


Blackstar[®]
AMPLIFICATION



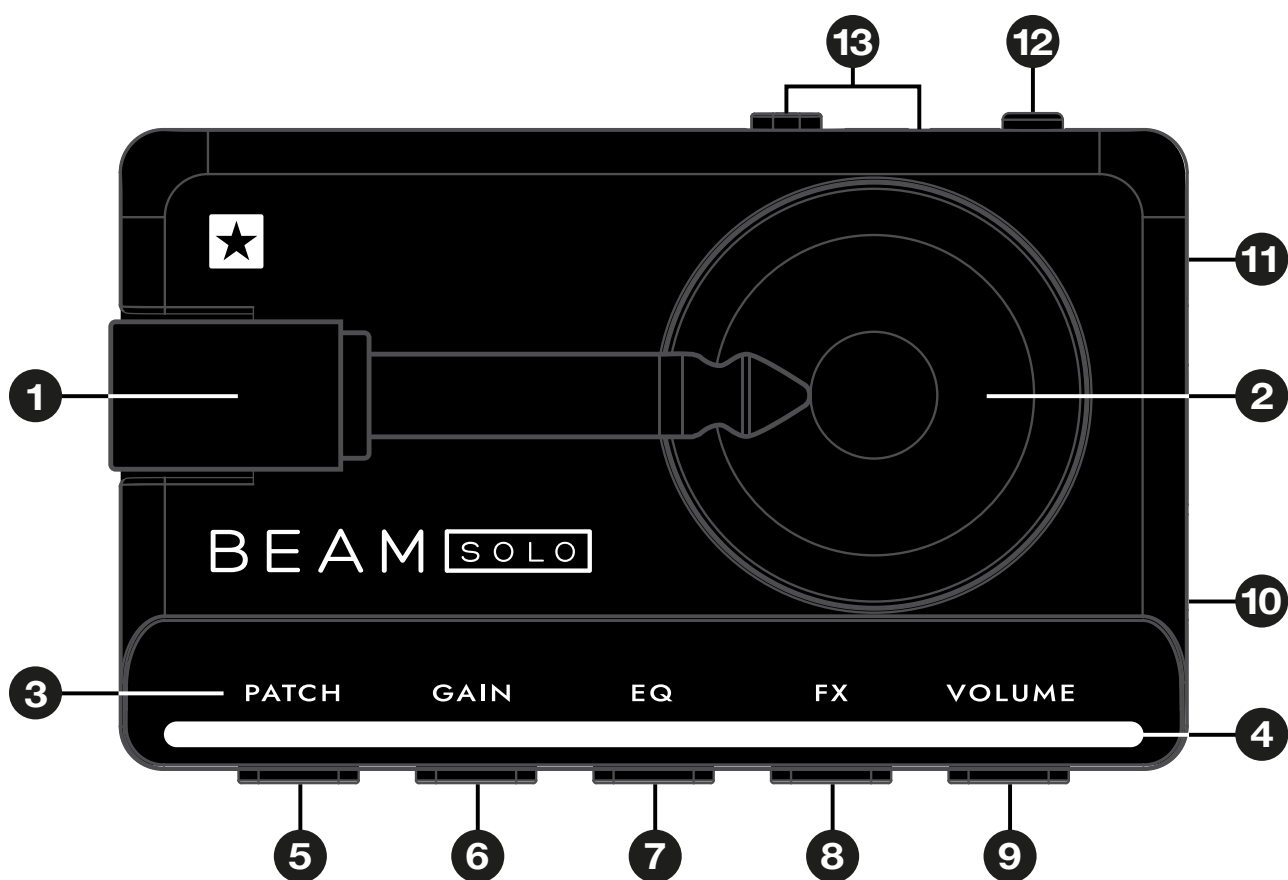
BEAM SOLO

Owner's Manual

the sound in your head

Designed and Engineered by
Blackstar Amplification UK 

BEAM SOLO Diagram



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IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
10. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
11. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
12. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, or does not operate normally.

“WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. THE APPARATUS SHALL NOT BE EXPOSED TO DRIPPING OR SPLASHING AND THAT OBJECTS FILLED WITH LIQUIDS, SUCH AS VASES, SHALL NOT BE PLACED ON OR NEAR APPARATUS.”



