



TRIAxisTM

ALL TUBE PREAMPLIFIER

OPERATING MANUAL

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TRIAxis™

OPERATING MANUAL

This manual is meant to get you TONE with the least amount of reading possible. We are aware that some players will want more technical info to wade through. We thought we would save the rest of your hours that might be better spent playing music. However...if you feel you need more help or have serious questions unanswered in this manual...please call us and ask for a product specialist...(707)778-7282. Call us 10-5 California time, Monday through Friday.

NOTE: The A.C. power for Triaxis must be derived from the same powerstrip as the power amp in use. Any effects units used should also be plugged into this same strip. This close proximity of A.C. power supply for units within a system will prevent TONE degradation. Failure to follow this wiring scheme may result in harsh or excessively bright tonal characteristics.

FRONT PANEL

1. Turn Power on at Rear of Unit.

2. Run Through Factory Presets 1-20* using Preset "< >" keys. (Notice that 11-20 do not sound that different unless TriAxis Switch 1 jack is connected to SwitchTrack power amp and Track Switching is used)

*** NOTE:** *Loaded automatically during power-up. Can be disabled or reloaded manually by user if special procedure is followed. See page 7, step 14.*

3. To Increase or Decrease preset, programs, or parameters use "< >" keys.

4. To Enter New Parameter Settings to an existing preset, press "Enter" key 2 times: If pressed 1 time, Preset flashes to indicate it will be overwritten if Enter Key is pressed again. Press Exit while Preset is flashing to return to original settings and void any changes.

5. To Activate Programmable FX Loop and Function Switches press "Loop/SW" key. This key sequences through all possible loop/switch combinations. Press "Enter" key 2 times when desired combi-

nation is selected. (Make sure parameters are set as desired.)

6. To Select a Program or Preset via Numeric Keypad:

Press "Shift" key to toggle between Program and Preset. Display flashes, indicating active window. Select Program using numeric keys located below Gain, Treble, Middle, Bass and Lead 1 Drive windows. Press "Enter" key one time to access new program number. Press "Shift" key twice to make Preset the active window, then select new Preset using the numeric keys. Press "Enter" key one time to listen to the displayed flashing Preset—Press "Enter" key two times to write displayed flashing "Preset" to displayed Program number.

7. Mapping a Preset to a Program: First understand that Presets are sounds and Programs are Midi Program locations!

To map a Preset to a given Midi Program location:

1. Call up the Program location number you wish to write using the < > keys (under the Program/Channel window), a Midi Controller, or by using the Numeric keys located directly under the Gain thru Lead 1 Drive keys.

2. Choose the desired Preset (sound) you wish to list under this Program number using < > keys or Numeric keys. You should now see the Preset you wish to list in the Preset window and the Program Number you wish to write this Preset to in the Program/Channel window.

3. Press the "Enter" key two times. Done.

8. Copy Feature: To copy one Preset to another Preset location: Choose the Preset you wish to copy. Press "Shift" key; Press "Enter/Copy" key. The "Source" Preset now flashes 4 times. Select "Destination" Preset using numeric keys, located below the Gain thru Lead 1 Drive windows. You will now see "Destination" Preset in Preset window. Press "Enter/Copy" key one time; the "Destination" Preset now flashes indicating that the contents of the "Destination" Preset will be replaced by the "Source" Preset parameters. (If you want to exit this copy procedure and avoid overwriting the destination Preset, press the "Exit" key and return to the "Source" Preset.) To complete the copy procedure, press "Copy/Enter" key one more time. The "Source" Preset is now copied to the "Destination" Preset and the Preset display returns immedi-

ately to the "Source" Preset.

9. Mode Selection: To sequence through the 8 modes, Press the Mode key one time and the Mode is incremented to the next higher Mode. Keep in mind the settings do not change with the Mode Key, so if something sounds bizarre or you get no sound out of certain lead Modes, check settings. The Modes are voiced as follows:

Rhythm – Green = Vintage Fat Rhythm

Rhythm – Yellow = Modern Bright Rhythm

Lead 1 – Green = Vintage Mark I Lead

Lead 1 – Yellow = High Gain British Style Lead

Lead 1 – Red = High Gain Bright British Style Lead

Lead 2 – Green = Midrange Gain Boogie Lead

Lead 2 – Yellow = Classic Boogie Lead i.e.
Mark II-C/Mark IV

Lead 2 – Red = Bright Boogie Lead

10. Program / Channel Window: Feedback to the user regarding current Midi Program number and the Midi channel is displayed in this window. Remember: User Presets are not to be confused with Midi Programs. Presets are created by you (or the factory) and

then can be assigned to a Midi Program number. In other words; Presets are sounds—Programs are locations.

From power-up, the Midi Program number last used appears in the Program/Channel window. To view the current Midi Channel that TriAxis is set to receive on, Press the PGM/CH key below this window and the display changes to the current Midi Channel and the channel number flashes. Press PGM/CH key to return to the current Midi Program number.

