

LA BREA

— analog tape drive —

USER MANUAL

SERIES **A**

strymon®

ABOUT LA BREA

La Brea is a fully analog tape-style drive, inspired by the acclaimed Strymon® Deco, delivering the warm, soft-clipping saturation and harmonic richness of vintage tape machines. La Brea includes independent tape saturation and clean circuits for versatile dynamics interaction with added high-frequency shaping.

The tape saturation circuit incorporates two cascading tape stages to achieve anything from a light sizzle to massive gain. Its soft-clipping and dynamic frequency response allow exceptional clarity and interaction with amps, other pedals, and when rolling back your guitar's volume. The TAPE SAT, GAIN, and LEVEL controls provide access to its extensive gain range with independent output leveling.

The DRY knob controls a parallel clean signal path with high headroom. It can be blended with the saturation signal to enhance dynamics at high gain levels, or used on its own, offering up to +6dB of boost.

FEATURES:

- Vintage tape-style saturation provides a variety of overdrive, distortion, and fuzz textures
- Two cascaded tape circuits offer a wide gain range, selectable between normal and high
- Parallel high-headroom clean signal path with independently adjustable DRY level
- SHIFT switch for optional midrange or high-end boost on both saturated and clean signal paths
- Discrete Class A signal path and 24V internal voltage for increased headroom and dynamics
- High impedance/low noise JFET input and low impedance output
- Internal switching power supply provides galvanic isolation via a custom transformer
- True bypass with configurable power up state
- Designed and built in the USA

SPECIFICATIONS

Input Impedance: 1M Ohm

Output Impedance: 100 Ohms

Max. Input Level: +20dBu

Signal/Noise: 110dB

Bypass: True bypass (electromechanical relay switching)

Dimensions: 4.53" deep x 2.83" wide x 2.33" tall (11.51 cm x 7.19 cm x 5.92 cm)

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

CONTROLS

SHIFT

Accentuates the high frequency content on both the saturation and clean signal paths.

high: increases the high-end for added sparkle.

flat: provides flat full-frequency response.

mid: increases the high midrange for added bite.

TAPE SAT

Adds soft-clipping, tape-style saturation. Lower settings add light overdrive and mild taming of transients. Higher levels provide heavy distortion, sustain, and fuzz textures.

Use the **GAIN** switch to select the knob's range.



FOOTSWITCH

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

LEVEL

Adjusts the output level of the Tape Saturation circuit.

GAIN

Sets the TAPE SAT gain range.

high: enables higher gain.

norm: provides low to medium gain levels.

DRY

Independently adjusts the clean signal path level from off to +6dB of boost.

Blend clean signal into a saturated tone for added dynamics. Or, decrease **LEVEL** to minimum to use the **DRY** on its own for a cut or clean boost.

NOTE: By default, La Brea is bypassed [off] at power up. However, its 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

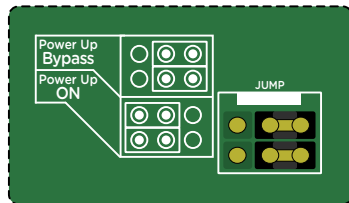
Use a power supply or an adapter with the following ratings: 9VDC, center negative, 500mA minimum (sold separately).

IMPORTANT! Using voltages higher than 9VDC can damage the pedal.

POWER UP STATE

Internal jumpers are provided to allow La Brea to be configured for the desired startup mode. By default, it 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/labrea

Questions & Technical Support: support@strymon.net

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Designed and built
in the USA



Rev A

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