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operation and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated “dangerous voltage” within the product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

Warning!

Important safety information!

READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. SAVE ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

Follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product!

Danger! High internal operating voltages.

Do not open the equipment case. There are no user serviceable parts in this equipment. If the product does not operate normally when the operating instructions are followed, refer the product to a qualified service engineer.

Clean only with a dry cloth.

Condensation can form on the inside of an amplifier if it is moved from a cold environment to a warmer location. Before switching the unit on, it is recommended that the unit be allowed to reach room temperature.

Unauthorised modification of this equipment is expressly forbidden by Blackstar Amplification Ltd.

Never push objects of any kind into ventilation slots on the equipment casing.

Do not expose this apparatus to rain, liquids or moisture of any type.

Avoid placing vessels filled with liquid on top of or near to the apparatus.

Do not place this product on an unstable trolley, stand or table. The product may fall, causing serious damage.

Do not cover or block ventilation slots or openings.

This product should not be placed near a source of heat such as a stove, radiator, or another heat producing device.

Only use a power adapter that is compatible with the mains voltage supply in your area. Power supply cords should always be handled carefully and should be replaced if damaged in any way.

Never break off the earth (ground) pin on an attached power supply adapter.

The power supply cord should be unplugged when the unit is to be unused for long periods of time.

High volume levels can cause permanent hearing damage. You should therefore avoid excessive volume levels or extended use in order to prevent a permanent hearing loss if exposure is in excess of the limits as set forth below.

| Duration Per Day In Hours | Sound Level dBA, Slow Response |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 | 90 |
| 6 | 92 |
| 4 | 95 |
| 3 | 97 |
| 2 | 100 |
| 1½ | 102 |
| 1 | 105 |
| ½ | 110 |
| ¼ or less | 115 |

According to OSHA, any exposure in excess of the above permissible limits could result in some hearing loss.



All electrical and electronic products should be disposed of separately from the municipal waste stream via designated collection facilities appointed by the government or the local authorities.



Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this Blackstar BEAM SOLO guitar headphone amplifier. Like all our products, this amp is the result of countless hours of painstaking Research and Development by our world-class design team. Based in Northampton (UK), the Blackstar team are all experienced musicians themselves and the sole aim of the development process is to provide guitarists with products which are the ultimate tools for self-expression.

All Blackstar products are subjected to extensive laboratory and road testing to ensure that they are truly uncompromising in terms of reliability, quality and above all TONE.

BEAM SOLO redefines the headphone amp experience, delivering immersive, pro-level tones for electric, bass and acoustic guitar in a compact, intuitive design.

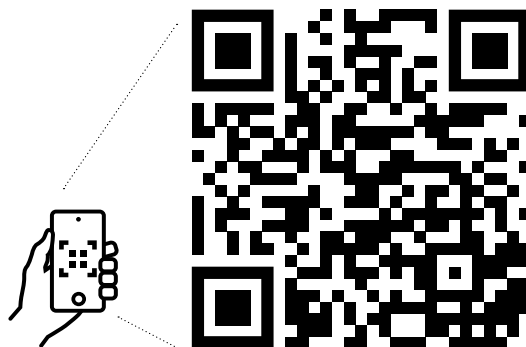
Please read through this handbook carefully to ensure you get the maximum benefit from your new Blackstar product.

If you like what you hear and want to find out more about the Blackstar range of products, please visit our website at www.blackstaramps.com.

Thanks!

The Blackstar Team

Let's get you started...



<https://www.blackstaramps.com/beam-solo/go>

Features

Welcome to your BEAM SOLO headphone amp – a powerful, portable guitar solution combining premium amp modelling, studio-grade effects, and immersive CabRig™ IR-based speaker simulation, all editable via the BEAM mobile app. Whether you're practicing quietly at home, jamming on the go, or recording direct, BEAM SOLO gives you big tone in a small, easy-to-use package.

BEAM SOLO was designed with real players in mind. Intuitive hardware controls for fast adjustments, a mobile app that grows with you, and features that turn every session into something inspiring. No other headphone amps feel quite like it.

