COMPADRE

dual voice compressor & boost

USER MANUAL
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BOOST EQ

Selects the frequency shape for clean and dirty boost.

- **treble**: Tightens the bottom end by boosting mid to high frequencies.
- **mid**: Fattens tone by pushing midrange frequencies.
- **flat**: Full range frequency response.

COMP TYPE

Select the type of compression.

- **studio**: Smooth compression as found in vintage rack compressors.
- **squeeze**: Hard compression typical of classic guitar pedals.
Controls and Connections – Front Panel (cont.)

**BOOST**
Adjusts the amount of boost when the boost circuit is active. Typical boost ~14dB in Flat Clean boost.

**COMPRESSION**
Turning clockwise increases compression by lowering the threshold. Fully counterclockwise, no compression is applied.

**DRY**
Adjusts the amount of dry signal summed with the compressor output.

**LEVEL**
Adjusts the output level of the pedal by -6dB to +6dB when the compressor is engaged. Noon is unity gain.
Controls and Connections – Front Panel (cont.)

**BOOST**

Engages and disengages the variable boost independent of the **COMP**. The boost is post-compression. **RED LED ON** indicates that the boost is engaged.

**COMP**

Engages and disengages the VCA compressor independent of the **BOOST**. **RED LED ON** indicates that the compressor is engaged.

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**NOTE:** When both **BOOST** and **COMP** are disengaged, the bypass is either Buffered Bypass or True Bypass depending on the selected mode.
Controls and Connections – Rear Panel

**IN**
High impedance ultra low-noise discrete Class A JFET preamp input.

**OUT**
Low impedance mono output.

**BOOST TYPE**
Selects between a clean or soft clipping boost circuit.

**CLEAN**:
Boost circuit increases output level without introducing noticeable clipping.

**DIRTY**:
Boost circuit increases output level while introducing the soft clipping characteristic of an overdrive pedal.

**9VDC**
Use the included power supply or an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC maximum center negative. 150mA minimum.

**VOLUME**
Connect a TRS expression pedal for full-time volume pedal functionality.

**FAV / MIDI**
Connect a Strymon MiniSwitch for remote selection of a Favorite setting.

*(See page 11 for details on configuring for MIDI functionality and use with MultiSwitch Plus.*)
Power Up Modes – Bypass Mode

Setting Compadre to Buffered Bypass mode preserves the high frequency response of your guitar signal through your pedal chain and long cable runs.

1. Press and hold the COMP footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

2. Turn the COMPRESSION knob to select one of the options below. The COMP LED will change color to indicate the current status as the knob is turned.

   **True Bypass:** GREEN
   
   **Auto Bypass:** AMBER (default)
   
   True Bypass, but forces Buffered Bypass when Volume Pedal jack is connected
   
   **Buffered Bypass:** RED
   
   **NOTE:** Power up modes are saved unless they are changed again with the steps above.

3. Press the COMP or BOOST footswitch to store the bypass mode and begin using Compadre.

   **NOTE:** Auto and Buffered Bypass allow for the Volume Pedal jack to operate while the pedal is bypassed.
Select the mode of the FAV/MIDI jack for external control of Compadre.

1. Press and hold the COMP footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

2. Turn the BOOST knob to select the function of the FAV/MIDI jack. The BOOST LED will change from RED to BLUE to indicate the current status as the knob is turned.

   **FAV Mode - RED** (default)

   Allows you to connect MiniSwitch or another external latching footswitch with a TRS cable to store and recall your Favorite setting.

   *(See page 10 for more details.)*

   **MIDI Mode - BLUE**

   Connect MIDI EXP Cable or MIDI > TRS interface to access 300 presets and remotely control patch parameters via MIDI.

   *(See page 13 for more details.)*

3. Press the COMP or BOOST footswitch to store the bypass mode and begin using Compadre.

   **NOTE:** Power up modes are saved unless they are changed again with the steps above.
External Control – Volume Pedal

Use a TRS Expression pedal to control the output volume.

1. Connect the Expression pedal to the **VOLUME** jack of Compadre using a TRS cable.

NOTE: When Compadre is in Buffered Bypass or Auto Bypass mode, the pedal will still function as a Volume pedal even when both **BOOST** and **COMP** are bypassed.

*(See page 7 for more details.)*

We recommend using an expression pedal with a 25k Ohm minimum potentiometer.
External Control – FAV Switch Setup and Compare Mode

Connect MiniSwitch or other external latching footswitch with a TRS cable to store and recall your favorite setting.

