

DR. ROBERT v3

USER MANUAL &
SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



Thank you for purchasing the Dr. Robert!
The most accurate replica of the legendary **Vox® UL730 amplifier!**

aclam

www.aclamguitars.com

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Overview

The Vox® UL700 amp series were the secret weapon used by **The Beatles** to achieve the unique guitar tone on **Revolver** and part of **Sgt. Peppers**. They were also used by The Rolling Stones, Joy Division and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin.

Introduced in 1966 these state-of-the-art guitar amps mixed a solid-state preamp with a tube power amp section.

Tubes were standard at that time but had the inconvenience of being voluminous and prone to fail, plus they needed bigger transformers due to impedance matching and power requirements. Transistors were the solution as they were way smaller, reliable and took much less energy to operate. So, in 1965, Vox engineer Dick Denney decided to develop a **hybrid amp** with a solid-state preamp and tube powered amp section.

Thanks to the relatively new transistor technology, lots of features could be added.

Top of the line models included two channels with three band eq each, distortion, tremolo and reverb.

There were many variants with different power ratings, but the ones used by The Beatles were the **UL730 (30w)** and UL7120 (120w).

Unfortunately, aside from The Beatles, those amps weren't popularly used at the time and most of them ended being returned to Vox for their disposal.

Only a small number of UL730 units survived (around 20/30 units as some renown Vox connoisseurs state), attaining the title of being the most collectable Vox amps, with prohibitively collector pricing.

Now they are the missing link between tube and solid-state amps.

The **Dr. Robert** is based on the Normal channel of our **Vox® UL730 S/N: 3042**. We traced the original tag board circuits and measured each component's value to make the closest replica of the amp's soul and character.

One of the keys of its tone is the **"Mids"** control which is one of the most interesting mid-range eq ever found on an amp. By turning it counterclockwise, a great amount of mid-frequencies will be subtracted creating a scooped sound. On the other hand, when it's turned clockwise it will bring out all the mids and the signal will build up in gain. **By tailoring the "Mids" knob you can control both midrange and saturation.**

As the solid-state preamp of the UL730 doesn't create much distortion by itself we've coupled it with a **custom FET saturation** engine to mimic the attributes of the **tube power amp section**. Not happy with that, we've gone even further creating the **"Mach Schau!"** section, which adds saturation to your main sound and includes an independent volume control to allow you to have both a rhythmic and a solo tone.

In late 2025, we upgraded the Dr. Robert by adding external controls for the Bass/Treble EQ and the *Mach Schau!* Gain. On top of that, the new global Lo/Hi Gain mode makes the pedal more versatile than ever.

Features

THE MOST ACCURATE REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL UL730 PREAMP:

Sometimes you can't trust the internet or an old schematic! We've found major discrepancies between the published schematic and the real thing, such as component types and values, so we can assure this is the closest you can get to the rarest Vox amp!

Following the preamp there's a custom FET based circuit emulating the saturation produced by the UL730 EL84's tube power amp section.

CUSTOM GRAPHICS BY REVOLVER'S COVER ARTIST, KLAUS VOORMANN:

We're so honored to have Mr. Klaus Voormann, designer of The Beatle's Revolver album cover, sign the artwork for the Dr. Robert!

MACH SCHAU! FUNCTION, NOW WITH EXTERNAL GAIN CONTROL:

An extra saturation stage, activated via footswitch, with its own independent volume control now has a dedicated

knob to fine-tune the amount of added gain. Kick it in when the venue's manager tells you to play harder!

NEW LO/HI GAIN MODES:

Some customers asked for less gain on tap so they could achieve cleaner tones with their humbucker-equipped guitars. We slightly tamed the amount of saturation produced by the FET section, making it easier to dial in crisp clean sounds. Press both switches together and the LEDs will turn orange, switching the pedal into the classic Robert tone (HI GAIN mode).

