

# **FAIRFAX**

— class A output stage drive —

**USER MANUAL**

SERIES **A**

**strymon**<sup>®</sup>

# ABOUT FAIRFAX

Fairfax is our take on early Class A tube amps designed to massively overdrive a second tube amp. Our fully analog, discrete circuitry provides classic, high gain, sustained amp tones in a compact form factor. Fairfax uses a dual JFET preamp running off +/- 20V power rails to squeeze out as much dynamic range as possible while retaining asymmetric clipping and low-order harmonics.

The preamp runs into a discrete single-ended Class A power amp stage, with the SAG control determining the amount of power rail sag when the power amp is driven.

Finally, the signal passes through our analog output transformer simulator, carefully tuned to provide true transformer saturation at low frequencies.

## FEATURES:

- Fully analog JFET based Class A amplifier
- Discrete preamp and power amp circuits provide feel & harmonics reminiscent of tweed tube amps
- Analog transformer simulator recreates the low frequency saturation of an output transformer
- BRIGHT tone switch for two timbre options
- Adjustable power amp SAG delivers smooth, subtle compression to heavy gating & sputtering
- Internal switching power supply provides galvanic isolation with a custom transformer
- +/- 20V rails for high gain tube-like JFET behavior
- Selectable bypassed or engaged startup mode
- High impedance, low noise JFET input and low impedance mono output
- Designed and built in the USA

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Input Impedance:** 1M Ohm

**Output Impedance:** 100 Ohms

**Max. Input Level** +20dBu

**Signal/Noise:** 114dB typical

**Bypass:** True bypass (electromechanical relay switching)

**Dimensions:** 4.38 x 2.83 x 1.57 inches  
11.1 x 7.2 x 4.0 cm

**Power:** 9VDC, center negative,  
500mA min. (sold separately)

# KNOBS AND SWITCHES

## DRIVE

Discrete tube emulation circuit provides smooth asymmetric clipping.

## BRIGHT

Tone switch for adjusting the high frequency content through the preamp.

**off:** cuts high frequencies to darken the tone.

**on:** provides flat, full frequency response.



## LEVEL

Adjusts the output level when the pedal is engaged.

## SAG

Turning clockwise increases amount of power rail sag. Fully counterclockwise, no sag is applied. At high levels of sag, the preamp starts to un-bias itself, leading to gating & sputtering.

A higher **DRIVE** setting will sag the circuit more than a lower setting with same input level.

## FOOTSWITCH

Engages and bypasses the pedal. A lit **AMBER** LED indicates the pedal is engaged. Bypass is True bypass.

**NOTE:** By default, the Fairfax pedal is bypassed at power up. Optionally, the engaged vs. bypassed power up state can be changed via the internal jumpers. See **Power Up State**.

## REAR PANEL CONNECTIONS

### INPUT

High impedance JFET buffered mono instrument input.

### OUTPUT

Low impedance mono output.



### 9VDC

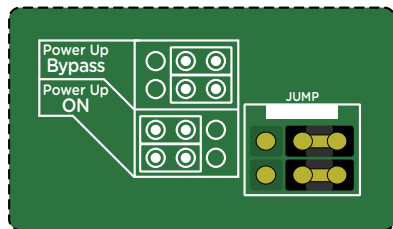
Use a power supply or an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC, center negative, 500mA minimum (sold separately).

**IMPORTANT!** Voltages higher than 9VDC can damage the pedal.

### POWER UP STATE

Internal jumpers are provided to allow you to configure the desired startup mode. By default, power up is set for **BYPASS**.

Disconnect power from the pedal, remove the four bottom screws, and open the pedal chassis. Move both jumpers to the left position for pedal to start up **ENGAGED**. Move both jumpers to the right position to start up in **BYPASS**. Ensure the jumpers are connected horizontally, as shown.



## SUPPORT

Additional Product Information: [strymon.net/support/fairfax](http://strymon.net/support/fairfax)

Questions & Technical Support: [support@strymon.net](mailto:support@strymon.net)

# strymon®

Designed and built  
in the USA



Rev A

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