1. Configure the FAV/MIDI jack for FAV mode. *(See page 8 for more info.)*

2. Connect an external switch with a TRS cable to the FAV/MIDI jack.

3. Dial in your desired sound.

4. To save your sound as the FAV setting, press and hold the BOOST footswitch until the BOOST LED blinks BLUE. Press the BOOST footswitch again to save the FAV setting.

Step on the external footswitch to toggle between your FAV setting and the current knob and toggle switch positions.

**COMPARE MODE**

With the FAV engaged, as a knob or switch is adjusted, the BOOST LED flashes GREEN when the current knob or toggle switch position matches the setting of the saved FAV setting.

**NOTE:** Along with the knobs and toggle switches on the face of the pedal, the setting of the rear BOOST TYPE switch and the bypass state of BOOST and COMP are stored with the FAV setting.

**NOTE:** Saving presets works differently when using MIDI. *(See page 17 for more details.)*

**NOTE:** The FAV setting is stored at MIDI program change number 0.
External Control – MultiSwitch Plus Setup

Configure Compadre and MultiSwitch Plus for remote access to three presets.

1. Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Hold until both LEDs stop blinking.

2. Turn the **BOOST** knob all the way counter-clockwise to set the MIDI channel to Channel 1. The **BOOST** LED should be **GREEN**.

3. Turn the **COMPRESSION** knob all the way counter-clockwise to set the MIDI Out mode to On. The **COMP** LED should be **GREEN**.

4. Press the **BOOST** or **COMP** footswitch to exit and store the MIDI channel and the MIDI Output setting.

5. Configure the **FAV/MIDI** jack for MIDI mode. *(See page 13 for details.)*

6. Connect a TRS cable to the **FAV/MIDI** jack on Compadre.

7. Press and hold the **A** footswitch on MultiSwitch Plus while connecting the TRS cable to MultiSwitch Plus to select Preset mode on MultiSwitch Plus.
External Control – MultiSwitch Plus Setup (cont.)

Selecting and saving Compadre presets using MultiSwitch plus.

![MultiSwitch Plus with presets](image)

1. Step on a switch that is not illuminated to recall the corresponding preset.

2. Step on an illuminated switch to bypass Compadre.

**NOTE:** Footswitches A, B, and C on MultiSwitch Plus correspond to MIDI program changes 1, 2, and 3.

Saving Compadre presets with MultiSwitch Plus:

1. Dial in the sound that you would like to save as your preset on Compadre.

2. Press and hold the BOOST footswitch on Compadre until the BOOST LED blinks BLUE.

3. Press the A, B, or C footswitch on MultiSwitch Plus to save the current state of the pedal to the desired location.
MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI

Using MIDI unlocks a set of tools that can be used to load any of Compadre’s 300 preset locations using a suitable MIDI controller or interface connected to Compadre’s FAV/MIDI jack. This requires a MIDI controller/interface with at least one quarter-inch output or a Strymon MIDI EXP cable. When using a Strymon MIDI EXP Cable, the MIDI OUT mode must be set to OFF.

Check strymon.net/support/compadre for a list of compatible devices.
Step 1 – Set FAV/MIDI Jack Mode to MIDI Mode

1. Press and hold the COMP footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

2. Turn the BOOST knob clockwise until the BOOST LED is BLUE.

3. Press the BOOST or COMP footswitch again to store the FAV/MIDI jack mode.

NOTE: If you are only sending data to Compadre using the Strymon MIDI EXP Cable, the MIDI Output mode must be set to OFF. (See page 16 for details on configuring the MIDI Output Mode.)
MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI (cont.)

Step 2 – Set MIDI Channel: This determines which MIDI channel Compadre will use to send and receive MIDI data. To select channel 4-16, you will need to connect Compadre to a MIDI device.

1. Press and hold the BOOST footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

2. Turn the BOOST knob to set the MIDI communication channel. BOOST LED indicates status.
   - **Channel 1:** GREEN (default)
   - **Channel 2:** AMBER
   - **Channel 3:** RED
   - **Channel 4 - 16:** BLUE (Requires 1/4” MIDI connection.)

   Once the LED turns BLUE, it will blink until the pedal receives a MIDI Program Change message. Once a message is received, the pedal will be set to the MIDI channel that carried the message and the LED will stop blinking.

3. Press the COMP or BOOST footswitch again to store the MIDI channel and begin using Compadre.
Step 3 – Set MIDI Output Mode

Determines whether Compadre will send MIDI data out.

1. Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

   **TIP:** A simple way to check that communication is working is to send CC #27 with a value of 127 when the **COMP** footswitch is OFF. This will turn the **COMP** footswitch on if MIDI is properly connected and configured.

2. Turn the **COMPRESSION** knob to select the MIDI OUT mode. The **COMP** LED will flash momentarily to indicate status.