SMART TRACK® FASTENING SYSTEM:

All our pedals use a custom enclosure designed to perfectly match our Smart Track® pedalboards. Using the side thumb screws, you'll be able to lock safely the stompbox into one of our pedalboards. It also was designed with the other pedalboard options in the market in mind. (see page 22)

CIRCUIT TAILORED FOR BOTH GUITAR & BASS INSTRUMENTS:

Although based on the UL730 preamp, the UL400 series

(designed for bass) shared almost the same circuitry. When doing tests using different instruments and amps we noticed the Dr. Robert sounded flawless with bass too!

By tuning the FET circuit a bit, we managed to make the Dr. Robert suitable for both guitar and bass. No significant drops resulting in a perfect preamp and distortion tool to plug directly to the desk or into an amp.

SAME 3 BAND EQUALIZER, NOW WITH EXTERNAL TREBLE AND BASS CONTROLS:

The Mids control is a unique feature to shape the particular sound of the Dr. Robert pedal. Now, this new version has the Bass and Treble controls found on the original VOX UL730 are on the outside of the pedal!

HIGH END COMPONENTS:

We made an extra effort to put the finest and closest components to the original amp on the Dr. Robert to make it a reliable pedal with a superb tone.

ULTRA SILENT TRUE BYPASS RELAY SWITCHING:

We've made an effort to make the transition from bypass to on as silent as possible. You won't hear any popping noise in the audio path every time you press the footswitch, no matter how quiet the playing environment would be.

Also, our intelligent true bypass relay switching system which constantly monitors voltage supply and switches itself to true bypass when it detects a drastic drop in voltage.

This way you'll never get any signal interruption even if your power supply fails. It also lets you know if you're overpowering the unit by automatically switching to bypass and making both the Boost and Bypass LED's blink. This will happen whenever the input voltage is above 11V and could cause potential damage to the Dr. Robert circuit

Specs & Material included

DR. ROBERT REF:
AP0111

DIMENSIONS:
13,6 x 8,7 x 5,5cm (5.4" x 3.4" x 2.2") with knobs.

WEIGHT:
410g. (0.90 lbs).

BYPASS:
Relay True Bypass

POWER REQUIREMENTS:
9V DC Center Negative 50mA minimum

CURRENT DRAW:
≈10mA

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY:
This product complies with the requirements of



MADE IN SPAIN

MATERIAL INCLUDED
1 x Dr. Robert pedal

Power requirements

POWER SUPPLY

This unit must be powered with a 9VDC negative tip power supply with the standard Boss type 2.1mm connector.

Current supply should be a minimum of 50 mA just to leave a safety margin for the DC adapter.

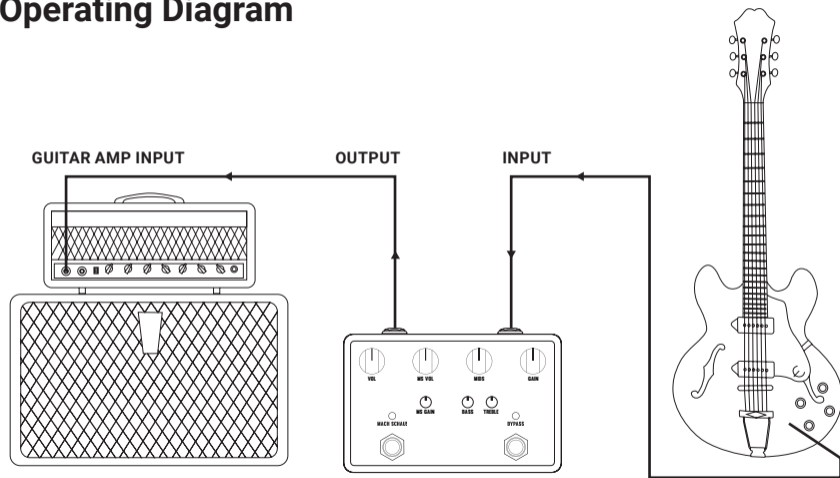
Make sure you use a good quality power supply and avoid using generic SMPS type adapters which can induce high pitched noise to the audio.



