

LINE 6



Pilot's Guide
Manuel de pilotage
Pilotenhandbuch
Pilotenhandboek
Manual del Piloto

40-00-0099

Electroponic Limited Edition available @ www.line6.com

Rev B

All product names referred to in this manual are trademarks of their respective owners, which are in no way associated or affiliated with Line 6. These trademarks of other manufacturers are used solely to identify the products of those manufacturers whose tones and sounds were studied during Line 6's sound model development.



**You should read these Important Safety Instructions.
Keep these instructions in a safe place.**



Before using your Spider III, carefully read the applicable items of these operating instructions and the safety suggestions.

1. Obey all warnings on the amp and in the Spider III Manual.
2. Connect only to AC power outlets rated 100-120V or 200-240V 47-63Hz (depending on voltage range of the unit; refer to back panel).
3. Do not perform service operations beyond those described in the Spider III Manual. Service is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as:
 - power-supply cord or plug is damaged
 - liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus
 - the unit has been exposed to rain or moisture
 - the unit does not operate normally or changes in performance in a significant way
 - the unit is dropped or the enclosure is damaged.
4. The bottom of the metal chassis can get hot during operation. Do not touch during operation or shortly after.
5. Do not place near heat sources, such as radiators, heat registers, or appliances which produce heat. Keep the rear of the unit at least three inches from walls or other items that might block heat radiation.
6. Do not block any of the ventilation openings or use in an enclosed space.
7. Guard against objects or liquids entering the enclosure. Do not use or place unit near water.
8. Do not step on power cords. Do not place items on top of power cords so that they are pinched or leaned on. Pay particular attention to the cord at the plug end and the point where it connects to the amp.
9. Unplug the amp when not in use for extended periods of time. Unplug the amp during lightning storms.
10. Clean only with a damp cloth.
11. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding type plug. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The third prong is provided for your safety. When the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
12. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
13. Prolonged listening at high volume levels may cause irreparable hearing loss and/or damage. Always be sure to practice “safe listening.”

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CAUTION: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device pursuant to Part 15 of FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.



The exclamation point within a triangle means “caution!” Please read the information next to all caution signs.

CAUTION: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not remove screws. No user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.



The lightning symbol within a triangle means “electrical caution!” It indicates the presence of information about operating voltage and potential risks of electrical shock.

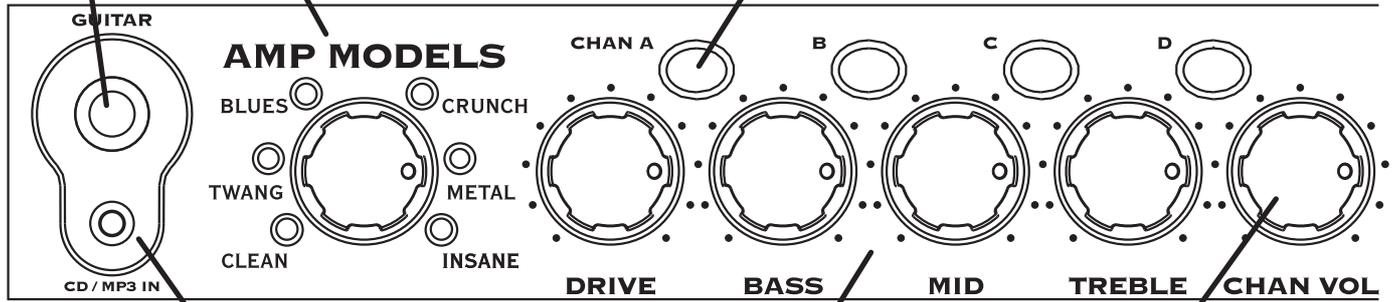


This symbol within a triangle means “caution! hot surface!” It is placed in areas that may become too hot to touch when device is in operation.

1 Plug In Here

2 **Amp Models**
Spin this knob to select one of twelve Amp Models. All the other Spider III controls will automatically be set to sound great with that Amp Model, so you can just play!