   - **On:** **GREEN** Using Compadre’s knobs and switches generates MIDI messages that are sent out of Compadre. (Set to ON when using MultiSwitch Plus.)
   - **Through:** **AMBER** Incoming MIDI messages are sent out of Compadre without any additional MIDI messages generated by Compadre.
   - **Off:** **RED** (default) No MIDI messages are sent out of Compadre.

3. Press the **BOOST** or **COMP** footswitch again to set the MIDI output channel and begin using Compadre.
MIDI Functionality - Saving Presets

When in MIDI mode, the current state of the pedal can be saved to any of Compadre’s 300 preset locations at any time.

1. To enter SAVE mode, press and hold the BOOST footswitch. The BOOST LED will blink BLUE to indicate that it is waiting to receive a MIDI Program Change message.

2. Send the unit a MIDI Program Change message from the connected MIDI device. The BOOST LED will flash and Compadre will save the current state of the pedal to that preset location.

OR

Press the BOOST footswitch to save the current state of the pedal to the currently loaded preset location.

OR

Press the COMP footswitch to cancel the save operation.
MIDI Functionality - MIDI Specifications

MIDI PROGRAM CHANGES

Compadre contains 300 preset locations, numbered sequentially from 0-299. Because MIDI Program Change messages have a maximum number of 128 (0-127) the presets are grouped into three MIDI patch banks.

**MIDI BANK 0** = PRESETS 0-127

**MIDI BANK 1** = PRESETS 128-255

**MIDI BANK 2** = PRESETS 256-299

Compadre always powers up in MIDI Patch Bank 0, so if you plan to stay within the first 127 presets, simply send a standard MIDI Program Change message to load a preset.

If you will be using MIDI Banks 1 and/or 2, it is advisable to send a standard MIDI Bank Change message (MIDI CC# 0 with a value equal to the MIDI Bank#) before each MIDI Program Change.

Selecting bank 0, patch 127 will put Compadre into Manual mode. In this mode, the pedal will be set to the current knob and switch settings. No preset data can be stored at this preset location.
## MIDI CC NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETERS</th>
<th>CC#</th>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Select</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression Type</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>(1=studio, 2=squeeze)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression Level</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0-127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression Off/On</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0, 127</td>
<td>[0=bypass, 1-127=on]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0-127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0-127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost EQ</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>(1=flat, 2=treble, 3=mid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost Type</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>(1=clean, 2=dirty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost Amount</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0-127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost Off/On</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0, 127</td>
<td>[0=bypass, 1-127=on]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PATCH CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATCH</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Existing FAV patch (accessible via external MiniSwitch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Manual mode (&quot;knobs&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** All on/off parameters are implemented with 0=off and any other value [1-127]=on. They are documented as “0, 127” because many MIDI controllers send out 0 and 127 for on/off switches.
Factory Reset

Restores the pedal to factory power up modes and secondary functions and replaces all stored presets with the factory defaults.

1. Press and hold the COMP footswitch while powering up the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

2. Sweep the DRY knob from 0-100% and back two (2) times. The BOOST LED will change colors at the extremes of the knob range and blink RED to indicate when the reset is taking place.
   - Turn 1: AMBER
   - Turn 2: RED
   - Turn 3: AMBER
   - Turn 4: Both LEDs flash RED, Compadre resets and restarts

FACTORY SETTINGS

FAV/MIDI Jack: Assigned to FAVORITE mode.
Bypass Mode: Auto Bypass
MIDI channel: 1
MIDI Output Mode: Off
COMPADRE - Dual Voice Compressor & Boost

Features

- Analog VCA (Voltage Controlled Amplifier) compressor
- Two voicing options: smooth studio compression and hard pedal style compression
- Independently controlled clean or dirty boost circuit with 3 EQ options
- Dirty boost option provides overdrive when boost is engaged
- DRY Knob lets you blend the dry signal with the compressed signal to preserve attack transients
- Output VCA allows Compadre to function as a volume pedal when a standard TRS expression pedal is plugged into the dedicated Volume jack
- Selectable True or Buffered Bypass
- Compatible with MiniSwitch for remote selection of a Favorite preset
- Compatible with MultiSwitch Plus for remote selection of 3 presets
- Full featured MIDI control. Access to 300 presets and remote parameter control via quarter-inch TRS. (requires Strymon MIDI EXP cable or MIDI > TRS interface)
- High impedance ultra low-noise discrete Class A JFET preamp input
- Low impedance mono output
- Designed and built in the USA
Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input Impedance</td>
<td>1 Meg Ohm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Impedance</td>
<td>100 Ohm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Input Level</td>
<td>+10 dBu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compressor Signal/Noise</td>
<td>109 dB typical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bypass Switching</td>
<td>Selectable True Bypass (electromechanical relay switching) or ultra low-noise Buffered Bypass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>4.5” deep x 4” wide x 1.75” tall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(11.4 cm deep x 10.2 cm wide x 4.4 cm tall)

