

TECH TIPS

DE-LUXE AB BOX

by Marcus Valentine

This Audio line signal routing device was designed for one of those guitarists who feel insecure unless they are surrounded by numerous effects boxes, but who wish to have more control over them collectively. It has two modes: single and dual.

In the single mode, depression of the footswitch noiselessly re-routes the signal path from going through chain A, to chain B, a chain being either a straight jack to jack lead, an effect, or a series of effects.

In the dual mode, the signal is re-routed through chain A followed by chain B, and on depression of the footswitch (here's the clever bit) is re-routed to chain B followed by chain A.

The two LEDs indicate the chain selected in the single mode, and in the dual mode the first chain.

The flip-flop built around N1 and N2 ensures that the bilateral switches used change state cleanly and quickly, and, more importantly, at the same time.

Current consumption, which is set mainly by the LEDs, is low enough to allow a 9V battery to be used as power. The LEDs were considered essential for ease of use.

The device can be conveniently constructed in an aluminum box measuring 10x10x4 cm, with the input socket arranged so that the input plug connects the negative supply.

By using various combinations of sockets, the device can be utilized in many more audio signal rerouting applications, eg. by using the A and B return sockets and output only, (with a dummy plug inserted into the input socket to provide power) the device can be used as a single selector.

