-type cable.

Headphones

Connect headphones to the Headphones output. Any impedance works.

Use the Balance toggle to route the guitar signal to the left, right, or both ears — handy when playing along to a backing track.

Plug a backing track into the AUX input — YouTube has plenty.

The headphone volume wheel controls the overall level for both guitar and AUX. Guitar level in the headphones is also affected by the master volume. The headphone output always includes IR emulation.

Be careful with headphones volume. Different guitars have different output levels, so there's no universal setting. If you hear clipping, reduce the channel volume, master volume, or the headphone wheel.

Power Supply

Beastbox runs on 12V DC, ~0.6A. Power connector: 5.5x2.1mm, negative tip.

Using third-party power supplies is not recommended. If you do: voltage under load must be 12V, minimum output current 0.7A.