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› BOSS OC-3 Super Octave Guitar Pedal Instruction Manual

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Model: OC-3

1. INTRODUCTION

The BOSS OC-3 Super Octave is a compact effects pedal designed to add octave effects to guitar and bass signals. It features three distinct modes: Polyphonic Octave, Drive with distortion, and a classic OC-2 monophonic mode. This manual provides detailed instructions for setup, operation, and maintenance of your OC-3 pedal.

2. PANEL LAYOUT AND CONTROLS



Figure 1: Front panel and jack layout of the BOSS OC-3 Super Octave pedal. Visible controls include DIRECT LEVEL, OCT 1 LEVEL, RANGE/OCT 2/DRIVE, and MODE knobs, along with GUITAR IN, BASS IN, OUTPUT (MONO), and DIRECT OUT jacks.

- **DIRECT LEVEL Knob:** Adjusts the volume of the original, unprocessed signal.
- **OCT 1 LEVEL Knob:** Adjusts the volume of the sound one octave below the original.
- **RANGE/OCT 2/DRIVE Knob:**

- In POLY mode, this knob sets the range of notes for which the octave effect is applied.
- In OCT 2 mode, this knob adjusts the volume of the sound two octaves below the original.
- In DRIVE mode, this knob adjusts the amount of distortion applied to the octave sound.
- **MODE Knob:** Selects the operating mode: POLY, OCT 2, or DRIVE.
- **CHECK Indicator:** Indicates the pedal's on/off status and battery condition.
- **GUITAR IN Jack:** Connect your guitar here.
- **BASS IN Jack:** Connect your bass guitar here for optimized bass processing.
- **OUTPUT (MONO) Jack:** Connect to your amplifier or other effects.
- **DIRECT OUT Jack:** Outputs the original, unprocessed signal only.

3. SETUP AND CONNECTIONS

3.1 Power Supply

The OC-3 can be powered by a 9V battery or an optional AC adapter (BOSS PSA series). To install a battery, loosen the thumbscrew on the front of the pedal, open the pedal, and connect the 9V battery to the snap connector. Ensure correct polarity. When using an AC adapter, connect it to the DC IN jack. The pedal automatically switches off when the input cable is disconnected from the GUITAR IN or BASS IN jack, conserving battery life.

3.2 Connecting Your Instrument

1. Connect your guitar to the **GUITAR IN** jack.
2. If using a bass guitar, connect it to the **BASS IN** jack for optimized tracking.
3. Connect the **OUTPUT (MONO)** jack to your amplifier or the input of another effects pedal.
4. (Optional) To output only the dry, unprocessed signal, connect the **DIRECT OUT** jack to a separate amplifier or mixer. This allows for parallel processing of your dry and octave signals.

Always ensure your amplifier is turned off or its volume is set to minimum before making connections to prevent damage to your equipment.

4. OPERATING THE OC-3

4.1 Turning On/Off

To turn on the effect, press the pedal switch. The CHECK indicator will light up. Press the pedal switch again to bypass the effect (CHECK indicator turns off).

4.2 Mode Selection

Rotate the **MODE** knob to select one of the three available octave modes:

- **POLY:** Polyphonic Octave mode. This mode allows for octave effects on chords, not just single notes.
- **OCT 2:** Classic OC-2 mode. Provides a monophonic octave effect, replicating the sound of the original BOSS OC-2.
- **DRIVE:** Octave with Distortion mode. Adds a distortion effect to the octave sound.

4.3 Adjusting Levels

- Use the **DIRECT LEVEL** knob to control the volume of your original instrument signal.
- Use the **OCT 1 LEVEL** knob to control the volume of the sound one octave below the original.
- The function of the third knob changes based on the selected mode:

- In **POLY** mode, the **RANGE** knob determines the range of lower notes that will have the octave effect applied. Turning it clockwise extends the range to higher notes.
- In **OCT 2** mode, the **OCT 2** knob controls the volume of the sound two octaves below the original.
- In **DRIVE** mode, the **DRIVE** knob adjusts the amount of distortion.

5. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the pedal. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the pedal in a dry, cool place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Battery Care:** If the pedal will not be used for an extended period, remove the battery to prevent leakage and damage. When the CHECK indicator dims or fails to light, replace the battery.
- **Connections:** Regularly check all cables and connections for wear or damage.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or weak sound.	Incorrect cable connections. Dead battery or faulty AC adapter. Volume knobs set to minimum. Instrument or amplifier issues.	Verify all cables are securely connected to the correct jacks. Replace the battery or try a different AC adapter. Adjust DIRECT LEVEL, OCT 1 LEVEL, and other relevant knobs. Test instrument and amplifier independently.
Octave effect is not tracking correctly (e.g., muddy sound, glitches).	Input signal too weak or too strong. Playing complex chords in monophonic modes (OCT 2). RANGE knob setting in POLY mode.	Adjust your instrument's volume. For chords, use POLY mode. OCT 2 mode is best for single notes. In POLY mode, adjust the RANGE knob to fine-tune the tracking.
CHECK indicator does not light up.	Dead battery. No cable connected to GUITAR IN or BASS IN.	Replace the battery. Ensure an instrument cable is connected to the input jack.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** OC-3
- **Brand:** BOSS
- **Nominal Input Level:** -20 dBu
- **Input Impedance:** 1 M ohm
- **Nominal Output Level:** -20 dBu
- **Output Impedance:** 1 k ohm
- **Recommended Load Impedance:** 10 k ohms or greater
- **Controls:** DIRECT LEVEL knob, OCT 1 LEVEL knob, RANGE/OCT 2/DRIVE knob, MODE knob, Pedal switch

- **Indicator:** CHECK indicator
- **Connectors:** GUITAR IN jack, BASS IN jack, OUTPUT (MONO) jack, DIRECT OUT jack, AC adapter jack (DC 9V)
- **Power Supply:** 9V DC battery (6F22/9V), AC adapter (PSA series, sold separately)
- **Current Draw:** 100 mA (DC 9V)
- **Expected Battery Life (Alkaline):** Approximately 6 hours (varies depending on usage conditions)
- **Dimensions (W x D x H):** 73 mm x 129 mm x 59 mm (2-7/8 x 5-1/8 x 2-3/8 inches)
- **Weight (including battery):** 450 g (16 oz)
- **Hardware Interface:** 1/4-inch Audio
- **Signal Format:** Analog

* 0 dBu = 0.775 Vrms
* Specifications are subject to change without notice.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

BOSS products are manufactured to high-quality standards and come with a limited warranty. For detailed warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official BOSS website. For technical support, service, or replacement parts, please contact your local BOSS distributor or authorized service center. Do not attempt to service the unit yourself, as this may void your warranty.

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Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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