

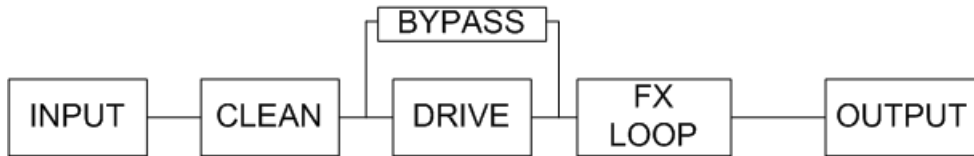


*- Amps That Sing -*

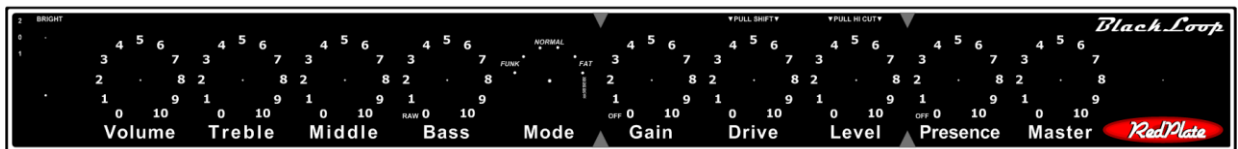
# **BlackLoop Operations Manual**

Welcome to the RedPlate Family, thank you for your purchase of a RedPlate BlackLoop amplifier. Please take a moment and review this manual for an understanding of all the available features (or just put all the knobs at noon and play). This Manual applies to BlackLoop models produced after 12/01/2011.

### Signal Path Block Diagram:

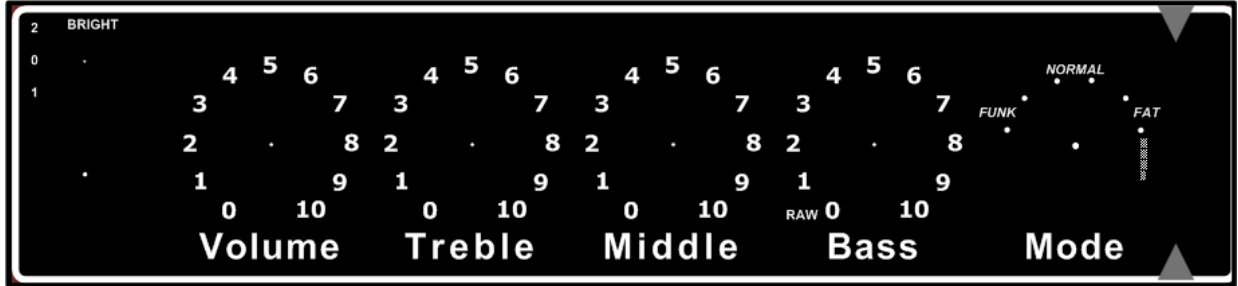


### FRONT PANEL:



**Input Jack** – Typical High impedance input to the amplifier. Designed to be “Pedal Friendly” in the unlikely event you will ever use a pedal in front of the BlackLoop.

### **CLEAN PREAMP SECTION**



The Clean Preamp is designed to imitate (and surpass) all of the “classic” guitar amp preamps. The BlackLoop Mode control gives the player the ability to shift midrange center point frequency.

**Bright Switch** – Center = OFF, Down = sound of new strings, Up = normal Bright response.

**Volume** – Typical setting is between 3 and 5 but experimentation is encouraged.

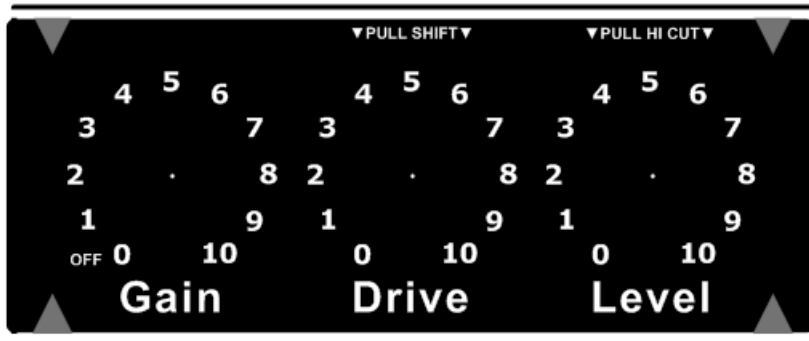
**Treble Control** - Adjusts highs (also upper midrange when the Mid Boost is engaged).

