

MEGABEAT

AUDIO

Darth Fader v2

User Manual

Revision 2
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1 Description and features

Darth Fader is a true bypass fader pedal which allows you to FADE OUT/IN live in an extremely easy manner.

Main features:

- MONO or STEREO versions.
- Adjustable fade duration from 1 to 40 seconds.
- Adjustable fade depth from 10 to 60 dB.
- True bypass or buffered bypass: it's your choice. Selectable with an internal switch.
- 3 presets to save your favorite configurations.
- Adjustable LED brightness: 6 brightness levels to work nicely under any light conditions.
- Hand-made by MegaBeat Audio: from design and soldering to assembly.
- High input impedance and low output impedance to keep your tone.
- Power filtering to reduce noise introduced by power adapters.
- Reverse polarity protection.
- Neutrik jacks.
- Ultra low distortion and low noise high performance audio operational amplifiers.

2 Audio Jacks

Input Jack(s) IN on the MONO version or IN L and IN R on the STEREO version. Connect here your instrument or the output of the previous device on the signal chain.

Output Jack(s) OUT on the MONO version or OUT L and OUT R on the STEREO version. Connect to your amplifier or the next device on the signal chain.

Note The STEREO version can be used in MONO by connecting the left channel only.

3 Power

This pedal can be powered with a battery or an adapter. In both cases, the pedal has a power filter that reduces noise and imperfections coming from the power source.

Power is switched by the input jack (IN) on the MONO version or the left input jack (IN L) on the STEREO version, so if this jack is not connected, the pedal will be off and will not use any energy from the battery or the power adapter.

Battery This pedal can be powered with a 9V battery. To replace the battery, carefully remove the back cover held by screws. Alkaline batteries are recommended.

Power Jack This pedal can be powered with a 9V DC adapter. Polarity is center negative as indicated on the pedal. Although the pedal is protected against wrong polarity, please ensure that the correct polarity is used. The use of an adapter with the wrong specs, including voltage, may damage the pedal.

When an adapter is connected, the battery is disconnected automatically to prevent it from discharging.

4 Knobs

Mode Knob With this selector you can choose among the four pedal modes: FADE OUT, FADE OUT/IN, FADE IN/OUT and FADE IN. See Modes section for more detailed information.

Duration Knob With this Knob you can adjust the fade duration from 1 to 40 seconds.

Depth Knob With this knob you can adjust the fade depth (maximum attenuation of the fade) from 10 to 60 dB. For example, a FADE OUT with a Depth of 30 dB will start at maximum volume (0 dB) and fade out down to an attenuation of 30 dB.

5 Leds & Footswitches

Fade Footswitch and LED With this footswitch you can start or stop the different fades. The Fade LED will be red if a FADE OUT is in progress, green if a FADE IN is progress and off if the pedal is idle. See Modes section for more detailed information.

Preset Footswitch and LED This footswitch allows you to recall and save presets with your foot so you can do so during your performance. The Preset LED indicates the active preset. See Presets section for more information.

Attenuation LEDs These LEDs show the current attenuation of the pedal.

LEDs brightness The brightness of the LEDs can be adjusted. See LED Brightness Adjustment section for details.

6 Modes

FADE OUT This mode starts at the 0 dB position. Pressing the Fade footswitch, a FADE OUT will start. Once the fade is finished, or at any time during it, you can go back to the 0 dB position by pressing the Fade footswitch again.

FADE OUT/IN This mode starts at the 0 dB position. Pressing the Fade footswitch, a FADE OUT will start. Once the fade is finished, or at any time during it, pressing the Fade footswitch again, a FADE IN will start from the current position, which will finish at the 0 dB position. The fade direction can be changed at any time by pressing the Fade footswitch.

FADE IN/OUT Same as the FADE OUT/IN mode, but it starts at the attenuation set by the Depth parameter rather than 0 dB. That is, the first fade will be a FADE IN rather than a FADE OUT.

FADE IN This mode starts at the attenuation set by the Depth parameter. By pressing the Fade footswitch, a FADE IN will start until the 0 dB position is reached. Once the fade is finished, or at any time during it, by pressing the Fade footswitch again, you can go back to the attenuation set by the Depth parameter, that is, the initial state.

7 Presets

Loading a preset By pressing the preset footswitch, you can go through the different saved presets. The Preset LED indicates the active preset. The order of the presets is, and in circular manner:

- No preset (Preset LED off)
- Red preset

- Green preset
- Orange preset

In the No preset situation, the knobs have direct effect on the fade settings. When a preset is active, the knobs have no effect and the saved parameters are used.

Default presets By default, these are the presets in the pedal. You can overwrite them with your favourite settings.

Preset	Mode	Duration	Depth
Red	Fade out	25 seconds	60 dB
Green	Fade in/out	4 seconds	30 dB
Orange	Fade in	10 seconds	40 dB

Save preset To save a preset, follow the sequence below:

- Go to No Preset mode.
- Adjust the MODE, DURATION and DEPTH knobs as desired. Since you are in the No preset mode, you can test it immediately.
- Once adjusted, choose the preset where to save by using the Preset footswitch.
- Press the preset footswitch and keep it pressed for 2 seconds.
- The LEDs will flash indicating that the parameters have been saved in the preset.

This is the recommended sequence to save a preset and have the certainty of what parameters will be saved, but please note that every press of the Preset footswitch longer than 2 seconds will save the current status of the knobs in the active preset, so the whole sequence is not required.

8 True Bypass / Buffered switch

When the pedal is at the 0 dB position, it will be in True Bypass or buffered bypass depending on an internal small switch. To change the mode, carefully remove the back cover held by screws and slide the switch to the desired position. This adjustment must be done with the pedal powered off.

9 LEDs Brightness Adjustment

The brightness of the LEDs can be adjusted at 6 different levels to suit all conditions: from dark environments to bright sunlight. To adjust the brightness, follow the following steps:

- Turn the pedal off.
- Press and hold both the Preset and Fade footswitches.
- Turn the pedal on while keeping both footswitches pressed.
- Release both footswitches when the pedal comes on.
- One of the 6 attenuation LEDs will blink indicating the brightness level. Leftmost one is minimum brightness and rightmost one is maximum brightness.
- Select the desired brightness by moving left with the Preset footswitch or right with the Fade footswitch. You will see the actual brightness at each level.
- Press both footswitches at the same time to save the chosen brightness. The pedal will be ready to use.

10 Technical Specifications

- Fade duration (adjustable): 1 - 40 seconds
- Fade depth (adjustable): 10 - 60 dB

- Input impedance: 1 M Ω
- Output impedance < 100 Ω
- Power: 9V, battery or 2.1mm x 5.5mm centre-negative DC connector (Boss-style).
- Current draw: 90 mA (MONO), 115 mA (STEREO) maximum
- Dimensions: 118 mm x 100 mm x 51 mm
- Weight: 310 g approx. (without battery)

11 Video

You can watch a demo video showing how to use the pedal on www.megabeataudio.com/en/products/darthfader.

12 Warranty

MegaBeat Audio provides an excellent warranty for 2 years. Should any of our products fail, contact us by our website (www.megabeataudio.com) and we will repair it with no cost for you¹ including components and labour and shipping costs.

13 More info

You can find more information, demo videos or contact us at our website:

www.megabeataudio.com

¹If failure is not caused by an improper use.