

# empress effects Reverb



user manual  
version 1.00

## INTRODUCTION

We're stoked you've chosen to make the Empress Reverb part of your sound! We've worked really hard to provide beautiful realistic studio-quality reverbs, as well as many creative new modes. You'll soon discover the tone palette is deep and diverse.

It was important for us to create a pedal that's tweakable but fast to dial in. We wanted all the functions at your finger tips and accessible with your toes. The many advanced configuration options let you customize the pedal to meet your needs, so be sure to check those out.

If any section of this manual is unclear, check our tutorial videos online - sometimes a moving picture with sound is worth a million words.

The Empress Reverb firmware can be updated via an SD card. If you want a say in what features we add to future firmware revisions, sign up for our voting forum at [www.empreseffects.com/votingforum](http://www.empreseffects.com/votingforum)

Now go make some music!



Jason Fee - Designer



Steve Bragg - Designer

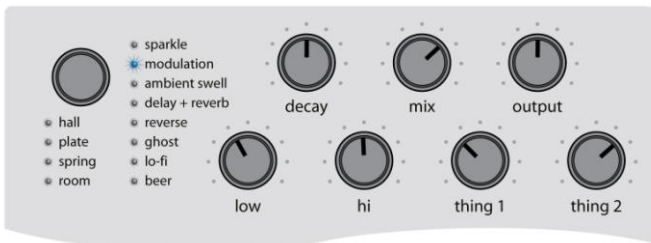
## QUICKSTART

All modes are designed to sound good with all knobs at 12 o'clock. Start there and then tweak to taste.

### Concert Hall



### Modulated

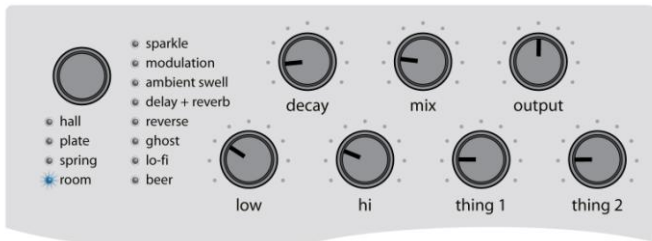


### Ghost



# QUICKSTART

## Room



Room quickstart panel showing a list of effects and seven knobs. The 'room' effect is selected with a blue star icon. The knobs are labeled: decay, mix, output, low, hi, thing 1, and thing 2.

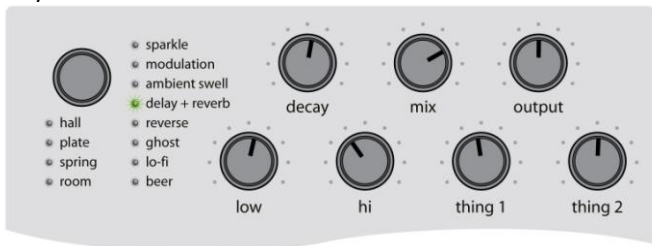
- sparkle
- modulation
- ambient swell
- delay + reverb
- reverse
- ghost
- lo-fi
- beer

room

decay mix output

low hi thing 1 thing 2

## Delay + Reverb



Delay + Reverb quickstart panel showing a list of effects and seven knobs. The 'delay + reverb' effect is selected with a green star icon. The knobs are labeled: decay, mix, output, low, hi, thing 1, and thing 2.

- sparkle
- modulation
- ambient swell
- delay + reverb
- reverse
- ghost
- lo-fi
- beer

decay mix output

low hi thing 1 thing 2

## Reverse













Reverse quickstart panel showing a list of effects and seven knobs. The 'reverse' effect is selected with a red star icon. The knobs are labeled: decay, mix, output, low, hi, thing 1, and thing 2.



- sparkle
- modulation
- ambient swell
- delay + reverb
- reverse
- ghost
- lo-fi
- beer

