# Blackbird

analog preamp drive

USER MANUAL

TONE YOUR WAY

VS AUDIO

## ABOUT BLACKBIRD

Blackbird MkII is a fully analog dual-channel preamp and drive that succeeds in generating Brownface and Blackface-style overdrive tones and works as a flexible tone-sculpting platform. More than just an overdrive pedal, the Blackbird MkII also reveals its ability to function like a true preamp, giving other dirt boxes a glassy Blackface or a spongy Brownface touch.

The Brown channel is an all-discrete JFET preamp based on the 6G3 Brownface Deluxe. It breaks up much earlier, with warm, woody lows, a thick vocal midrange, sweet edge-of-breakup saturation and liquid, dynamic compression, turning thick and mean when you dig in.

The Black channel is an amp-in-a-box take on a mid-'60s Blackface Super Reverb pushed hard for SRV-style tone. It delivers a clear, punchy, low-gain overdrive with a distinct midrange push and natural sustain, without unnatural compression: the sweet spot of vintage blackface amps.

## FEATURES:

- Two independent channels, Brown and Black, each with Volume, Tone and Gain controls.
- Brown channel: all-discrete JFET preamp based on the 6G3 Brownface Deluxe.
- Black channel: blackface-style voice with a distinct midrange push.
- 9VDC operation.
- True bypass (electromechanical relay switching).
- Brushed stainless-steel enclosure with top-mounted jacks.
- Hand-built in Greece.

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Input Impedance:** | 1M Ohm |
| **Output Impedance:** | 4k Ohm |
| **Signal/Noise:** | 110dB |
| **Current Draw:** | 70mA |
| **Dimensions:** | 125 x 68 x 40mm |
| **Power:** | 9VDC, center negative, 100mA min. (sold separately) |

## BROWNFACE CHANNEL

JFET preamp based on the **6G3** Brownface Deluxe vintage amp.

### VOLUME

Sets the output level of the Brownface channel.

### TONE

Adjusts the high-frequency content of the Brownface channel.

### GAIN

Sets the amount of drive of the Brownface channel.




### FOOTSWITCH

Engage and bypass each channel. A lit **WHITE** LED indicates the channel is on. True bypass.

## BLACKFACE CHANNEL

Integrated circuit based on the **AB763** Blackface Deluxe vintage amp.

### VOLUME

Sets the output level of the Blackface channel.

### TONE

Adjusts the high-frequency content of the Blackface channel.

### GAIN

Sets the amount of drive of the Blackface channel.

### BASS (INTERNAL)

Controls the amount of low frequencies. The response of the control varies with the **GAIN** settings.

**NOTE:** By default, the Blackbird is bypassed (off) at power up.

## REAR PANEL CONNECTIONS

### INPUT
High impedance mono instrument input.

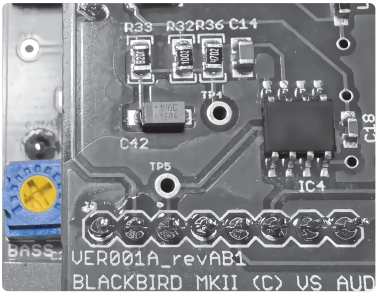
### OUTPUT
Low impedance mono output.




### 9VDC
Use a power supply or an adapter with the following ratings: 9VDC, center negative, 100mA minimum (sold separately).

**IMPORTANT!** Using voltages higher than 9VDC can damage the pedal.

### INTERNAL CONTROLS
Bass trimmer




### POWER UP STATE
The Blackbird MkII always starts in bypass (off) when power is applied.

Press a footswitch to turn its channel on. The relay switching works like a standard footswitch, plus a **HOLD-RELEASE** feature on both channels.

With a channel in bypass (off), press and hold its footswitch: the effect turns on instantly. Release the switch and the effect is instantly bypassed (off) again. You can hold the switch for as long as you want.

## SUPPORT

Additional Product Information: vsaudio.com/index.php/product/blackbirdmk2/
Questions & Technical Support: support@vsaudio.com




Designed and built
in Athens, Greece



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