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Electro-Harmonix LESTER-K

Electro-Harmonix Lester K Stereo Rotary Speaker Emulator Pedal User Manual

Model: LESTER-K

INTRODUCTION

The Electro-Harmonix Lester K is a stereo rotary speaker emulator pedal designed to replicate the classic sound of a rotating speaker cabinet. It features tube-style overdrive, adjustable fast and slow modes, and fine-tunable speaker balance, offering a lush and realistic sound for both stereo and mono inputs.

SETUP

To set up your Lester K pedal, follow these steps:

- 1. Power Connection:** Connect the included 9.6V power adapter to the 9V power jack on the pedal. Ensure the power source is stable.
- 2. Audio Input:** Connect your instrument (e.g., guitar, keyboard) to the MONO/L INPUT jack using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable. For stereo input, connect the right channel to the R INPUT jack.
- 3. Audio Output:** Connect the MONO/L OUTPUT jack to your amplifier or audio interface. For stereo output, connect the right channel to the R OUTPUT jack.
- 4. Placement:** Position the pedal on a flat, stable surface, such as a pedalboard, ensuring easy access to footswitches and controls.



Image: The Lester K pedal connected to audio cables, showing its compact size and input/output jacks.

OPERATING CONTROLS

The Lester K features several controls to shape your rotary speaker sound:

- **VOL (Volume):** This knob controls the overall output level of the pedal. Adjust it to match the volume of your bypassed signal or to boost your sound.
- **DRIVE:** This control adjusts the amount of tube-emulated overdrive. Turn it clockwise for more grit and saturation, replicating the sound of an overdriven tube amplifier.
- **SLOW:** This knob sets the speed of the rotary effect when in the slow mode.
- **FAST:** This knob sets the speed of the rotary effect when in the fast mode.
- **BALANCE:** This control fine-tunes the balance between the emulated horn and bass rotor elements of the rotary speaker effect. Adjust to achieve your desired tonal character.
- **SPEED/BRAKE Footswitch:** Toggles between the adjustable slow and fast rotary speeds. Holding this footswitch down engages the brake, gradually slowing the rotation to a stop.
- **BYPASS Footswitch:** Engages or disengages the Lester K effect. When bypassed, the pedal provides a true bypass signal.



Image: A clear view of the Lester K's control layout, including the VOL, DRIVE, SLOW, FAST, and BALANCE knobs, and the SPEED/BRAKE and BYPASS footswitches.

USAGE TIPS

The Lester K is versatile and can enhance various instruments and styles:

- **Organ Sounds:** The Lester K excels at emulating classic rotary speaker effects for organ sounds, providing a rich, swirling texture. Experiment with different SLOW and FAST settings to achieve the desired modulation speed.
- **Synth Sounds:** For percussive synth sounds, the Lester K can add depth and movement. Combining it with a compressor/sustainer pedal, such as the Electro-Harmonix Soul Preacher, can further enhance the percussive attack and sustain.
- **Overdrive:** Utilize the DRIVE knob to introduce a warm, tube-like overdrive, adding character to your rotary sound. This can range from subtle warmth to aggressive distortion.
- **Speed Transitions:** The SPEED/BRAKE footswitch allows for dynamic transitions between slow and fast rotary speeds, or a gradual stop, mimicking the mechanical acceleration and deceleration of a physical rotary speaker.

Video: This demonstration showcases the Electro-Harmonix Lester K Stereo Rotary Speaker Pedal's capabilities with a keyboard. It illustrates the transition between slow and fast rotary speeds, the effect of the tube-emulated overdrive, and how the pedal can be used to enhance both organ and synth sounds, including a combination with the Soul Preacher compressor/sustainer pedal. The video also briefly mentions the Lester G model, which includes a built-in compressor and adjustable speed control for advanced users.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Lester K pedal:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the pedal's exterior. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the pedal in a dry environment, away from extreme temperatures and humidity.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections for tightness and wear. Loose connections can lead to signal loss or noise.
- **Power Supply:** Always use the specified 9.6V power supply to prevent damage to the unit.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Lester K pedal, consider the following:

- **No Sound:** Check all audio cables and power connections. Ensure the pedal is receiving power (LEDs should illuminate). Verify that the BYPASS footswitch is engaged.
- **Weak or Distorted Sound:** Check the VOL and DRIVE knob settings. Ensure your instrument's output and amplifier's input levels are appropriate.
- **No Rotary Effect:** Confirm the SPEED/BRAKE footswitch is not in the 'Brake' position. Adjust the SLOW and FAST knobs to ensure they are not set to minimum.
- **Unwanted Noise:** Ensure all cables are properly shielded and connected. Try using a different power outlet or power supply to rule out electrical interference.

SPECIFICATIONS

Item Weight	14.1 ounces (0.4 Kilograms)
Product Dimensions	7.25 x 6.2 x 3.25 inches (5.75"L x 4.75"W x 2.5"H)
Power Source	Corded Electric (9V)
Signal Format	Analog
Connector Type	Barrel Jack

WARRANTY & SUPPORT

The Electro-Harmonix Lester K pedal comes with a power supply and an instruction manual. For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official Electro-Harmonix website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty validation.