Darkglass Electronics ALPHA OMEGA ULTRA v2

Darkglass Alpha Omega Ultra Bass Preamp/OD Pedal

Model: ALPHA OMEGA ULTRA v2

Brand: Darkglass Electronics

INTRODUCTION

The Darkglass Alpha Omega Ultra is a versatile bass preamplifier and overdrive pedal designed for modern bass players. It integrates two distinct distortion circuits, Alpha and Omega, which can be blended in parallel to achieve a wide range of responsive distorted tones. This unit offers an extremely high dynamic range and a comprehensive six-band active graphic equalizer for precise tone shaping. Essential features include a dedicated headphone output and a balanced direct output with switchable digital impulse-response cabinet emulation, making it a complete tool for various musical applications.

KEY FEATURES

- Six-band graphic equalizer with high and low shelf controls for detailed tone sculpting.
- XLR output with switchable cabinet simulation for direct connection to mixing consoles or audio interfaces.
- Headphone output with integrated IR cabinet simulation for silent practice and monitoring.
- Dedicated footswitch to independently engage or bypass the distortion engine.
- Master volume control to adjust the overall output level of the unit.

SETUP

Proper setup ensures optimal performance and sound quality from your Alpha Omega Ultra pedal. Follow these steps to connect your unit:

1. **Power Connection:** Connect a 9V DC power supply (center negative) to the **9VDC** input jack on the rear of the pedal. Ensure the power supply meets the pedal's requirements to prevent damage.

2. **Instrument Input:** Connect your bass guitar to the **INPUT** jack using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable.

3. **Amplifier Output:** Connect the **OUTPUT** jack to your bass amplifier's input using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable.

4. **Auxiliary Input:** For practicing with backing tracks, connect an audio source (e.g., smartphone, MP3 player) to the **AUX IN** jack using a 1/8-inch stereo cable.

5. **Headphone Output:** For silent practice, connect your headphones to the**HEADPHONE** output jack using a 1/8-inch stereo cable.

6. **Direct Output (XLR):** For connecting to a mixing console, audio interface, or PA system, use an XLR cable from the **DIRECT OUTPUT**. This output includes switchable cabinet simulation.

7. **Ground Lift:** If you experience hum or ground loop noise when using the XLR output, press the**GROUND LIFT** button located near the USB port to isolate the ground connection.

8. **USB Connection:** The **USB** port is used for connecting the pedal to a computer to load Impulse Responses (IRs) for cabinet simulation and for firmware updates.

Image: Rear panel connections of the Alpha Omega Ultra pedal.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Alpha Omega Ultra offers extensive control over your bass tone. Familiarize yourself with the controls to achieve your desired sound.

Image: Top view of the Alpha Omega Ultra pedal, highlighting the control layout.

Controls:

- **Blend:** Mixes the clean input signal with the overdriven signal. The clean signal remains at unity gain while the overdriven signal's volume is controlled by the Level knob, allowing for fine blending.
- **Level:** Sets the overall output volume of the overdriven signal.
- **Drive:** Controls the amount of gain in the overdriven signal.
- **Mod:** Selects between the Alpha (tighter, more defined) and Omega (rawer, more aggressive) distortion circuits. The knob blends between these two distinct voicings.
- **Growl (Toggle Switch):** Engages a bass boost before the distortion stage, adding thickness and low-end saturation.
- **Bite (Toggle Switch):** Engages a high-mid boost (2.8kHz) before the distortion stage, enhancing presence and attack.
- **Master:** Controls the overall volume of the pedal, affecting both clean and distorted signals, as well as the headphone and XLR outputs.

Graphic Equalizer:

The Alpha Omega Ultra features a six-band graphic equalizer for precise tonal adjustments. Each slider

controls a specific frequency band:

- **Bass:** Low shelf control.
- **250 Hz:** Mid-range frequency control.
- **500 Hz:** Mid-range frequency control.
- **1.5 kHz:** High-mid frequency control.
- **3 kHz:** High-mid frequency control.
- **Treble:** High shelf control.

Footswitches:

- **Distortion Footswitch:** Activates or bypasses the distortion engine. When engaged, the LED illuminates.
- **Bypass Footswitch:** Activates or bypasses the entire pedal. When engaged, the LED illuminates.

Cabinet Simulation:

The Alpha Omega Ultra includes digital impulse-response (IR) cabinet simulation. This feature is active on the XLR Direct Output and the Headphone Output. You can load custom IRs via the USB port and Darkglass Suite software to tailor your cabinet sound.

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Video: An overview of the Darkglass Alpha Omega pedal's features and sound capabilities. This video demonstrates the pedal in use with a bass guitar, showcasing its various controls and the resulting tonal variations.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Darkglass Alpha Omega Ultra, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the pedal's exterior. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or excessive moisture, which can damage the finish and internal components.
- **Storage:** Store the pedal in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. When not in use for extended periods, disconnect the power supply.
- **Power Supply:** Always use a regulated 9V DC (center negative) power supply with sufficient current capacity (typically 200mA or more). Using an incorrect power supply can damage the unit and void the warranty.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections for wear and tear. Ensure jacks are free of dust and debris.
- **Firmware Updates:** Check the Darkglass Electronics website regularly for firmware updates. Updates can improve performance, add features, or fix bugs. Use the Darkglass Suite software and a USB cable for updates.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Alpha Omega Ultra, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Sound:**
  - Ensure the power supply is correctly connected and functioning.
  - Check all instrument cables for proper connection and integrity.
  - Verify that both the Distortion and Bypass footswitches are engaged (LEDs illuminated) or bypassed as intended.
  - Check the Master volume and Level knobs are not set to minimum.

- **Unwanted Noise/Hum:**
  - If using the XLR output, press the **GROUND LIFT** button to eliminate ground loop hum.
  - Ensure you are using a high-quality, regulated power supply. Unregulated power supplies can introduce noise.
  - Check for faulty cables or interference from other electronic devices.

- **Distortion Not Engaging:**
  - Ensure the Distortion footswitch is pressed and its LED is illuminated.
  - Check the Drive knob is turned up sufficiently.
  - Adjust the Blend knob to ensure the distorted signal is audible.

- **EQ Not Responding:**
  - Ensure the pedal is powered on and active.
  - Move the EQ sliders to their extreme positions to confirm functionality.

If these steps do not resolve your issue, please contact Darkglass Electronics customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Model Number	ALPHA OMEGA ULTRA v2
Item Weight	1 pound (approx. 0.45 kg)
Product Dimensions	72 x 52 x 0.01 inches (approx. 183 x 132 x 0.025 cm)
Power Source	Corded Electric (9V DC, Center Negative)
Voltage	9 Volts
Hardware Interface	USB
Signal Format	Analog
Color	Blue
Date First Available	April 12, 2020

Image: Bottom panel of the Alpha Omega Ultra pedal.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information and customer support, please refer to the official Darkglass Electronics website or contact their support team directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

You can find more information and support resources at the Darkglass Electronics Store.