11 **Channel Memories**
Four programmable channels come pre-loaded with great factory presets. These buttons are also used when saving user presets. See **Saving** for more information.



3 **CD/MP3**
Plug in any audio source and it feeds directly into the Spider III's speaker or headphones so you can jam with your favorite music or drum machine. Use the device's output control to adjust its volume. Note: Start with the volume on your device at it's lowest setting and bring it up to the volume you desire.

4 **Tone Controls**
Drive is like the volume or gain knob on other amps; controls how much "dirt" you get in your sound. Bass, Mid, and Treble controls are customized for each Amp Model to give you optimal tonal control.

5 **Channel Volume**
This control helps you balance the volumes of different amp-and-effect setups that you store in your Spider III's channels. See 10 for the low-down on channels.

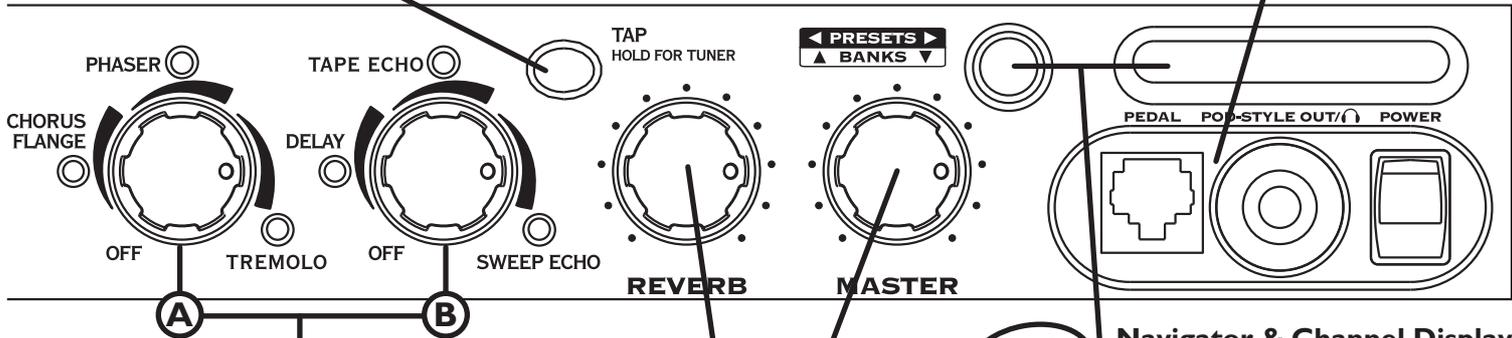
10

Foot Control & Headphone/Line Out

Plug in an FBV2 foot switch to scroll through the 4 channels or connect a Line 6 FBV Shortboard controller for channel switching, effects on/off control, wah/volume pedals, access to 32 more channel memories, a chromatic tuner, and tap tempo for delays. Consider the FBV Express for channel switching, tap tempo, wah/volume control and tuner capabilities. Listen in stereo with headphones, or use this as a direct out for recording! (If you need a stereo out, use a 1/4" TRS stereo-to-dual mono Y-adaptor cable).

9

TAP: Tap on the TAP button a few times to set the delay time. Also Tap button extra functions.

**6**

Smart Control FX

Spin one of these knobs to get great FX, fast and easy:

Knob A picks chorus/flange, phaser or tremolo, with a range of settings – from subtle to overpowering – for each effect. The LED shows the active effect.

Knob B picks delay, tape echo or sweep echo, with a range of mix settings from low to high. The LED shows the active effect and flashes the delay time. Tap the TAP button to change the delay time.

8

Master Volume

You can choose the overall volume of the amplifier, without affecting your tone.

7

Reverb

Dial up more or less virtual room.

12

Navigator & Channel Display

Navigate up and down to go through the various banks of presets (user, artist based, song based). Navigate left and right to select from different sounds in each of those banks. The display will indicate which preset you have selected both alphanumerically (e.g. 01A, 60S) and by name (e.g. Crunchzilla).