11. To Change Midi Program Number: Use “< >” keys found below Program Channel window.

12. To Change Midi Channel Number: Press “PGM/CH” key. The Program display now indicates current Midi Channel number by flashing. Use the “< >” keys to change the channel number. When desired channel is reached press the “PGM/CH” key to return the display to the Program number.

13. Midi System Exclusive Data Dump Feature: All information stored in memory, including preset/program combinations and Loop/Switch settings, may be dumped to an external storage medium such as an “Alesis Data Disk”, personal computer or any other sys-

tem with a midi port and hard or floppy disk storage capabilities. These settings (information) can then be retrieved and loaded back into memory from the storage medium, providing backup and/or limitless expansion of the TriAxis’ memory. This procedure is simple and takes approximately 1/2 second to accomplish.

Note: *The manufacturers System Exclusive Identification Code number for the TriAxis is 00004A. In case you ever need to list files on a personal computer this would be a possible title. Most owners won’t ever need to use this number.*

Transmit: (Dump) Connect 5-pin DIN cable from the TriAxis Midi Out jack to storage medium’s Midi In jack: Follow instructions as to how to set the storage medium’s Midi In port to be in the receive ready state: Press the “Shift” key and then the “Preset” Down < Key on TriAxis. You will now see Preset display blink 4 times, indicating the dump has been completed..You will probably also see the I.D. number appear on the screen of the destination unit and then, something like “Dump Completed”. The whole procedure takes about 500 milliseconds and all the information in the TriAxis memory is still intact. At this

time you may write new presets knowing all previous presets are safely backed up.

Receive (Load) : To load previously written sounds and information into the TriAxis the procedure is much simpler. Connect storage medium's "Midi Out" jack to the TriAxis "Midi In" jack. Make sure the storage medium is set to transmit the correct information (file) . Make sure the sounds currently in the TriAxis are "backed up", as the load you are preparing to do will wipe all existing information in the Triaxis memory. Key in "Transmit" or "Send" on the storage medium. The previously stored info will be loaded into the TriAxis. The preset display will blink 4 times confirming the load has been completed.

14. Overwrite/Recall of Factory Presets 01-20: If you run out of preset memory using Presets 21-90 or you simply prefer to start *your* sounds at Preset 01, the first 20 factory presets may be overwritten and yet still be recalled for future comparison or use. The procedure is as follows: Press the "Shift" key then the "Loop/SW" key. This defeats the factory preset power up command and makes it possible to write mode and parameter settings of your choice into preset locations

01 through 20. Remember the factory presets will stay in these locations until you change them. To recall the factory presets in their entirety: Press "Shift" key then the "Mode key". All information in Preset locations 01-20 will be replaced by the original 20 factory presets upon the next power-up. This procedure will erase everything you had in these locations so do not recall the factory presets until you have safely saved your information to disk using the data dump procedure.

REAR PANEL

1. Phantom Power: The coax power jack above the a.c. line cord can provide power to a Midi foot controller (e.g. MESA/Boogie Abacus) through the 7-Pin "Midi In" jack. This is accomplished by connecting an external A.C. to D.C. power adapter of correct voltage and polarity for whatever type of foot controller you are using. ("Abacus" requires: 12 volts @ 500 ma, Tip = Ground-Sleeve = Positive.) Then Connect a

7-Pin DIN Cable between the “Midi In” jack on “TriAxis” and the “Midi Out” jack on Foot Controller. This negates the need for a clumsy power adapter on stage.

NOTE: *7-Pin DIN Cable will not fit into 5-Pin DIN jacks. Check to see that your Foot Controller accepts 7-Pin DIN cables and is wired to accept power this way.*

2. Midi In, Thru, Out: TriAxis provides the standard Midi Interface via these three jacks. The “Midi Out” on TriAxis is used for system exclusive Data Dump procedures only. Program change commands do not appear at this jack. Therefore, Triaxis will not act as a master controller for other Midi devices. If TriAxis is to be the first piece in the Midi chain—connect 7-pin DIN to the Abacus or similar foot controller. (See rear panel 1.) Then connect the next device's “Midi In” jack to Triaxis' “Midi Thru” jack. Triaxis' Midi Thru mirrors all incoming Midi messages.

3. Switch: Switch jacks 1-4 provide “Tip to Ground” function switches for controlling or activating external devices such as the Switch-Track voicing feature incorporated into MESA/Boogie Switch-Track power amplifiers.

4. Record: These jacks “A/B” are the outputs of the Recording circuit. The jacks are individually voiced for clean rhythm playing and overdriven lead playing. The top jack “A” is correctly voiced for clean playing and allows the full spectrum of frequencies through for the brightest, warmest clean sounds. The lower jack “B” is EQ'd specifically for overdriven high gain sounds and produces the sound and feel of a power amp/speaker combination.

5. Output: These jacks “A/B” provide two outputs (Left/Right for interfacing to power amplifiers or directly to effects units).

6. FX Loop: These jacks provide a “Mono” send and “Stereo” return effects loop configuration. The loop is programmable via the “Loop/SW” and “Enter” keys on the front panel. The programmable Master Volume control determines send level.