decay mix output



low hi thing 1 thing 2

## MODE REFERENCE CHART




Mode	Description	Thing 1	Thing 2
<b>Hall</b>			
 <i>Concert Hall</i>	Classic large hall sound, very warm, slow build, with long smooth decay.	Modulation	Early Reflection Level
 <i>Modern Hall</i>	Hall that's very smooth and warm without any modulation.	Pre Delay Time	Early Reflection Level
<b>Plate</b>			
 <i>Classic Plate</i>	Modeled after a vintage plate, works at both short and long decays.	Pre Delay Time	Bright Early Decay
 <i>Studio Plate</i>	Very smooth decay, no modulation.	Pre Delay Time	Early Reflection Level
<b>Spring</b>			
 <i>Bright Spring</i>	In the Fender Twin Reverb realm.	Rattle Decay	Rattle Level
 <i>Dark Spring</i>	In the Fender Deluxe realm.	Rattle Decay	Rattle Level
 <i>Overdriven Spring</i>	Dirty 60's Surf Sound.	Rattle Decay and Level	Break-up amount
<b>Room</b>			
 <i>L.A. Studio</i>	Very Realistic room with dense early reflections. Great at short decays.	Pre-Delay Time	Early Reflection Level
<b>Sparkle</b>			
 <i>Sparkle</i>	Adds smooth octaves and long decays.	Sparkle Level	Sparkle Length
<b>Modulation</b>			
 <i>Modulated</i>	Very smooth and adds lots of thickness, width and airiness to the sound.	Modulation Rate	Modulation Depth

 <i>Chorused Reverb</i>	Similar to <i>Modulated</i> but a more muted sound in the mid range frequencies.	Modulation Rate	Modulation Depth
 <i>Flanged Reverb</i>	Has a wide-sweeping flanger type effect on the output.	Modulation Rate	Modulation Depth




### Ambient Swell

 <i>Triggered Swell</i>	Detects pick attacks and fades in the notes, eliminating attack in the reverb line.	Swell Time	Modulation
 <i>Gate Swell with Octave</i>	Has a gate that then feeds a dense set of delays with octave. It will fade in your playing to create smooth swells.	Gate Attack	Octave Up volume


### Delay+Reverb

 <i>Single Tap Delay</i>	Adds a delay to the warm hall setting, very cool for lead parts.	Delay Time	Delay Feedback
 <i>Blend-able Delay</i>	Delay time is set with select stompswitch.	Blend of delay vs reverb	Delay Feedback
 <i>Filtered Feedback Delay</i>	The Hi and Low knobs filter the delay feedback.	Delay Time	Delay Feedback



### Reverse

 <i>Reverse with Decay</i>	Reverse Reverb with a nice smooth decay.	Reverse Swell Time	Reverse Modulation
 <i>Reverse and Stop</i>	Reverse Reverb with no decay.	Pre Delay	Diffusion
 <i>Reversed Delay</i>	Reverse Delay with ability to add Reverb.	Reverse Delay Length	Amount of Reverb added to the reverse delay



## Ghost

 <i>Resonant</i>	It's a spooky sounding decay because of aggressive resonances in the response.	Mod Rate	Resonance (aka spookiness)
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## Lo-Fi

 <i>50's Radio</i>	Grainy, filtered lo-fi sound with an AM radio quality to it.	Delay Level	Dirtiness
 <i>Warble</i>	Distorted and wobbly delay lo-fi sounds.	Warble	Dirtiness

## Beer

 <i>Glitch</i>	The reverb tail is fed into a filter that randomly changes between low-pass and high-pass.	Glitch Speed	Glitch Tone - determines the time spent on HPF vs. LPF
 <i>Gated Reverb</i>	When you stop playing, a gate mutes the wet signal.	Gate Threshold	Gate Release (10ms - 1sec)



This manual only lists modes that were available at the time of printing.

For the most up-to-date firmware and manual refer to [empresseffects.com](http://empresseffects.com)

## FIRMWARE UPDATES

This pedal has firmware that can be updated with an SD card.

### Performing A Firmware Update

- 1) download the firmware file off the website  
[www.empresseffects.com/reverb-firmware](http://www.empresseffects.com/reverb-firmware)
- 2) copy the file to the root directory of the SD card  
(a high-capacity SD card that's been formatted FAT32)
- 3) insert the SD card then power on the pedal.
- 4) The preset LEDs should marquee yellow for a bit, then all turn green when the update is complete.
- 5) remove SD card, cycle the pedal's power, and you're good!

### SD Card Constraints

There should only be one partition on the SD card because the pedal only looks at the first partition on the disk. SD card must be V2 high speed. Nowadays this is the most common type.

### Firmware Update Error Codes

The preset LEDs will blink to signal an error:

1. unusable card
2. V1 card
3. V2 standard card
4. unable to read disk
5. valid FAT volume not found on SD card.



## PRESETS

The Reverb has two types of preset systems: the **scrolling preset system**, and the **bank preset system**. Read about each preset system to find which one will work best for you. Select which preset system to use in *Advanced Configuration*.