Welcome The Spider III...

Thank you for inviting Spider III home with you. This amp mines the tonal heritage of the past forty years of guitar amplifier design and matches it up with the kind of digital signal processing magic that will still be ahead of its time ten years from now.

Presets

Your new Spider III amplifier comes with a whopping 36 user presets and over 400 artist and song based presets that can be accessed through the Navigator.

User Presets are loaded with a good variety of great tones but are ready for you to tweak and leave your own musical imprint on. See Saving for more information. User presets are in Banks 1-9. Each bank contains 4 tones, ABCD on the display and will light the corresponding ABCD button on the front of the amp.

The Artist Presets were dialed in by a team of insane guitar slinging rock stars that cover a great range of styles. We sent an amp to each of them to create a bank of inspiring tone. Some chose to capture the tone of their records, some explored the insane range of tonal possibility that Spider III offers – whatever the

outcome, their work is at your disposal and is organized into banks by artist name. It is as if they came to your home and helped you dial in your amp.

Song Based Presets are based on the top 200 guitar rock songs of all time. These sounds are organized into banks by genre.

Amp Model Details

Clean

Red LED - Select this Amp Model and adjust the tone controls to get crisp, amazing clean tones, great warm jazz tones, and all the high-end shimmer you'll need with a generous amount of bottom end to boot. Then dial up a little chorus and delay to get the ultimate clean sound!

Green LED - We developed this Amp Model to emulate those late 60's and early 70's clean tones. It started off as an Amp Model based on a 1973 Hiwatt custom 100. We extended the tone control range and tightened up the low end. Hit an open A chord and let that big sweet tone ring!

Twang

Red LED - This Amp Model draws on our analysis of mid 60's Fender amps, including the blackface '65 Twin Reverb and blackface '64 Deluxe Reverb. We wanted an Amp Model that has that classic glassy high end tone, with some snap and bite for some serious chick'n pick'n. Things don't get too crunchy until reaching the top range of the Drive knob.

Green LED - This Amp Model is based on a number of vintage tweed amps. We evaluated a '53 Fender tweed Deluxe, '58 Fender tweed Bassman and a '60 Gibson Explorer to create a swingin' Rockabilly tone. Add some reverb and a slap echo and Be-bop-alu-la!

Blues

Red LED - What would happen if we based a model on three helpings of '65 Marshall JTM-45, one scoop of '58 Fender Bassman, a schmeer of '63 Fender Vibroverb and a dash of Supro for good measure? The biggest, fattest down home Blues amp ever heard. This Amp Model slides between gritty swamp-infected cleans to syrupy smooth, walloping drive tones. It's time to get down and dirty!

Green LED - Ready, steady...GO! This Amp Model is based on a fawn Vox AC-30 amplifier with an updated and expanded tone control circuit. We wanted to capture that early British pop rock tone that the Beatles and the Stones are so well known for.

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Crunch

Red LED - This sound was crafted during our studies of the '68 Marshall Plexi 50 Watt. This type of Marshall amp was used by a number of early metal bands. Check out albums like British Steel, Number of the Beast and Black Out. Crunch provides a wider range of tone control settings than the original Marshall amp had. This Amp Model will allow you to bump up the mids even at the highest Drive settings.

Green LED - Plexi On Fire! This Amp Model is based on a '68 Marshall Plexi 100 watt with a few added extras; The combination of a Variac and the jumpered input channels creates that infamous brown sound that will feel like flames are shooting out the input jack! "Come on Dave... Give me a break!"

Metal

Red LED - This Amp Model is based on the Mesa Dual Rectifier. For Spider III, we made careful enhancements to this classic tone. The resulting Amp Model has a definite modern flavor. This monster truck of tone delivers a tight bottom end that's big, powerful, tight and fast. Use this Amp Model to get a tight and punchy, high gain Metal sound.