**Middle Control** – Controls the amount of Midrange frequencies, somewhat interactive with the Bass Control.

**Bass Control** – Sets the amount of low end. Can be rotated to zero where it clicks off for a full tone stack lift.

**Mode Selector** – A six position rotary switch, it steps through 5 progressively fatter positions of the midrange center frequency and achieves maximum fat midrange by engaging Mid Boost in position 6 (see the **Other Features** section of this manual for details).

### DRIVE SECTION

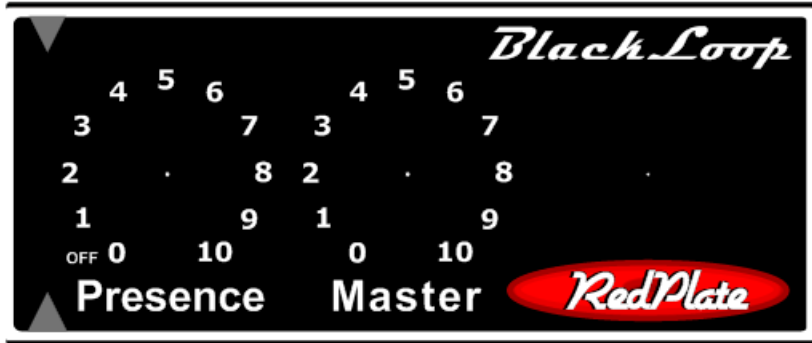


The Drive section controls the amount of character to add to the clean tone. The section’s range of effect can be just a hint of early break up or a full on aggressive heavy metal distortion.

**Gain Control** – Bypasses the section when rotated to zero, this control sets the amount of signal for the first gain stage of the section. Low settings are smoother and higher settings are more aggressive.

**Drive Control** – Sets the amount of distortion by controlling the level between the 2 gain stages of the section. Pull this control to shift into more gain and girth for the distortion.

**Level Control** – Sets the output volume of the section. Higher settings are “bigger” and more 3 dimensional. Pull this control to engage a high frequency roll off.



**MASTER SECTION**

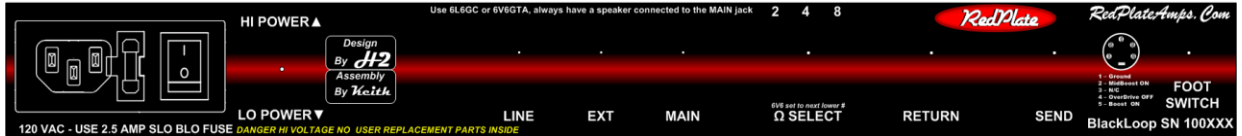
**Presence Control** – The presence circuit uses global negative feedback to remove low frequencies which frees up bandwidth for more midrange and highs. Think of it as a tone control to balance the relationship between highs and lows, especially when the amplifier is naturally producing increased low end at louder volumes. The control clicks off when rotated to zero for no presence.

**Master Volume** – This is an active control and actually adds gain at the higher settings. The cleanest tones are achieved at settings below 7.

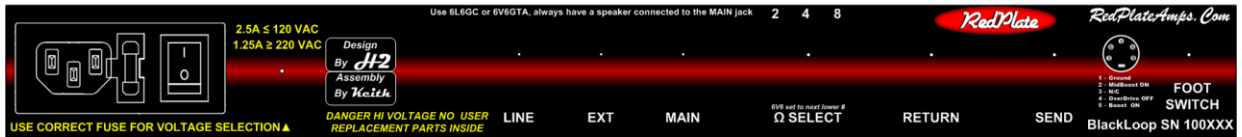
**Standby Switch** – This switch allows the tubes to warm up before operating the amplifier. Wait 1 minute after power on to move it up to the operate position. For improved tube life and performance do not leave the amplifier in Standby position for longer than 20 minutes (better to just leave it in operate mode during performance intermissions).

