

BOSS AC-3

BOSS AC-3 Acoustic Simulator Pedal User Manual

Model: AC-3

INTRODUCTION

The BOSS AC-3 Acoustic Simulator Pedal is an advanced compact pedal designed to transform the sound of an electric guitar into various acoustic guitar tones. Utilizing COSM modeling technology, the AC-3 provides realistic acoustic simulations, making it a versatile tool for musicians who require acoustic sounds without needing to switch instruments. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your AC-3 pedal.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW



Figure 1: Front view of the BOSS AC-3 Acoustic Simulator pedal, highlighting the control knobs and footswitch.



Figure 2: Angled view of the BOSS AC-3 pedal, illustrating the input, G.AMP OUT, and LINE OUT jacks, along with the power input.

The AC-3 features intuitive controls for shaping your acoustic tone. Key controls include:

- **REVERB/LEVEL Knob:** Adjusts the reverb effect and overall output level.
- **BODY Knob:** Controls the resonance and depth of the simulated acoustic body.
- **TOP Knob:** Adjusts the brightness and clarity of the high frequencies.
- **MODE Selector:** Allows selection between four distinct acoustic simulation modes: Standard, Jumbo, Enhanced, and Piezo-equipped.
- **INPUT Jack:** Connects your electric guitar.
- **G.AMP OUT Jack:** Output designed for connecting to a guitar amplifier.
- **LINE OUT Jack:** Output optimized for connecting to a PA system, mixer, or recording device.
- **CHECK Indicator:** Illuminates when the effect is active and indicates battery status.

SETUP

Power Supply

The AC-3 can be powered by a 9V battery or an optional AC adapter (BOSS PSA series recommended). Ensure the power source matches the pedal's voltage requirements.

- **Battery Installation:** To install a 9V battery, loosen the thumbscrew on the front of the pedal and open the cover. Connect the battery to the snap connector and place it inside the battery compartment. Close the cover and secure the thumbscrew.
- **AC Adapter:** For extended use or to avoid battery depletion, connect a 9V DC AC adapter to the DC IN jack.

Connections

1. Connect your electric guitar to the **INPUT** jack using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable.
2. Connect the **G.AMP OUT** jack to your guitar amplifier's input. This output is specifically voiced for guitar amplifiers.
3. Alternatively, connect the **LINE OUT** jack to a PA system, mixing console, or audio interface for direct recording or live sound reinforcement. This output provides a more balanced and direct acoustic sound.

Note: Using both G.AMP OUT and LINE OUT simultaneously is possible, allowing for flexible routing options.

OPERATING THE AC-3

Turning On/Off

The AC-3 is activated by pressing the footswitch. The CHECK indicator will illuminate when the effect is active. Press the footswitch again to bypass the effect.

Selecting a Mode

Rotate the **MODE** selector knob to choose one of the four acoustic simulation types:

- **STANDARD:** Provides a balanced, general-purpose acoustic guitar sound.
- **JUMBO:** Simulates the rich, full-bodied sound of a large acoustic guitar.
- **ENHANCED:** Offers a brighter, more articulate acoustic tone, suitable for fingerpicking.
- **PIEZO-EQUIPPED:** Replicates the direct, punchy sound of an acoustic guitar with a piezo pickup.

Adjusting the Tone

Use the **BODY** and **TOP** knobs to fine-tune the acoustic character:

- **BODY:** Turn clockwise to increase the low-end resonance and depth, counter-clockwise for a thinner sound.
- **TOP:** Turn clockwise to add sparkle and clarity to the high frequencies, counter-clockwise to mellow the tone.

Reverb and Level

The **REVERB/LEVEL** knob controls two parameters:

- When the knob is turned from MIN to approximately the 12 o'clock position, it adjusts the **REVERB** level.
- Beyond the 12 o'clock position, it primarily controls the overall **LEVEL** of the effect, with reverb remaining at a fixed, optimal setting.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the pedal with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Battery Replacement:** When the CHECK indicator dims or fails to light, the battery is low and should be replaced. Remove the battery if the pedal will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.
- **Storage:** Store the pedal in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or low volume.	Incorrect connections, low battery, faulty cables, amplifier off.	Check all cable connections. Replace battery or use AC adapter. Test cables. Ensure amplifier is on and volume is up.
Distorted or unnatural sound.	Input level too high, incorrect knob settings, impedance mismatch.	Adjust guitar volume. Experiment with BODY, TOP, and REVERB/LEVEL settings. Ensure proper impedance matching with amplifier/mixer.
CHECK indicator does not light.	No power, dead battery, faulty footswitch.	Connect AC adapter or replace battery. If problem persists, contact customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Model:** BOSS AC-3 Acoustic Simulator Pedal
- Dimensions (W x D x H):** Approximately 4 x 3 x 3 inches
- Weight:** Approximately 1 pound (including battery)
- Power Supply:** 9V DC battery (6F22/6LR61 type) or AC adapter (BOSS PSA series)
- Current Draw:** 50 mA (approx.)
- Nominal Input Level:** -20 dBu
- Input Impedance:** 1 M ohm
- Nominal Output Level:** -20 dBu
- Output Impedance:** 1 k ohm
- Controls:** REVERB/LEVEL knob, BODY knob, TOP knob, MODE selector, Footswitch
- Indicators:** CHECK indicator
- Connectors:** INPUT jack, G.AMP OUT jack, LINE OUT jack, DC IN jack
- Accessories:** 9V battery (for initial operation)

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official BOSS website. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims. For further assistance, you may contact BOSS customer service through their official channels.

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