Green LED - This sound was created to be an aggressive high gain Amp Model with a unique Mid control that will sweep through an entire spectrum of tone on one knob. The Mid knob for this Amp Model changes the character of the distortion. When set to minimum, the distortion exhibits Fuzz pedal characteristics. When the Mid is set to noon, it mimics the creamy modern high gain amp tones. And when the Mid knob is turned up to max, it's very much reminiscent of that Class A sound. Of course, then there are all the places in-between...

Insane

Red LED - This model is our "dialed in for shredding" version of the Mesa Dual Rectifier red channel. It combines the intensity and impact of Metal Red, but delivers more midrange and teeth for that bone-crushing, brain piercing insane grind.

Green LED - Our goal with Insane was to provide you with as much input gain distortion as possible short of complete meltdown. You get an obscene helping of distortion, while still retaining tonal definition and character. As a result, you get way more bottom end and cabinet character than other small amps. Crank up the Drive control and prepare to dominate!

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Smart Control FX:

Great amp tone is only part of a great guitar sound. Effect processing – whether it's stomp boxes or rack gear – is also a big part of the story. Your Spider III packs the power of several of these tone shapers in its Smart Control FX section.

The delay knob gives you a trio of delay effect choices: a standard delay, tape echo, and a sweep echo. The modulation effect knob lets you choose between chorus/flange, phaser, and tremolo, and for each of these effects you can choose anything from a subtle hint of processing to total tone-mangling overkill. While turning the knob, Spider III adjusts all the individual aspects of the effect automatically to give you the range of sounds you're looking for, without having to mess with multiple knobs and switches to get your tone. So you can spend your time making music instead.

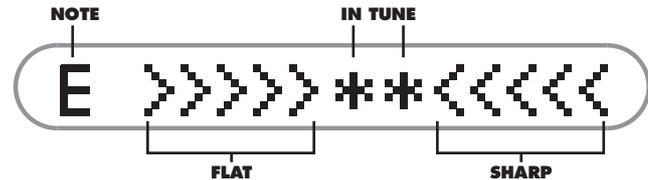
Tap Button “Extra” Functions

The Tap Tempo button, in addition to setting the speed of your delay effects, also lets you access a few extra Spider III features: a Tuner, Distortion Boost and a built-in Noise Gate (the tuner and the boost are also accessible via the optional FBV Shortboard). When

you hold down the Tap Tempo button, you can use some of Spider III's knobs to access these extra features.

Tuner Mode

Press and hold the TAP button or TAP footswitch for 2 seconds or more and you get instant digital tuner. The volume is muted during tuning so you won't hear anything coming out of the amp. Press any button to exit Tuner Mode. If there is no FBV Shortboard connected, the LCD on the front panel of the Spider III will work as the tuner display.



Distortion Boost

Press and hold the Tap button as you turn the Drive knob up past twelve o'clock. As you do this, Spider III's Channel A LED comes on. This gives the kind of extra 'dirt' that you'd expect from a Distortion pedal with the distortion control set low and the output control set high. It boosts your guitar signal before it reaches the Amp Model, so that you hit the model harder and get a more distorted sound. Enabling this is the same as kicking on Stomp on the FBV Shortboard.

Noise Gate

Press and hold Tap as you turn the Reverb knob up past twelve o'clock, and you turn on a built-in Noise Gate, which helps to cut down on hiss and noise. When you do this, the Channel D LED comes on to indicate that the Gate is on.

Saving

Once you've dialed up your own killer sound you're probably going to want to save it so you can get to it another time. To prepare for saving, it's a good idea to browse through the various factory-stored user preset

sounds to decide which user preset you can live without. Make a note of its Bank number and Channel letter so you can save your new tone there instead.

To save from a User Preset (Banks 1 thru 9) press and hold the lit channel memory button for 1 second. The LED will start to blink. You may wish to keep the same name or you can use the Navigator to name your patch. Press left and right to select the cursor position and up and down to select a letter, number or character. When you have the name you want press left until the cursor is under the bank number and then press up or down to select the bank you would like to save within. To complete a Save operation, press the ABCD button you wish to save to.