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### SCROLLING PRESET SYSTEM

#### Preset Organization

In *Advanced Configuration* you can select the number of presets you wish to use. The presets are represented by a series of 5 LEDs located just below the knobs. Press the **scroll** stompswitch to scroll through the presets. The preset LEDs will blink. When cycling through the presets after every 5 presets, the preset LED colors will change to another color to indicate you're in the next bank and will start counting again from left to right.

When cycling through the presets you will notice that after your final preset, all the preset LEDs will flash very quickly. This represents the manual preset. If you recall this preset, the Reverb will get its settings from the current knob positions. In the manual preset, no preset LEDs are lit.

You can scroll backwards through the presets by pressing the **select** and **scroll** stompswitches simultaneously.

## Saving a Preset

To save the current settings to a preset, press the **scroll** stompswitch until you reach the preset location you want to write to. While the lights are flashing, hold down the **save** button and press the **scroll** stompswitch. Your preset is now saved.

## Recalling a Preset

To recall a preset simply press the **scroll** stompswitch until the preset you'd like to recall is flashing, then press the **select** stompswitch to load the preset. The presets LEDs should now be solid and bright.

## Changing a Preset

If you change the position of a knob or switch after a preset is loaded, the preset LEDs will dim to indicate that the preset has been modified, but not saved. If you move the knob or switch back to the position it was in when the preset was saved, the preset's LED indicators will brighten again. This lets you find the positions of all the knobs and switches when the preset was saved.

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## BANK PRESET SYSTEM

### **Preset Organization**

In *Advanced Configuration* you'll select the number of banks you wish to use. The preset LEDs display which bank is selected by changing color. Each stompswitch represents a preset. So there are 3 presets per bank.

### **Recalling a Preset and Bypassing the Pedal**

To recall a preset, press on a stompswitch. The light above that stompswitch and the bypass LED will illuminate. To load another preset, simply press one of the other stompswitches. To bypass the pedal, press the stompswitch corresponding to the active preset, and the bypass LED will turn off. The pedal is now bypassed.

### **Changing Banks**

To bank up, press the right and middle stompswitches simultaneously. To bank down press the left and middle stompswitches simultaneously. The LEDs will flash indicating the target bank, then you can press any of the stompswitches to load a preset within that bank.

### **Saving a Preset**

To save a preset, set the knobs to the sound you would like to save. Then navigate to the target bank. While the lights are blinking, press and hold the **save** button and select the target preset location by pressing the corresponding stompswitch.

**mode selector:** selects which mode is active. Each mode can have many submodes which are indicated by different color LEDs.

**low and hi:** controls the reverb tone through EQ and damping.

**select:** used to engage a preset that has been scrolled to with the scroll stompswitch.

- also used as a tap switch or infinite hold when not scrolling through presets.

**to save a preset:**

- create the sound you want to save
- scroll to the preset location to which you would like to save.
- press and hold the save button
- press the scroll stompswitch
- release save and scroll

**to assign expression pedal:**

- move knob(s) to desired setting(s) for heel position
- press and hold save button
- move knobs to desired setting(s) for toe position
- release save button

**select + scroll together:** will scroll backwards through presets.



## at a Glance

**decay:** controls how long the reverb tail takes to decay.

**mix:** sets the ratio of wet signal (reverb) to dry signal (unaffected). Counterclockwise is 100% dry, clockwise is 100% wet, with 50/50 being somewhere around 2 o'clock.

**output:** controls the overall output volume for the pedal. 12 o'clock is unity.

**thing 1 & thing 2:** these two controls take on different functions depending on the mode. They control things like modulation, early reflections, pre-delay, sparkle, octave level, delay time and feedback. Check the *mode reference chart* to see which function they perform in a given mode.

**scroll:** press to scroll through presets, then engage the preset with the select switch.

**bypass:** engage or bypass the pedal. Can be set for true bypass or buffered bypass in advanced configuration.



## CONTROL PORT

The control port jack allows the Empress Reverb to be controlled by a multitude of devices. The pedal ships configured to accept an expression pedal. Please see the *Advanced Configuration* section on how to configure the control port for the device you plan to use.

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## EXPRESSION PEDAL

Each parameter, with the exception of the **mode** knob, can be controlled simultaneously via the expression pedal.

To control a parameter with the expression pedal, move the parameter's knob to the desired heel setting, then hold down the **save** button and move the knob to the desired toe setting, then release the **save** button. Multiple parameters can be assigned for expression pedal control simultaneously by repeating this process for each parameter to be assigned. Each parameter can be set with independent heel and toe settings.

To release a parameter from the expression pedal's control, move the knob that controls that parameter.

Any expression pedal used with the Empress Reverb should have the following pinout: tip to signal, ring to power, and sleeve to ground.

