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## Catalinbread CAT SOFTFOCUS

# Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus Shoegaze Reverb Pedal User Manual

Model: CAT SOFTFOCUS



## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

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The Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus is a shoegaze reverb pedal designed to recreate and expand upon the iconic "Soft Focus" patch from the Yamaha FX500. This pedal offers a unique blend of reverb, chorus modulation, and octave-up effects, providing a rich, ethereal soundscape for guitarists. It features intuitive controls for shaping your tone, including dedicated knobs for Symphonic chorus, Modulation rate, Reverb decay, Mix, and Volume.



Figure 1: Front view of the Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus pedal, showing the control knobs and footswitch.

## 2. SETUP

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### 2.1 Power Requirements

The FX40 Soft Focus pedal operates on a standard 9-volt DC power supply (not included). Ensure the power supply is regulated and provides at least 100mA of current. Use a power supply with a standard 2.1mm center-negative barrel connector. Incorrect power supply voltage or polarity can damage the unit.

### 2.2 Connections

Connect your instrument to the **INPUT** jack on the right side of the pedal using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable. Connect the **OUTPUT** jack on the left side of the pedal to your amplifier or the next pedal in your signal chain using another 1/4-inch instrument cable.



Figure 2: Angled view of the Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus pedal, highlighting the input and output jacks on the sides.

## 2.3 Signal Chain Placement

The FX40 Soft Focus is a reverb and modulation pedal. For optimal performance, it is generally recommended to place reverb and delay effects towards the end of your signal chain, after gain pedals (overdrive, distortion, fuzz) and modulation effects (chorus, flanger, phaser). Experiment with placement to find the sound that best suits your setup.

## 3. CONTROLS AND FUNCTIONS

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The FX40 Soft Focus features five primary control knobs and a footswitch for engaging the effect.

- **SYMPH (Symphony):** This knob controls the level of a slight octave effect mixed into the wet reverb signal. Turning it clockwise increases the presence of the octave, adding a shimmering, ethereal quality.
- **MOD (Modulation):** This parameter controls the rate of the multi-voiced chorus effect applied to one of the reverb paths. Adjusting this knob changes the speed of the chorus, influencing the overall movement and swirl of the sound. It also subtly affects some frequencies in the reverb oscillation.
- **VERB (Reverb):** This knob controls the decay time of the reverb. Turning it clockwise increases the length of the reverb tail, from short, subtle reflections to vast, expansive washes.
- **MIX:** The Mix knob blends the dry (unaffected) signal with the wet (effected) signal. Turn clockwise for more effect and counter-clockwise for less. This allows you to dial in the perfect balance between your original guitar tone and the Soft Focus effect.
- **VOL (Volume):** This knob controls the overall output volume of the pedal. Use it to match the volume of your bypassed signal or to provide a slight boost when the effect is engaged.
- **Footswitch:** Engages or bypasses the effect. When the effect is active, the LED indicator will illuminate.

## 4. OPERATING THE PEDAL

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### 4.1 Basic Operation

1. Ensure the pedal is properly connected to your power supply, instrument, and amplifier.
2. Press the footswitch to engage the effect. The LED will light up, indicating the effect is active.

3. Adjust the SYMPH, MOD, VERB, MIX, and VOL knobs to achieve your desired sound.
4. Press the footswitch again to bypass the effect. The LED will turn off.

## 4.2 Tone Shaping Tips

- For classic shoegaze sounds, start with VERB around noon or higher, and experiment with SYMPH and MOD to add texture and movement.
- The MIX knob is crucial for balancing the effect. A lower mix can provide subtle ambience, while a higher mix creates a more dominant, atmospheric sound.
- The controls are "coupled" to the tone of the reverb, meaning they interact in unique ways. Spend time experimenting with different knob combinations to discover the full range of sounds available.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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The Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus pedal is built to be durable and reliable. Minimal maintenance is required to ensure its longevity.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the pedal's enclosure. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the pedal in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Disconnect the power supply.
- **Jacks and Knobs:** Periodically check that all jacks are free of debris and that knobs turn smoothly without excessive resistance.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your FX40 Soft Focus pedal, try the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:**
  - Check all cable connections (instrument, amplifier, power supply).
  - Ensure the power supply is correctly connected and providing the correct voltage (9V DC, center-negative).
  - Verify that the footswitch is engaged (LED illuminated).
  - Test with different cables or a different power supply.
- **Unwanted Noise/Hum:**
  - Ensure you are using a regulated power supply.
  - Check for ground loops in your setup.
  - Try isolating the pedal's power from other pedals.
  - Ensure all cables are in good condition.
- **Effect Not Engaging:**
  - Confirm the power supply is connected and functional.
  - Press the footswitch firmly.
  - If the LED does not light up, there may be a power issue or internal fault.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, please contact Catalinbread customer support.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

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Model Name	FX40 Soft Focus
Item Model Number	CAT SOFTFOCUS
Dimensions (L x W x H)	5.75 x 4.25 x 3 inches
Item Weight	12.3 ounces (0.77 Pounds)
Power Source	Corded Electric
Voltage	9 Volts DC (center-negative)
Hardware Interface	1/4-inch Audio Jacks
Signal Format	Analog
Color	Black

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT



For information regarding warranty coverage, repairs, or technical support for your Catalinbread FX40 Soft Focus pedal, please refer to the official Catalinbread website or contact their customer service directly.

You can also visit the official Catalinbread store on Amazon for product information and support resources:[Catalinbread Amazon Store](#)



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### Related Documents - CAT SOFTFOCUS

	<p><a href="#">Catalinbread Soft Focus Deluxe FX40: Shoegaze Reverb &amp; Delay Pedal Overview</a></p> <p>Explore the Catalinbread Soft Focus Deluxe FX40, a versatile effects pedal designed for shoegaze music. Learn about its reverb, delay, modulation, and distortion features, programs, and technical specifications.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Catalinbread Knight School Delay Kit: DIY Assembly Instructions</a></p> <p>Step-by-step guide for assembling the Catalinbread Knight School Delay guitar effects pedal kit. Features a comprehensive parts list, soldering tips, assembly instructions, troubleshooting advice, and modification options.</p>



[Catalinbread Antichthon Deluxe Guitar Pedal User Manual](#)

Comprehensive user manual for the Catalinbread Antichthon Deluxe guitar effects pedal, detailing its unique features, controls, signal chain, power requirements, and operational guidance.



[Catalinbread Antichthon Guitar Effects Pedal Owner's Manual](#)

Comprehensive owner's manual for the Catalinbread Antichthon guitar effects pedal. Learn about its unique sound categories, detailed control descriptions (Gravity, Volume, Time, Space), and power specifications. Discover how to create dynamic fuzz tremolo, otherworldly tone-generation, and harmonic overdrive.