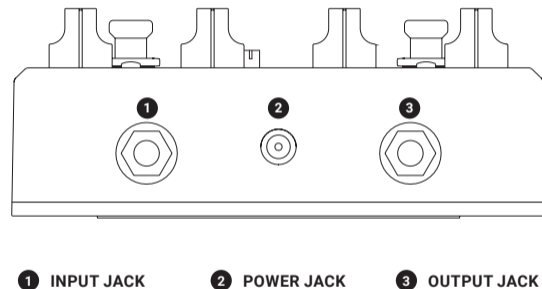
CAUTION:

Please note this pedal **MUST** not be powered with any voltage above 9VDC. Powering it up with a 12V or 18V power supply will damage its circuit and immediately void the warranty.

Operating Diagram



Controls



- 4 BYPASS SWITCH:** Engages the unit allowing the signal to flow through the Dr. Robert circuit. It also lights up the LED above it.
- 5 GAIN:** This control is placed in the same position of the circuit as the original UL730's volume control. Since none of the Vox® UL series had a master volume control the user had to turn it all the way up to bring the amp into saturation, and believe us, this thing is loud. To solve that we put the Vol control at the end of the FET section so now, the volume control on the original amp turns into a gain knob on the Dr. Robert. At lower settings the Gain knob will produce a clean tone, but as you approach the 12'o-clock mark the FET section will start entering the saturation region.

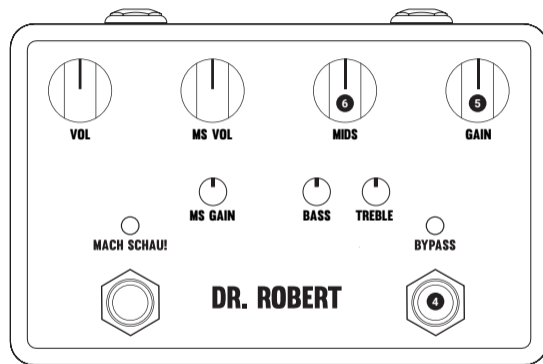
Have in mind that due to Dr. Robert's great dynamics, different types of guitars and pickups will affect the clean range of the Gain knob.

Have in mind that due to Dr. Robert's great dynamics, different types of guitars and pickups will affect the clean range of the Gain knob.

- 6 MIDS:** This is the most critical knob to tailor your sound. Unlike most equalizer circuits (which get placed after or before the volume control) Vox® separated the mids control from the rest of the tone stack in the UL730. In this preamp the signal gets amplified first, followed by the Mids control before the volume pot. After this, Vox® placed a special gain stage coupled with the Bass and Treble controls. Thus, you can control the midrange without interacting with the rest of the eq, as traditional tone stacks do.

By turning it counterclockwise, it will subtract a great amount of mid-range, creating a really interesting scooped sound. Turning it clockwise will bring mid frequencies and the overall gain builds up hitting harder the EL84 tubes, creating saturation.

Just like the real amp does, Dr. Robert's "Mids" control has the same behavior thanks to the FET section specially tuned to mimic the power amp saturation on the UL730. So, keep in mind, the "Mids" knob will have a great effect on the overall saturation of the unit.



- 7 **TREBLE:** Previously located inside the pedal, this control is now much easier to access! It adjusts the amount of high frequencies and also interacts slightly with the gain. Thanks to the antilog taper potentiometer, it now offers an improved linear response.
- 8 **BASS:** Adjusts the amount of low frequencies. Like the Treble control, the Bass knob was previously hidden inside the old Dr. Robert. In this new version, you can fine-tune the perfect tone with ease!
- 9 **VOL:** Controls the overall volume of the Dr. Robert when you're not using the Mach Schau! section.