When you select an Artist or Song Based Preset, the ABCD channel LEDs will turn off to indicate that you have recalled a factory preset. If you'd like to copy this preset to a user location (banks 1-9), press and hold any of the ABCD buttons for 1 second. One of the LEDs will blink, and then follow the same instructions as saving from a User Preset.

Special Hidden Functions

When you select an Amp Model, Spider III automatically sets its tone controls and effects to match that Amp Model. You can disable the auto-FX selection (but not tone control auto-selection) by powering up Spider III with the Channel D button held. The auto-selection is re-enabled next time you power up.

Want to know where your Spider III's controls are set in the programmed channels? Hold – and keep holding – the Tap button. Now, before you do anything else, turn the Amp Models knob. This activates Spider III's "Compare" mode. Now turn any knob other than Amp Model and Master Volume, and the channel lights will tell you whether you need to turn that knob up (Channel A lights) or down (Channel D lights) to match the stored setting. The Channel B & C lights will be lit at the same time once the knob position matches the stored setting exactly.

You can reset your Spider III's programmable channels to their factory-programmed states by holding down the Channel A button as you turn on the power. Warning: This will erase ALL custom sounds you might have created. Ask yourself, "Do I really want to do this?" If your answer is yes, then go for it!

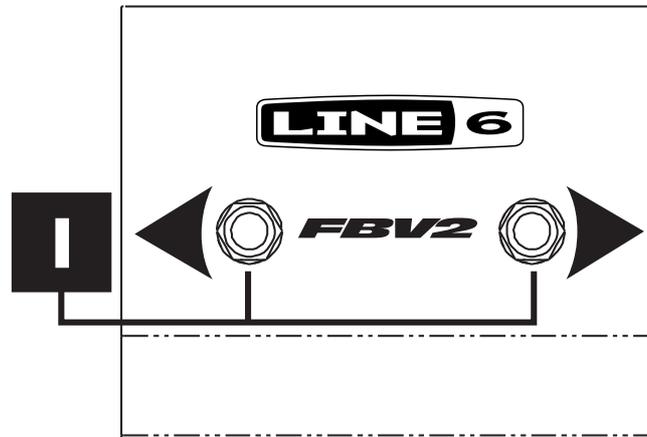
Using Your Feet

The FBV series of foot controllers includes the original FBV—with its extensive effects controls for the Line 6 Vetta amps—and the more-compact FBV Shortboard, which includes all the controls needed for the Spider III. Also available are the FBV Express for channel switching and tap and FBV2 for channel scroll. Note that the Line 6 Floor Board and FB4 foot controllers will not work with Spider III.

FBV footcontrollers come with an included RJ-45 cable. Connect this cable between the front panel of the Spider III and the side of the FBV. If you ever need a replacement cable, look for a Category 5, 10 Base-T or RJ-45 cable with male connectors on both ends. These can be found at almost any computer supply retailer.

FBV2

1. The FBV2 functions as a two button channel scroll foot switch. This foot switch allows you to scroll through the 4 channels (the A,B,C & D buttons) of your Spider III.