**REAR PANEL SECTION**

**Domestic (USA):**



**Rear Panel Export:**



**IEC Module** – contains the main power switch, power cord inlet connector and the fuse drawer. To access the fuse(s) use a small flat blade screwdriver in the notch at the side of the power cord inlet connector, the drawer snaps out in a rearward direction. The BlackLoop uses the smaller European (5mm X 20mm) sized fuses. A time delay variety (SLO-BLO) is recommended

**Voltage Selector-** (export version only) Rotate the selector switch for the proper VAC selection. Make sure to use the correct fuse as noted on the rear panel.

**HI/LO POWER Switch** – (Domestic Version only) Changes the voltage on the power amp input stage (Phase Inverter tube) so the amplifier breaks up sooner.

**Impedance Selector  $\Omega$**  - Set this to the total impedance of all attached speakers. When 6V6 tubes are used, set to the next lower number.

**Speaker Jacks** – The MAIN and EXT jacks are wired in parallel. The MAIN jack must be used first because it has a protection device. ALWAYS HAVE A SPEAKER CONNECTED TO AVOID PERMANENT AMPLIFIER AND OUTPUT TUBE DAMAGE.

**LINE OUT** – A line level signal jack derived from the speaker output which contains the whole tone of the amplifier.

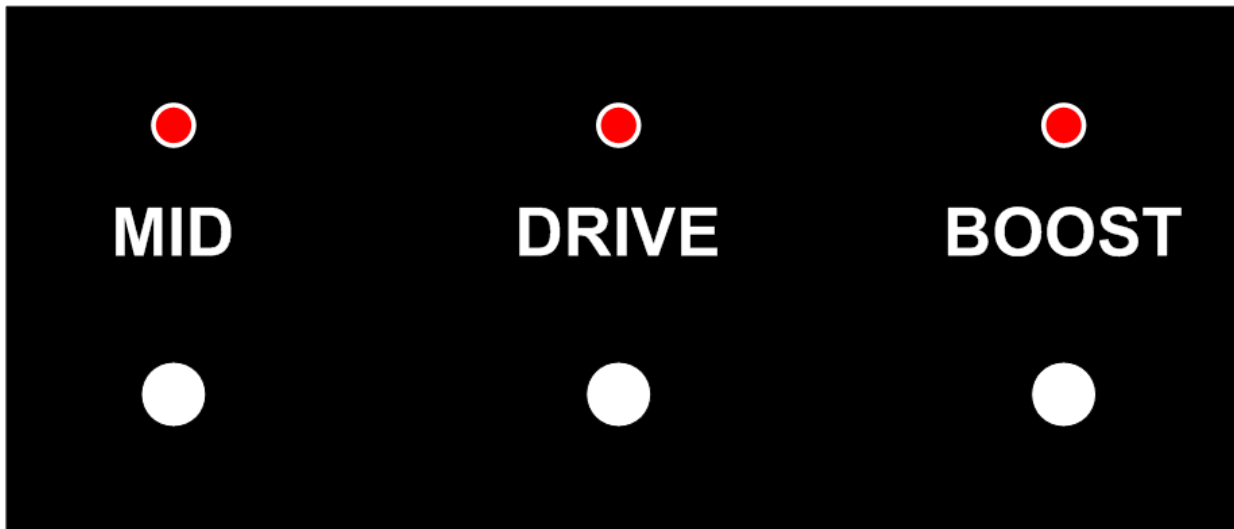
**SEND and RETURN Jacks** – The send jack connects to the input of an external effects device and the return jack connects to the output of an external effects device. The return jack interrupts the signal path so the external effects unit must mix the wet and dry signals.

**Footswitch Jack** - This is a standard 180 degree 5 pin DIN jack for footswitch connection. If a replacement cable is needed, make sure all 5 wires are supported. The pinout is conveniently located on the rear panel for use with automated switcher conversion boxes.

### **OTHER FEATURES**

The BlackLoop comes complete with a 3 button footswitch and a footswitch cable. The cable used is a regular MIDI cable and is readily available in any length at most music stores.