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## CONTROL VOLTAGE (CV)

With CV control, the Empress Reverb responds to CV signals from 0 to 5 volts. Otherwise, the CV configuration works exactly like the expression pedal configuration.

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## EXTERNAL TAP SWITCH

The Empress Reverb can be used with either a normally-open or a normally-closed external switch. This switch operates like the **select** stomp switch, with the exception of loading presets.

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## MIDI

All the parameters of the Empress Reverb can be controlled via control change messages. Its presets can be selected with program change messages, and its tempo can be controlled with MIDI clock messages.

To use MIDI with your Empress Reverb, you'll have to:

1. Connect the Empress Midibox (not included with the Reverb) using a ¼" patch cable to the **control port**. A TRS cable is required to send MIDI out messages if you're using the reverb to control other pedals.
2. Configure the pedal for MIDI control and set the MIDI channel. See *Advanced Configuration* for instructions. Choose a MIDI channel that won't conflict with other devices in your MIDI rig.

## **Recalling a preset via MIDI (Program Change Messages)**

You can activate a preset by sending a MIDI program change message. For example, sending a program change message of 7 activates preset 7.

### **Midi with Preset Out**

The Reverb can send out MIDI program changes on the ring of the control port jack whenever a preset is loaded on the Reverb. The Reverb will send out these program changes on the 4 channels above the Reverb's current MIDI channel.

For example, if the Reverb is set to MIDI channel 5 and preset 3 is loaded, the Reverb will send out MIDI program change 3 on MIDI channels 6, 7, 8 & 9.

### **Midi Beat Clock**

Modes that accept a tap tempo input will respond to MIDI clock messages. MIDI clock specifies quarter notes, subdivided into 24 MIDI messages. The Reverb's delay time gets set to a quarter note.

### **Midi Control Changes**

The Empress Reverb can be controlled with MIDI control change messages. Opposite is a table that shows which MIDI control change number controls each Reverb parameter.



## MIDI CONTROL CHANGE MESSAGES REFERENCE


Reverb Parameter	CC #:	Note:
Modes	20	<p>The modes and sub-modes are numbered starting from 0 (Hall = 0, Plate = 1, etc.) To translate the modes and sub-mode to a single number you apply the following equation:</p> <p>MIDI message value = (mode x 8) + sub-mode</p> <p><u>Example:</u> To load the 2nd plate mode, you'd send a value of 9 with the CC message. (1x8) + 1.</p>
Decay Time	21	<p>Sending a value 0 would be equivalent to the knob completely counterclockwise, sending 127 is equivalent to fully clockwise.</p>
Mix	22	
Volume	23	
Low Damp	24	
Hi Damp	25	
Thing 1	26	
Thing 2	27	
Left Stompswitch - Select	35	
Middle Stompswitch - Scroll	36	
Right Stompswitch - Bypass	37	
Save Button	38	
MIDI Clock Listener	51	<p>Sending a value of 0 causes the pedal to ignore MIDI clock messages. Sending a value of 127 causes the pedal to listen for MIDI clock messages. (by default, the pedal listens for MIDI clock messages)</p>

## Additional MIDI Control Change Notes

- MIDI switching cannot be done while in *Advanced Configuration*.
- the manual preset cannot be used while using the bank preset system.

## POWERING THE REVERB

Go to [www.empresseffects.com/power](http://www.empresseffects.com/power) for a full list of compatible power supplies.

Please Note: The Empress Reverb requires at least 300mA of current to function properly. Any power supply rated at 9V DC, supplying negative tip polarity ( +  - ) and at least 300mA of current should work.

## ADVANCED CONFIGURATION

The advanced configuration customizes how your pedal operates. The options are listed in the table that follows.

### Entering Advanced Configuration

While holding down the **select** and **bypass** stompswitches, press the **save** button. All the preset LEDs will blink yellow twice to confirm you're in.

### While in Advanced Configuration

Each mode LED represents a different configuration item you can change. Look up the item you'd like to change from the table on the right, then turn the **mode** rotary knob to select it.

Turn the **decay** knob to modify the value of the advanced configuration setting. The preset LEDs will illuminate to show you the current value. For example, if the hall mode light is lit and the 2nd preset LED is lit, you've configured the pedal for buffered bypass operation.

### Exiting Advanced Configuration

Hold down **select** and **bypass** stompswitches while in advanced configuration. Preset LEDs will blink yellow twice and the pedal will reboot.