7. Instrument Input is to the far right of rear panel.

TRIAxis FACTORY PRESET DESCRIPTION

Factory Presets 1-10 + Factory Presets 11-20.*

Preset 01: Rhythm - Green Mode: Mark I Clean: Tubular fat rhythm, great for Blues single note playing: Neck pickup or multiple pickups.

Preset 02: Rhythm - Yellow Mode: Mark IV Clean: Hyper clean rhythm, perfect for Funk or Country playing. Best with multiple pickup selection.

Preset 03: Lead 1 - Green Mode: Mark I lead: Medium gain, warm solo sound. Best with neck pickup.

Preset 04: Lead 1 - Yellow Mode: High gain solo sound: Best with rear pickup/humbucking.

Preset 05: Lead 1 - Red Mode: High gain crunch rhythm or bright smoldering lead. Best with humbucking rear pickup.

Preset 06: Lead 2 - Green Mode: Mark IV/II C+ Blues lead: Medium gain solo sound: Best with neck pickup. fairly hot pickup suggested.

Preset 07: Lead 2 - Yellow Mode: Mark II C+/Mark IV Classic Lead. High gain solo sound. Neck or Bridge pickup.

Preset 08: Lead 2 - Red Mode: Shredding Boogie lead - Brighter crunch rhythm or searing single note solo sound. Best with rear humbucking pickup.

Preset 09: Same as Preset 04 but with Dynamic Voice activated. Great for British crunch rhythm. Hot rear humbucking pickup suggested.

Preset 10: Same as Preset 07 but with Dynamic Voice activated. Super aggressive crunch rhythm or searing lead sound. Hot rear humbucking pickup suggested.

*** NOTE:** *Loaded automatically during power-up. Can be disabled or reloaded manually by user if special procedure is followed. See page 7, step 14.*

Factory Presets 11-20: These presets are very similar to 1-10 but were written to incorporate and demonstrate the switchable features of the MESA Stereo Switch-Track, Strategy 500, and Simul 395 power amplifiers and their cousin the Stereo Simul-Class 2.90. All these power amplifiers contain voicing features that can be remotely triggered under TriAxis programs by using the function switch jacks found on the rear panel of the preamp. Notice that Function

Switch 1 is programmed to come on during Factory Presets 11-20. By connecting a cable to jack 1 on the rear of TriAxis and plugging it into the switching jacks of the power amp, the following features can be auditioned.

Strategy 500 Stereo and Simul 395 Stereo units have two programmable features and two control “tracks”. The features “Deep Extend” and “Half Drive” are assigned via rocker switches on their front panels. The tracks are switched when the function switch on TriAxis is latched on. Program the voicing switches of both channels A/B to Half Drive = Track 2 - Deep Extend = Track 2. Set levels so that Track 1 = 3 and Track 2 = $4\frac{1}{2}$. Set Presence Controls so that Track 1 = 0 and Track 2 = 8. Use a foot controller to jump between programs 1 and 11. Notice the power amp breaking up more and getting fatter in the low end. To take this concept into application, one might use Track 1 set this way for clean rhythm presets and Track 2 set per this example to enhance crunch or high gain lead presets. These are just a few ways Switch-Track might be used. Again these features are activated by connecting a cable to the “Track Switching” jack

found on the rear panel of either the 500 or the 395.

Simul 2.90: The Simul-Class 2.90 has both these voicing features “Deep Extend” and “Half Drive” and an additional feature—“Modern”. These options can be auditioned by leaving the cable connected to Switch Jack #1 on TriAxis and plugging it into the voicing feature jacks on the 2.90 one at a time. If you would like to hear them all on at once simply connect a cable to switch jacks 1, 2, and 3 on TriAxis and hook up all three voicing features. Again, to apply these voicing features to a live application—you might program a combination such as this: No voicing features activated and a Presence setting of roughly 9:00 to 9:30 for clean rhythm presets—“Deep”, “Half Drive”, and “Modern” programmed “on” for crunch rhythm presets. Note: (Modern has the effect of removing much of the negative feedback in the power amp making the attack much more urgent and adding brightness similar to turning the Presence Control up a few numbers.) This coupled with the reduced power of “Half Drive” and the extra low end fatness of the “Deep” feature makes for the ultimate crunch rhythm enhancement. You might try also activating

the "Deep" and possibly even "Half Drive" for lead sounds. Together or separately, these two provide some nice options and don't change the liquid, easy-to-play feel of the TriAxis lead sounds. Check the rhythm modes also for soloing with these two features. They soften the dynamic peaks and round the attack, introducing a whole new arena of lead sound possibilities.

Keep in mind these are but suggestions as to how the Switch-Track family of power amps might be used in conjunction with the TriAxis. We encourage you to be creative with their possible uses.

We sincerely hope you find the TriAxis to be an inspirational instrument; enhancing your playing while expanding your musical voice to areas you never thought possible. Enjoy!

MESA/Boogie



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