

FW-D0D FLEX DISTO

USER MANUAL



INTRODUCTION

Thank you, and congratulations on your choice of the FW-DOD FLEX-DISTO Programmable ANALOG Overdrive/Distortion pedal.

Before using this effect, carefully read the section entitled: “IMPORTANT NOTES”.

These sections provide important information concerning the proper operation of the pedal. Additionally, in order to feel assured that you have gained a good grasp of every feature provided by your new unit, this manual should be read in its entirety. The manual should be saved and kept on hand as a convenient reference.

Flex Waves DISTO brings the tones from clean boost and bluesy overdrive to high gain and heavy distortion, all with just 3 knobs.

The great classic analog sound will blow you and now will not more loose "that" sound you spent time creating, but you can store it forever, resulting in more confidence while you're playing, giving you total control on tone shaping.

It's like having two or more effects in one.

The FLEX-DISTO is 100% Analog Tone digitally controllable, you create your sounds, you store them and you recall them whenever you want in a glance.

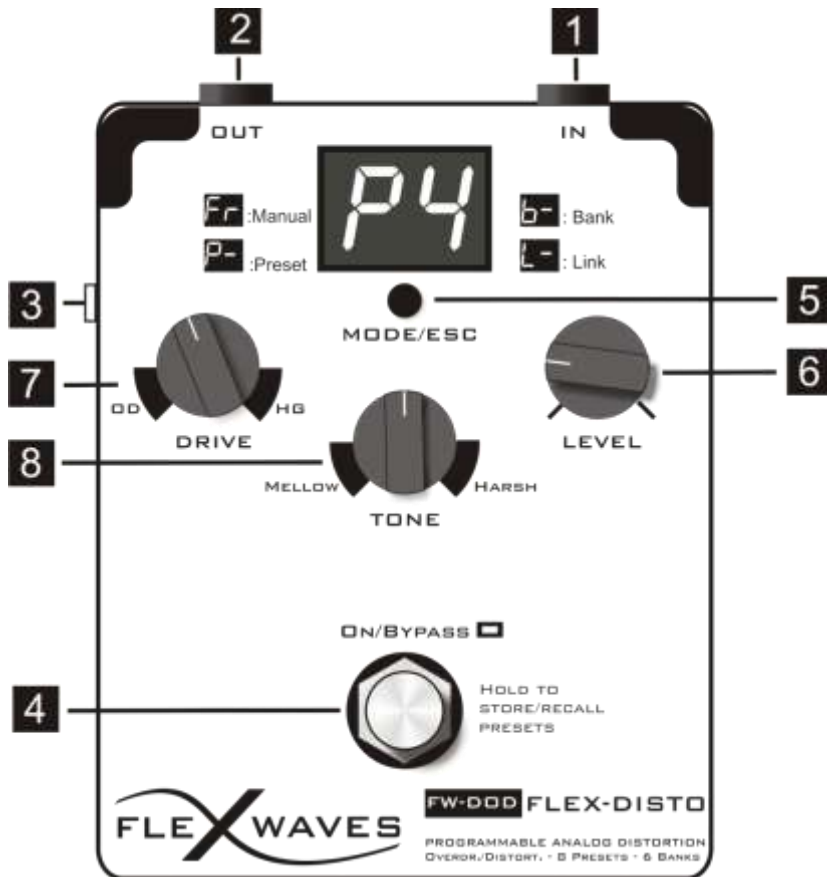
FLEX WAVES Guitar Pedals are DESIGNED and MADE in Italy.

A battery is supplied with the unit. The life of this battery may be limited, since its primary purpose was enable to testing.

MAIN FEATURES

- Analog Programmable Overdrive/Distortion
- 3 Knobs control for bluesy tones to high-gain distortion
- 8 Custom Presets
- 6 User Banks
- Flex Waves Link Mode
- True Bypass
- Compact Die Cast Aluminium Box
- FW Balanced Cable Link™ Mode to “smart” connect multiple Flex Waves pedals

PANEL DESCRIPTION



Connections

1- IN

1/4" mono jack connections for signal input.
FLEX-DISTO require 1/4" stereo jack connections for Link Mode operations.

2- OUT

1/4" mono jack connections for signal output.
FLEX-DISTO require 1/4" stereo jack connections for Link Mode operations.

3- Power

The FLEX-DISTO require 9V DC xxx mA. By using the power supply, you can play without being concerned about how much battery power you have left.