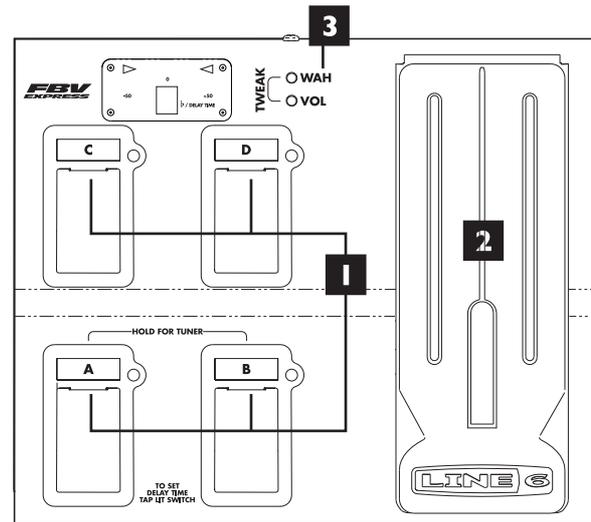


FBV Express

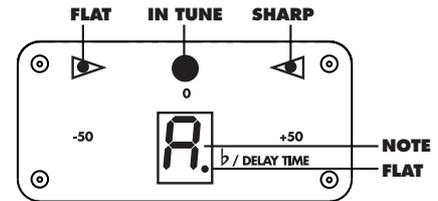
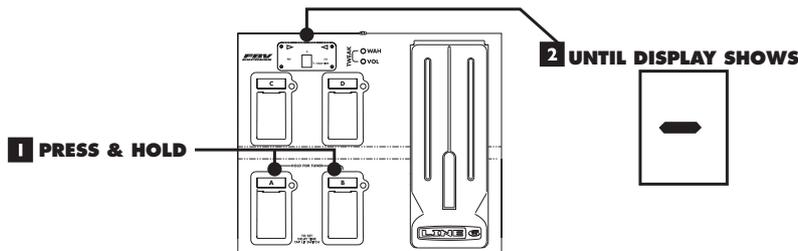
1. Channel A, B, C & D: Select from the four Channel Memories. You can also use your active channel to change your Tap Tempo setting. Just Tap the channel button twice to the drummer's beat and presto - you're locked in!

2. FBV Pedal: Press the pedal forward to click the toe-switch, turning the pedal from Volume to Wah.

3. Wah and Volume Lights: These light to show that a pedal is ready to control Wah or Volume. **Note:** Press the pedal fully forward to click the toe-switch, switching the pedal to control Wah or Volume.



Using your FBV Express Tuner



3 DONE TUNING? PRESS ANY OF THE A,B,C OR D FOOTSWITCHES

FBV Shortboard

1. Channel A, B, C & D: Select from the four Channel Memories. **Note:** On the FBV Express, you can also use your active channel to change your Tap Tempo setting. Just Tap the channel button twice to the drummer's beat and presto - you're locked in!

2. Bank Up - Bank Down: The FBV Shortboard gives you 9 banks of 4 channels each. Bank 1 is the same 4 memories you get from the Spider III front panel A,B,C,D buttons when no FBV is connected.

3. STOMP/MOD/DELAY/REVERB: You guessed it! These switch the Spider III effects MOD, DELAY and REVERB on and off kinda like they were stomp boxes on a pedal board. STOMP engages the DISTORTION BOOST (see Tap Button extra functions)

4. Tap/Tuner: Tap a couple beats to set the tempo. Or press and hold this switch until you see the tuner on the pedal's display. Press it again to exit tuner mode.

5. Wah and Volume Lights: These light to show that a pedal is ready to control Wah or Volume. **Note:** Pressing the pedal fully forward to click the toe-switch selects its control between Wah or Volume. If a separate expression pedal is connected to the Shortboard's rear panel 1/4-inch jack, the Shortboard pedal controls Wah only, with the toe switch toggling the Wah on/off.

6. External Pedal Jack: You can connect an expression pedal (such as the Line 6 EX-1) to the Shortboard's rear panel 1/4-inch jack, and the connected pedal will control Volume, while the Shortboard pedal controls Wah only.

7. FBV Pedal: Press the pedal forward to click the toe-switch, turning the pedal from Volume to Wah.

Saving with FBV Shortboard: To prepare for saving, it's a good idea to browse through the various factory-stored preset sounds to decide which you can do without. Make a note of their Bank number and Channel letter so you can save your own sounds there instead.

Save: Step on the FX LOOP switch until "NAME EDIT" is displayed. The Shortboard's COMP and MOD switches then select one of the characters of the channel name so you can edit it. The DELAY and REVERB switches choose from the available letters, numbers and symbols. The Bank Up and Bank Down switches then pick a Bank you'd like to save within.

Complete the Save: Press the A, B, C or D switch to store to that Channel Memory in the chosen Bank. The display will show "SAVING". Congratulations, you're all done!