BEAM SOLO's amps and effects pedals are the result of meticulous design, testing and optimisation - component by component, sector by sector. Built on decades of R&D, they deliver the feel, response and musicality of revered valve amps and effects, recreated with unrivalled accuracy.

The unique SpeedDial and Light Beam display let you quickly refine your tones without needing the app, perfect for when inspiration strikes, or time is short. Use the XpressFX smart tracking control to adjust multiple effects parameters simultaneously from the front panel. When you're ready to deep-dive, seamlessly switch over the BEAM mobile app for iOS and Android to explore more.

The CabRig™ IR-based cabinet simulation features the exclusive In the Room™ technology, which creates the experience of standing next to an amp while you play, rather than the more studio-focused tones of traditionally captured IRs.

Create custom patches and share them with other BEAM users via the Online Community from the BEAM app. Access exclusive Artist patches for signature sounds from the pros, and jam along to curated backing tracks and video lessons to unlock your potential.

Connect a headset microphone to the TRRS 3.5mm connection to record both vocals and guitar simultaneously – perfect for livestreaming without the need for any external equipment.

In the Box

- BEAM SOLO
- USB-C to USB-C cable with USB-A adapter
- Quick Start Guide
- VIP Access card for product registration

Factory Reset

The default factory patches and settings can be restored to your amplifier at any time. Simply hold down the PATCH and VOLUME buttons on the front panel whilst powering on the product.

Keep holding the PATCH and VOLUME buttons until the Light Beam display 'counts down' to zero and then fills to maximum. If either of the PATCH or VOLUME buttons are released before the Light Beam has completed the described process, the operation is cancelled and the amplifier will remain unaffected.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This process will overwrite any user saved patches and settings.

Firmware Update

Firmware updates are usually initiated via the Blackstar BEAM mobile app, which is available for compatible iOS and Android devices. A new version of the BEAM app will be released whenever an amplifier firmware update is available. Firmware updates may also be carried out via the USB connection and associated Blackstar update software.

When the amplifier is connected to a version of the BEAM app containing newer firmware, a message will be displayed prompting you to update to the latest version. Whilst updating, the illuminated front panel labels will cycle and the progress will be displayed within the BEAM app.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Headphones should be disconnected before carrying out a firmware update. During the update process, do not power off the amplifier, close the BEAM app or power off your mobile device. Doing so will cause the update process to fail and may result in unexpected behaviour and unresponsive controls. If this occurs, power off the amplifier, then power on and retry the firmware update process. Holding down the GAIN and FX Control Buttons on the front panel whilst powering on your BEAM SOLO will manually put the product into Firmware Update mode.

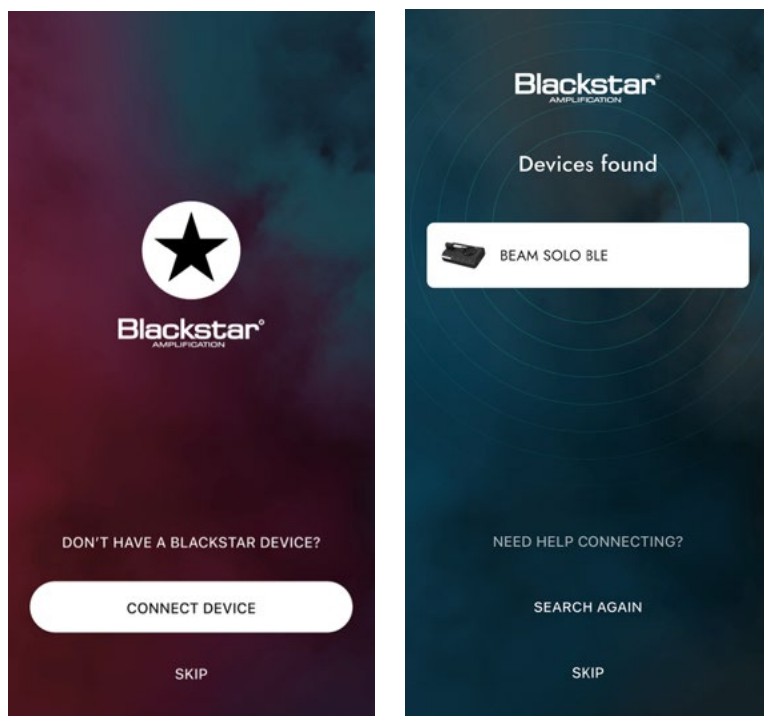
Bluetooth Connectivity


Your BEAM SOLO is equipped with Bluetooth connectivity for wirelessly connecting to the BEAM app, and for streaming music from a mobile device for jamming along.