## ADVANCED CONFIGURATION REFERENCE

Option	Set mode LED to:	preset LEDs indicate:
Bypass operation	Hall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. True Hardwire Bypass</li> <li>2. Buffered Bypass.*</li> <li>3. Buffered Bypass with isolation transformer on right output.</li> </ol> <p>(Note: when transformer is engaged the pedal assumes stereo output operation)</p>
Control port configuration	Plate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expression Pedal*</li> <li>2. Control Voltage Input.</li> <li>3. Normally Open Switch.</li> <li>4. Normally Closed Switch.</li> <li>5. MIDI.</li> <li>6. MIDI with Preset Out.</li> </ol>
Input pad	Spring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No Pad (0dB)</li> <li>2. -6dB Pad*</li> <li>3. -12dB Pad</li> </ol>
Preset system	Room	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scrolling Preset System*</li> <li>2. Bank Preset System</li> </ol>
Number of presets for scrolling preset system	Sparkle	As you turn from left to right the LEDs will illuminate in order to indicate the last preset.
Number of banks for the bank preset system	Modulation	As you turn from left to right the colors will indicate the last bank
MIDI channel the pedal will respond to (when control port is configured for MIDI).	Ambient Swell	As you turn from left to right the LEDs will illuminate in order to indicate the MIDI channel. (ex. If the 3rd LED is lit, it's going to listen on MIDI channel 3).
Knob Lock - lock the presets so they don't change accidentally on stage.	Delay + Reverb	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unlocked.*</li> <li>2. Locked - knobs are locked in presets (not manual preset) so that they don't get nudged by mistake if using presets.</li> </ol>

Cabinet Simulator puts a cabinet simulation algorithm on the output, useful if you don't have an amp.	Reverse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cab sim is off.*</li> <li>2. Bright 4x12 cab.</li> <li>3. Dark vintage cab</li> <li>4. Balanced modern cab</li> </ol>
Signal Configuration	Ghost	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. stereo in/stereo out.*</li> <li>2. wet/dry: dry out left, and wet out right.</li> </ol>
Startup State	Lo-Fi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Startup Bypassed*</li> <li>2. Startup Engaged and load Preset 1</li> </ol>
Stereo Widening	Beer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular Stereo Width*</li> <li>2. Stereo Width 2dB wider.</li> <li>3. Stereo Width 4dB wider.</li> </ol>

\*denotes the factory default setting

## FACTORY RESET



**WARNING! This will overwrite your current presets and advanced config settings and replace them with the factory presets and default advanced config settings!**

To restore the Reverb to its factory settings, do the following: while in the advanced configuration (see *Entering Advanced Configuration*): press and release the stomp switches in this order: **Select, Bypass, Select, Bypass**. Then the LEDs do a dance. Now you can exit advanced configuration (see *Exiting Advanced Configuration*).

## THANK YOU

**Patrick Zdunich** for lending his ear and super bug hunting skills when we needed it the most.

**Steve Foley** for giving us so much input on the functionality and his ears on the sounds.

**Dave Bignell** for making his studio available to a stranger for a day of listening.

**Bova Sound** for sampling their wonderful EMT 140 Plate Reverb.

Young coding rock-star **Matt Cyr** for crushing it so hard on the calibration tools.

**Chris 'C++' DeVisser** for making us some awesome internal tools we use every day.

Thanks to beta testers **Dan Hay, Jordan Craig, and Jeff Logan** for their valuable input when we couldn't tell the forest from the trees.

## LEGAL STUFF

### *FCC Compliance*

*Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:*

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.*
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.*
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.*
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.*

*Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under FCC rules*

## SPECIFICATIONS

Input Impedance:	1M $\Omega$
Output Impedance:	100 $\Omega$
Output Impedance (x-former):	600 $\Omega$
Frequency Response (-3dB, dry):	10Hz – 50kHz
Frequency Response (-3dB, wet):	10Hz – 23.4kHz
Total Harmonic Distortion (dry):	0.09%
Total Harmonic Distortion (wet):	0.22%
Dynamic Range (dry):	106.9 dBA
Dynamic Range (wet):	105.5 dBA
Input Headroom (dry):	+10.0 dBu
Input Headroom (wet, no pad):	+0.5 dBu
Input Headroom (wet, 6dB pad):	+5.7 dBu
Input Headroom (wet, 12dB pad):	+10.8 dBu
Output Headroom:	+16.2dBu
Power Input Connector:	2.1mm Barrel Connector
Required Current:	300mA
Height (enclosure only):	1.75"
Height (including controls):	2.25"
Length:	5.7"
Width:	3.75"
Weight:	1.5lbs