#### **FOOTSWITCH**



**MID** – Midrange Boost feature. When engaged, the size of the treble capacitor is increased to allow for more upper midrange. The footswitch button does not work when position 6 of the rotary MODE switch on the front panel is selected because it is a duplicate function.

**DRIVE** – Character Boost feature. When lit, the Drive section of the amplifier is active, not lit, means the section is bypassed. The footswitch button does not work when the front panel Gain control is rotated to zero because it is a duplicate function.

**BOOST** – Girth Boost feature. When lit, adds volume and tone by doing a partial tone stack lift. The footswitch button does not have any effect when the front panel Bass control is rotated to zero because it is a partial version of the same function.

#### **POWER ON/OFF PROCEDURE**

1. Check the front panel Standby switch to make sure it is toggled downward for Standby operation (the Standby switch is located at the right side of the front panel next to the pilot light).
2. Toggle the main power switch to the up position (this switch is located at the edge of the IEC input module). The front panel pilot light should be lit.

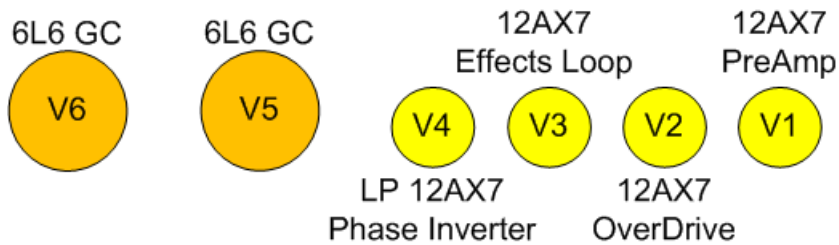
3. Wait one minute and then toggle the front panel Standby switch upwards to the Operate position.
4. POWER OFF – Toggle the main power switch downward, there is no need to go into standby first although it will not hurt anything.

### **MAINTENANCE SECTION**

Your BlackLoop amp has been designed for years of trouble free operation. The vacuum tubes will need to be replaced over time. We recommend new output tubes every 160 - 240 hours and new preamp tubes every 320 - 480 hours.

The front and rear panels have a protective finish that can be easily scratched with abrasives so always use a damp soft cloth to clean them (never use paper towels). The cabinetry can be cleaned with our super secret tolex cleaner (on a paper towel - 2 squirts of WD-40 and 4 squirts window cleaner), let your keyboard player try it on his plastic keys, it replicates the feel of a brand new keyboard.

### **TUBE CHART**



All tube brands are acceptable, a long plate is preferred in the V4 (Phase Inverter) position.

**Warning – No user serviceable parts inside so unless you know what you’re doing please refer to a qualified service person only.**

### **BIAS PROCEDURE**

The BlackLoop is a cathode biased amp so no biasing is required.

### **INTERNAL TRIM POT**



The BlackLoop has 1 internal trim pot for the PI Balance – Useful for working with unmatched 12AX7 tubes in the phase inverter position. Refer to qualified personnel for proper setting.

## ***RedPlateAmps Warranty***

At RedPlateAmps we pride ourselves making products that are built to last. The workmanship in your RedPlate amplifier is warranted to be problem free for the lifetime of the original owner, or in the event of resale a onetime transfer to a new owner for coverage for 3 years from the original manufacture date (please inform us of an ownership change to insure coverage). The actual electrical components in your amplifier are warranted for a period of 3 years. Exclusions are vacuum tubes, reverb tanks, cables, speakers and cosmetics which are warranted for 30 days. Improper handling or product misuse or product abuse or unauthorized repair work or unauthorized modifications may nullify your warranty. Eligibility for coverage and covered items are at the sole discretion of RedPlateAmps.

### ***RedPlateAmps***

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Thanks again for joining the RedPlate Family – Henry

## ***FAVORITE SETTINGS***

[Check the website for updates to this section]

### ***Blank Template:***

Copy or print the next page to record your own favorites. Once you've zeroed in on your signature setting please email the completed template to [Info@RedPlateAmps.com](mailto:Info@RedPlateAmps.com) – we may include your favorite in the online version of this manual.