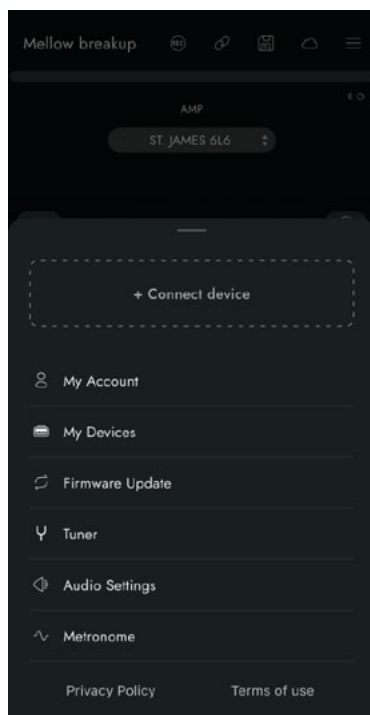
IMPORTANT NOTE: Formal pairing and pressing the Bluetooth button on the amplifier is only required for streaming music to your BEAM SOLO. Connecting to the BEAM app does not require manual pairing – simply power on your BEAM SOLO and open the BEAM app. Do not manually pair your BEAM SOLO to your mobile device via its Bluetooth pairing menu for app use, as this may cause connection issues with the BEAM app.

Connecting to the BEAM App

Power on your BEAM SOLO, then launch the BEAM app on your mobile device. Tap 'CONNECT DEVICE' to start scanning for your amplifier, then tap on your 'BEAM SOLO BLE' once it appears. The first time you connect to your amplifier, your mobile device may ask for permission to pair to 'BEAM SOLO BLE', to which you should select 'Pair'/'OK'.



You can also connect a BEAM SOLO device by opening the  menu from the toolbar and tapping '+ Connect device'.



Pairing for Audio Streaming

To connect a Bluetooth device to your BEAM SOLO for audio streaming for this first time, you must first make a 'pairing' between the two devices. To pair, simply press the Bluetooth Audio button (12) on the back of your BEAM SOLO once, causing the indicator to flash. Next, go to the Bluetooth settings of your mobile device and tap the device named 'BEAM SOLO Audio' to pair.

You will only need to carry out the pairing process for the first-time connection to a mobile device.

To reconnect a mobile device that has a previous active pairing, simply press the Bluetooth Audio button on the back of your BEAM SOLO once. The indicator will briefly flash blue, before changing to solidly lit blue to indicate a successful reconnection.

To disconnect from a currently paired Bluetooth audio device (blue indicator on), press and hold the Bluetooth Audio button on the back of your amplifier for five seconds, until the indicator turns off.

Bluetooth Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing issues with the Bluetooth connection to the BEAM app or audio streaming from your mobile device, you can unpair and restart the connection and pairing processes detailed above.

First, power off your BEAM SOLO and quit the BEAM app. Next, go to the Bluetooth settings of your mobile device and find any entries in the Bluetooth devices list named 'BEAM SOLO Audio' or 'BEAM SOLO BLE'. Follow your mobile device manufacturer's process to 'Forget This Device' for each of the BEAM SOLO entries.

Controls and Functions

1. Folding Guitar Input

Fold out and plug the ¼" jack directly into your guitar's output. No settings needed - just plug and play.

2. SpeedDial

Turn to adjust various parameters of your sound. Use the **Control Buttons** (5-9) to select which parameter the SpeedDial will adjust.

3. Illuminated Display

Indicates which parameter is currently being adjusted by the SpeedDial (2).