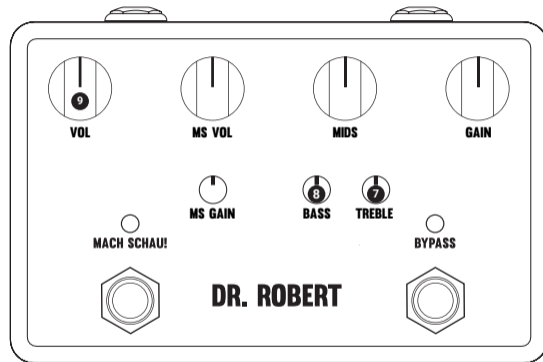
THE MACH SCHAU! SECTION

The Mach Schau! Section was conceived during the design process of the Dr. Robert to make it more versatile in live situations. Every now and then, you need an extra push in terms of gain, to play solo parts or for songs you want people to shake their waist at.

Taking The Beatles "She Said She Said" cut for example, there's a lead part, clearly saturated and the main rhythmic arpeggio in a cleaner tone. With the Dr. Robert you could play both tones using the Mach Schau! section for the lead parts.

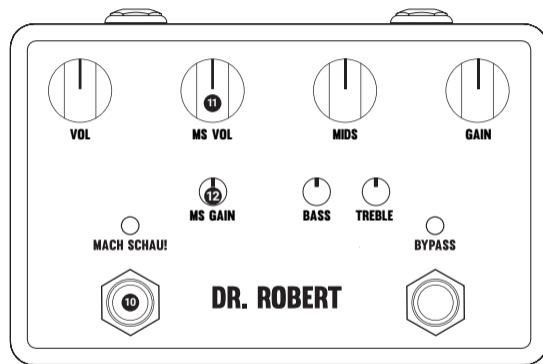
The Mach Schau! extra saturation will always be determined by the Gain and Mids knob settings, meaning that the heavier your main setting is, the grittier this section will build up from.

The Dr. Robert produces more distortion than the vintage UL730. It was designed this way so that the Mach Schau! could take any MIDS/GAIN setting and make it significantly more saturated. Now, with instant access to the EQ and MS GAIN, you can fully unlock the Dr. Robert's potential.



- 10 MACH SCHAU! SWITCH:** Activates the Mach Schau! Section. It also lights up the LED above it. (Note that the Mach Schau! function works only when the Dr. Robert's bypass switch is activated. This function is not an independent overdrive but an extra tone of Dr. Robert's main circuit).
- 11 MS VOL:** Independent volume control for the Mach Schau! section.
- 12 MS GAIN:** A highly requested feature! Earlier Dr. Robert units (serial number 1000 and onwards) included an internal trimmer to set the amount of gain for the Mach Schau! function. Many customers asked us to remove that trimmer and replace it with an external potentiometer—so we delivered!

This was also the perfect occasion to redesign the Mach Schau! gain structure. Now, with the MS GAIN set all the way down, it adds only a barely noticeable amount of saturation, letting you use Mach Schau! as a clean volume boost. Turn it up, and you'll find plenty of roar on tap for practically any genre.



HI/LO GAIN MODES

The Dr. Robert produces more distortion than the vintage UL730. It was designed this way so the Mach Schau could take any MIDS/GAIN setting and make it significantly more saturated. Now, with instant access to the EQ and MS GAIN, you can fully explore all the potential the Dr. Robert has to offer.

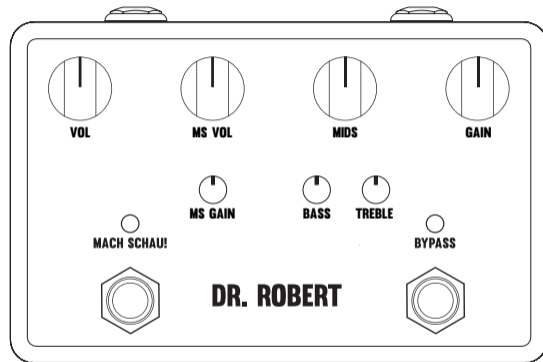
As some customers have pointed out, the Dr. Robert feels more comfortable with the GAIN knob set at 12 o'clock or higher. This made dialing in cleaner tones a bit more challenging, and due to its great dynamics, switching between different guitars and/or pickup types could sometimes result in tone or level mismatches.

To address this and further expand its versatility, we introduced a new mode: LO GAIN.