Power Adapter Requirements

Use an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC center negative; 150mA minimum. Voltages higher than 9V can result in damaging the pedal.
Appendix 1

Power Up Modes Quick Reference
Power Up Modes Quick Reference

Below is a list that details how to access all Power Up parameters that are adjustable from Compadre’s interface and do not have dedicated knobs or switches. Power Up functions persist through power cycles. Return all function defaults with factory resets.

Press and Hold the COMP footswitch while connecting power to Compadre until BOTH LEDs start blinking to enter Power Up mode. Release the footswitch and use the knobs as described below.

Press COMP or BOOST to store your changes and exit.

**BYPASS MODE**
(See page 7 for an illustrated description.)

- Turn COMPRESSION knob - status shown on COMP LED
  - True Bypass: GREEN
  - Auto Bypass: AMBER
  - Buffered Bypass: RED

**FAV/MIDI JACK MODE**
(See page 14 for an illustrated description.)

- Turn BOOST knob - status shown on BOOST LED
  - Favorite Mode: RED
  - Digital Mode: BLUE

**FACTORY RESET**
(See page 20 for an illustrated description.)

- Turn DRY knob - status shown on BOTH LEDs. Turn the DRY knob from 0% to 100% and back two (2) times.
MIDI Power Up Settings Quick Reference

Below is a list that details how to access all Power Up parameters that are adjustable from Compadre’s interface and do not have dedicated knobs or switches. Power Up functions persist through power cycles. Return all function defaults with factory resets.

Press and Hold the BOOST footswitch while connecting power to Compadre until BOTH LEDs start blinking to enter Power Up mode. Release the footswitch and use the knobs as described below.

Press BOOST or COMP to store your changes and exit.

**MIDI CHANNEL**
(See page 15 for an illustrated description.)

- Turn BOOST knob - status shown on BOOST LED
  1: GREEN
  2: AMBER
  3: RED
  4-16: BLUE

**MIDI OUTPUT MODE**
(See page 16 for an illustrated description.)

- Turn COMPRESSION knob - status shown on COMP LED
  On: GREEN
  Through: AMBER
  Off: RED
Appendix 2

Signal Flow Diagram
NOTES:

The audio processing in Compadre is completely analog, but it is digitally controlled. This allows you to save and recall up to 300 presets and have full MIDI control over the analog parameters.

When COMP is bypassed, the compressor is completely removed from the signal path.

The LEVEL knob is only active when the compressor is engaged, and it is located after the boost in the signal chain. This gives you the flexibility to allow the DIRTY boost setting to provide significant overdrive without requiring a jump in volume.
Appendix 3

Sample Settings
Sample Settings

MIDI Program Change 0

MIDI Program Change 1

MIDI Program Change 2

MIDI Program Change 3

MIDI Program Change 4

MIDI Program Change 5
Strymon Non-Transferrable Limited Warranty

Warranty
Strymon warranties the product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years from the original date of purchase when bought new from an authorized dealer in the United States of America or Canada. If the product fails within the warranty period, Strymon will repair or, at our discretion, replace the product at no cost to the original purchaser. Please contact your dealer for information on warranty and service outside of the USA and Canada.

Exclusions
This warranty covers defects in manufacturing discovered while using this product as recommended by Strymon. This warranty does not cover loss or theft, nor does the coverage extend to damage caused by misuse, abuse, unauthorized modification, improper storage, lightning, or natural disasters.

Limits of Liability
In the case of malfunction, the purchaser’s sole recourse shall be repair or replacement, as described in the preceding paragraphs. Strymon will not be held liable to any party for damages that result from the failure of this product. Damages excluded include, but are not limited to, the following: lost profits, lost savings, damage to other equipment, and incidental or consequential damages arising from the use, or inability to use this product. In no event will Strymon be liable for more than the amount of the purchase price, not to exceed the current retail price of the product. Strymon disclaims any other warranties, expressed or implied. By using the product, the user accepts all terms herein.

How to Obtain Service Under this Warranty
For North American customers: Contact Strymon through our website at strymon.net/support for Return Authorization and information. Proof of original ownership may be required in the form of a purchase receipt.

For International Customers: Contact the Strymon dealer from which the product was purchased from in order to arrange warranty repair service.

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