4. Light Beam

A unique display which provides visual feedback for the control being adjusted by the SpeedDial (2). The Light Beam is context-sensitive and presents the clearest display for the parameter being shown. To maximise battery usage, after 10 seconds of inactivity the Light Beam will dim, then will turn off after a further 10 seconds of inactivity. Simply touch any Control Button or turn the SpeedDial to wake the Light Beam.

Control Buttons

The Control Buttons on the front of your BEAM SOLO select which parameter the SpeedDial (2) will adjust. Pressing a Control Button will activate the parameter, as indicated by the Illuminated Display (3)

5. Patch

Select one of the 5 patches stored on your BEAM SOLO. Hold down the Patch button for 1 second to save changes to the current patch. Access an infinite number of saves patches via the BEAM app.

6. Gain

Adjust the amount of preamp gain of your tone. For electric guitar amps, the Gain control adjusts the amount of overdrive or distortion. Low settings (counter clockwise) will deliver a cleaner sound on the edge of break-up. As the Gain control is turned clockwise the sound will become more overdriven. For bass and acoustic amps, the gain control will affect the amount of preamp compression.

This setting is saved when you store a patch.

7. EQ

The effect of this control is dependant on the currently selected amp. For Blackstar amp models with the patented Infinite Shape Feature (ISF), the EQ control will affect the ISF position. Fully counter clockwise has a more American characteristic with a tight bottom-end and more aggressive middle, and fully clockwise has a British characteristic which is more 'woody' and less aggressive.

For other amps, the EQ control acts as a more traditional Tone control. Low settings (counter clockwise) will be darker and warmer, becoming brighter and more cutting as the control is turned clockwise.

8. FX / Tap Tempo

Instantly adjust the intensity of all active effects using the exclusive XpressFX feature. XpressFX is a smart tracking control that adjusts multiple effects parameters simultaneously, giving you a fast, intuitive way to bring the sound in your head to life.

The FX button also acts as a Tap Tempo control. Repeatedly press the FX button to set the tempo of time-based effects such as modulations and delays, when their SYNC parameter is set to ON.

This setting is saved when you store a patch.

9. Volume

Adjusts your overall headphone output volume.

Hold down the Volume button for 1 second to engage the built-in Tuner. The Light Beam (4) displays how in-tune the note currently being played is, with a central position (under EQ) indicating being in-tune to the nearest note, whilst left of centre indicates a flat note and right of centre indicates a sharp note.

The BEAM app will show a fully-featured tuner display when in Tuner Mode. By default, your guitar signal will be muted in Tuner Mode, which can be changed using the BEAM app. Press any of the Control Buttons to exit Tuner Mode.

This setting is not saved when you store a patch.

Side Connections

10. USB-C Connection

Your BEAM SOLO's USB-C connection has multiple functions. Connect the included USB-C cable to any standard 5V USB charging source to charge the internal battery e.g. USB AC Adapter (not included) or another USB device with power delivery. The product can be safely used whilst charging.

Audio Interface

The USB-C connection also enables your BEAM SOLO to act as a professional quality audio interface for recording. Simply connect the included USB-C cable to your computer

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are using an iOS device with a Lightning connection for recording, you will need a Made-for-iPhone (MFi) Lightning-to-USB adapter that supports audio over USB (not included). Visit <https://blackstaramps.com/get-connected-iphone-14-and-earlier-models/> for more information.

Your BEAM SOLO's USB connection carries multiple audio inputs and outputs, allowing you to capture different studio-quality audio streams to suit your recording workflow. BEAM SOLO supports both 44.1kHz and 48kHz audio sample rates.

USB Outputs to External Device:

- 1: **Guitar output L** – fully effected left channel guitar output
- 2: **Guitar output R** – fully effected right channel guitar output
- 3: **Guitar DI** – clean, unprocessed guitar signal which can be used with external plugins
- 4: **Headset mic DI** – clean, unprocessed headset mic signal

USB Inputs from External Device:

- 1: **Guitar output L** – to headphones left
- 2: **Guitar output R** – to headphones Right

IMPORTANT NOTE: For using BEAM SOLO as a USB Audio Interface with a Windows PC you will need the Blackstar USB Audio Driver for the best performance. Visit <https://portal.blackstaramps.com> to register your BEAM SOLO and access the custom USB Audio Driver for Windows, alongside other useful downloads. MacOS, iOS and Android devices do not require this driver.