LO GAIN MODE is the default setting when the Dr. Robert ships from our headquarters, indicated by the LEDs lit in white. It features a slightly tamer gain structure, making it easier to dial in cleaner or edge-of-breakup tones when the Mach Schau is off. Step on the MS switch and you'll still get a nice gain boost for solos.

HI GAIN MODE retains the gain structure of previous Dr. Robert versions. To access it, press both switches together when the pedal is on, and the LEDs will turn orange.

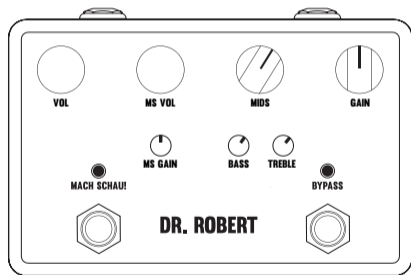
To toggle between HI and LO GAIN modes, simply tap both switches together while the Dr. Robert is activated.



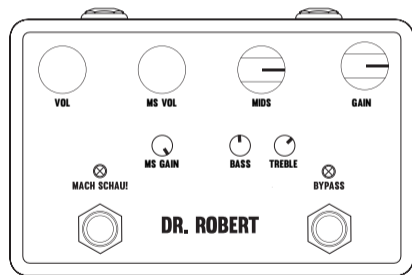
Setting Examples

LO GAIN mode

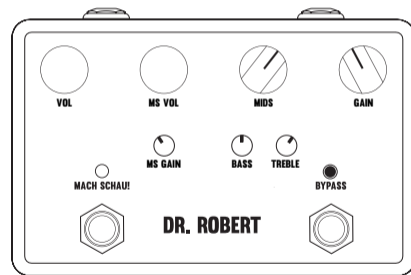
HI GAIN mode



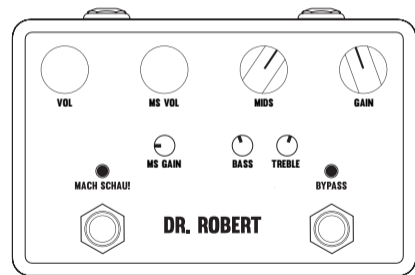
WHOLE LOTTA LOVE (RYTHM)



WHOLE LOTTA LOVE (SOLO)



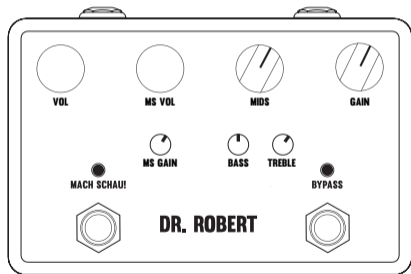
JOY DIVISION - SHADOW PLAY (RYTHM)
Activate Mach Schau! for solo



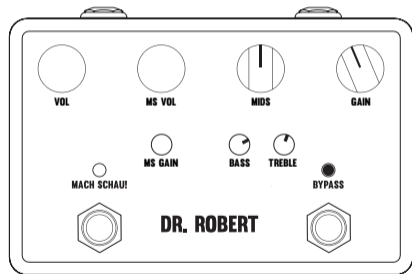
DR. ROBERT

● LO GAIN mode

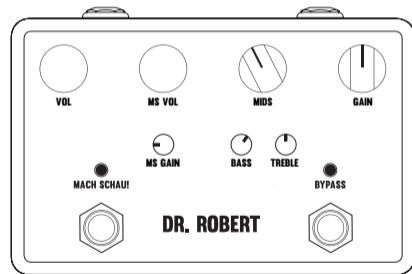
⊗ HI GAIN mode



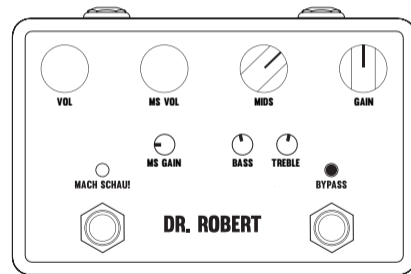
SHE SAID SHE SAID



RAIN



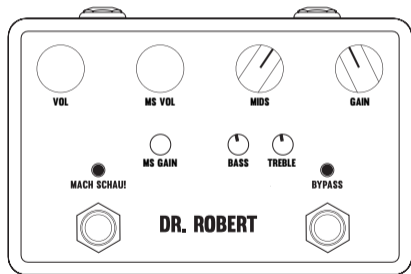
PAPERBACK WRITER



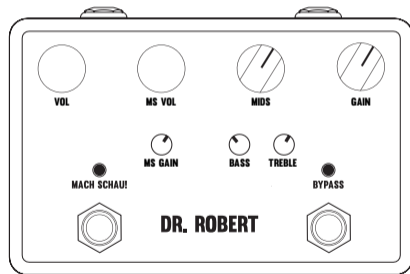
TAXMAN
Mach Schau! for solo

● LO GAIN mode

⊗ HI GAIN mode



SGT PEPPER'S (RYTHM)



SGT PEPPER'S (SOLO)

Trouble Shooting

SIGNAL PASSES THROUGH IN BYPASS BUT NOT WHEN ENGAGED:

Make sure you've connected the input and output jacks correctly.

PEDAL DOES NOT WORK WITH THE POWER SUPPLY:

Take a look at your power supply output voltage and polarity. Make sure it's 9V DC negative tip with a minimum output of 100 mA.

PEDAL SOUNDS DISTORTED AT REALLY LOW SETTINGS:

- The Dr. Robert is a really dynamic pedal the same way the original amp is. Different types of guitars and pickups will make it saturate in different regions of the knobs. That is a totally correct response from the unit.

- Make sure there's not any pedal before the Dr. Robert increasing too much the guitar's signal output, like boosters, preamps compressors and other overdrive pedals.

THE LEDS ARE BLINKING:

If you're powering your Dr. Robert with a battery replace it with a fresh one. See page 7 for more info.

THE LEDS ARE BLINKING AND THE PEDAL DOESN'T ENGAGE:

The Dr. Robert is detecting more than 11V at its power input and that can harm its circuit. Unplug the power supply immediately and make sure you're powering it with a properly regulated 9V center negative power supply. (More info on page 7 and 10)

Security Instructions

- Read these instructions carefully.

- Keep them for future reference.

- Heed all warnings.

- Aclam Guitars shall not be held liable for any damage to persons or property caused by incorrect operation or installation.

- Use the product in accordance with the assembly instructions. Do not modify or operate the product incorrectly.

- Incorrect installation could result in serious damage to persons and property.

- Open the package and check that the assembly instructions and all the parts of the product are there. Check that none of the parts are defective.

- Keep out of reach of children. This product contains small parts that represent a choking hazard if swallowed.

- If you do not understand these safety instructions, or if you have any queries regarding the safety of the installation, please contact Aclam Guitars: support@aclam.cat

- If you wish to contact Customer Services at Aclam Guitars, please write to guitars@aclam.cat

Warranty Terms

This product is covered by a two-year warranty from the purchase date, under the conditions and supporting evidence regulated by current Spanish Legislation.

The product warranty will only be applicable by presenting the proof of purchase (which is the invoice or the receipt) and serial number.

A product is covered under warranty if it presents lack of conformity because it does not correspond to the specified product characteristics, is defective which prevents its normal use according to its purpose, or does not function as described. The purchaser has the right to have the article repaired or replaced (either the product or the faulty component, at the discretion of the manufacturer.)

The warranty is not transferable and won't cover the following issues:

- Attempts of modifications or repairs by an unauthorized service center.

- Unsuitable use
- Incorrect storage
- Explosions or burns caused by incorrect power supplies.
- Other causes not attributable to the manufacturer.

To make a claim, the purchaser must return the product to the store where it was purchased within one month from discovering the fault, and report the nature of the problem, the time and the circumstances under which it occurred.

If the product was purchased through our website, the purchaser must refer to www.aclamguitars.com and complete a RMA (Return to Manufacturer Authorization) form before returning the unit.

We strongly recommend looking at the "Troubleshooting" section of the manual before panicking!!


www.aclamguitars.com