11. 3.5mm Headphone Out / Line Out

Connect your headphones here. You can also connect BEAM SOLO to external speakers or mixers using this connection, as it is a high-quality signal suitable for studio use.

BEAM SOLO features a unique Headphone Damping control. All headphones are different, and even two sets of the same model of headphones may not sound the same. Use the Headphone Damping control within the BEAM app to adjust the amount of unwanted upper harmonic frequencies reproduced by your headphones, giving you a more authentic amp-like sound and feel.

Headset

You can also connect a TRRS headset (headphones with inline microphone) here enabling you to capture vocals and guitar simultaneously, perfect for livestreaming or capturing musical ideas wherever inspiration strikes. For livestreaming, the BEAM app can enable USB Loopback mode, which combines the USB input playback with the guitar input signal and sends this mix to the USB audio output. The headset mic input is fully configurable using the BEAM app for controlling volume and reverb levels.

Rear Controls

12. Bluetooth Audio Button

This button is used to pair and connect to an external Bluetooth audio device for streaming audio to your BEAM SOLO.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For using BEAM SOLO as a USB Audio Interface with a Windows PC you will need the Blackstar USB Audio Driver for the best performance. Visit <https://portal.blackstaramps.com> to register your BEAM SOLO and access the custom USB Audio Driver for Windows, alongside other useful downloads. MacOS, iOS and Android devices do not require this driver.

13. Power Switch and Indicator LED

Slide the Power Switch to turn your BEAM SOLO on and off. BEAM SOLO has a Power Saving mode which is active by default. This will automatically power off your amplifier after 20 minutes of inactivity, which helps to prolong battery life. To wake BEAM SOLO after a Power Save shutdown, slide the Power Switch to OFF, then back to ON. Power Saving mode can be switched off using the BEAM app.

Battery

The internal Lithium-ion battery will last approximately 5+ hours on a full charge, depending on usage. The battery can be charged from flat to full in approximately 2 hours.

The current battery level is shown within the BEAM app. Once the battery level reaches 0% the Illuminated Display (3) and Light Beam (4) will rapidly flash 6 times before your BEAM SOLO powers off, indicating the need to recharge your amplifier.

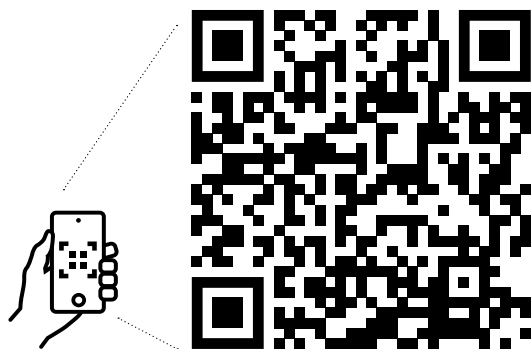
Indicator LED

This indicator provides information on the current state or operation of your BEAM SOLO at a glance:

| LED Colour | LED State | Function |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Red | On | Battery charging |
| Blue | On | Bluetooth audio connected |
| Blue | Fast flash | Bluetooth pairing/reconnecting mode |
| Blue | Slow flash | Bluetooth searching mode |

BEAM Mobile App

The Blackstar BEAM app is available for FREE for supported iOS and Android mobile devices. Download the BEAM app to access deep control of your tone, a full catalogue of effects pedals, amps, cabinets, mics, plus recording tools and much more. Join the vibrant Online Community to share your carefully crafted patches and access exclusive Artist patches from the pros. Hone your technique with video lessons and jam along to inspiring backing tracks and drum loops, all within the BEAM app.



<https://www.blackstaramps.com/download-beam-app/>

Technical Specification

BEAM SOLO

Weight (g): 62.5

Dimensions (mm): 80 x 48 x 31

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For the latest information go to: www.blackstaramps.com

Whilst the information contained herein is correct at the time of publication, due to our policy of constant improvement and development, Blackstar Amplification Ltd reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.