- ❖ Use only the specified AC adaptor (9V linear regulated)
- ❖ If there is a battery in the unit while an AC adaptor is being used, the FW-DOD will switch over to battery-powered operation should the line voltage be interrupted.
- ❖ To change the battery you need to unscrew the four screws placed on the bottom panel

PANEL DESCRIPTION

Switches

4 - On/Bypass

This footswitch has three functions.

- Press and release immediately for standard on/off function in Free Set Mode (Manual).
- Hold and release to switch between the presets in Preset Mode.
- Hold to store a sound into a Preset number (Preset Mode) or to confirm the bank selection/bank position (Bank Mode).

5- Mode/Esc

The FLEX-DISTO has four mode of operation, selectable by pressing the Mode/Esc switch, the modes are: FREE SET Mode (Manual), PRESET Mode, BANK Mode and LINK Mode. Please see Paragraph for further explanation.

The switch has also the function of aborting the current operation like storing a Preset or a Bank.

Knobs

6- Level

Control the level output of the effect. It can affect also the level of total distortion.

7- Drive

This knob controls the amount of overdrive/distortion.

The OD label means you are working in the Overdrive zone, the HG label means you are in the extreme distortion (High Gain) zone.

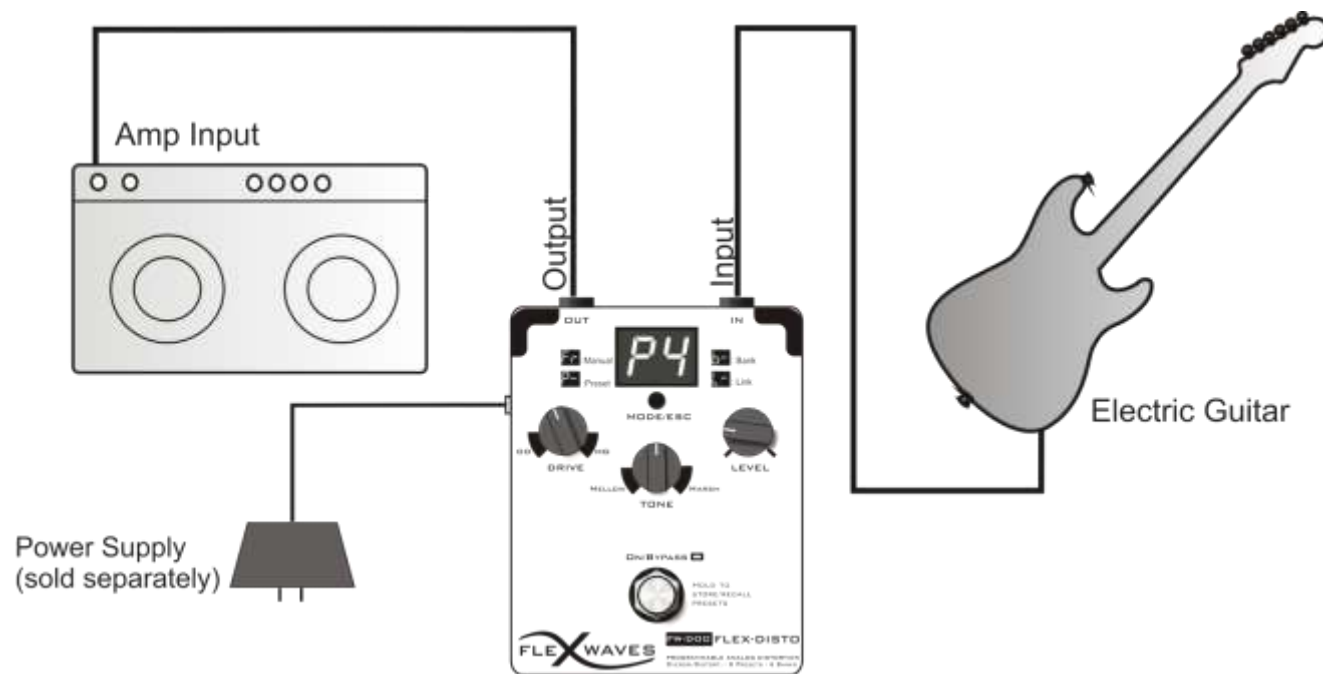
8- Tone

Turn the Tone knob to the left for a mellow/darker sound (bluesy and jazzy tones), turn it to the right for a harsh/brighter sound (hard rock, heavy metal tones).

OPERATION

SETUP MONO

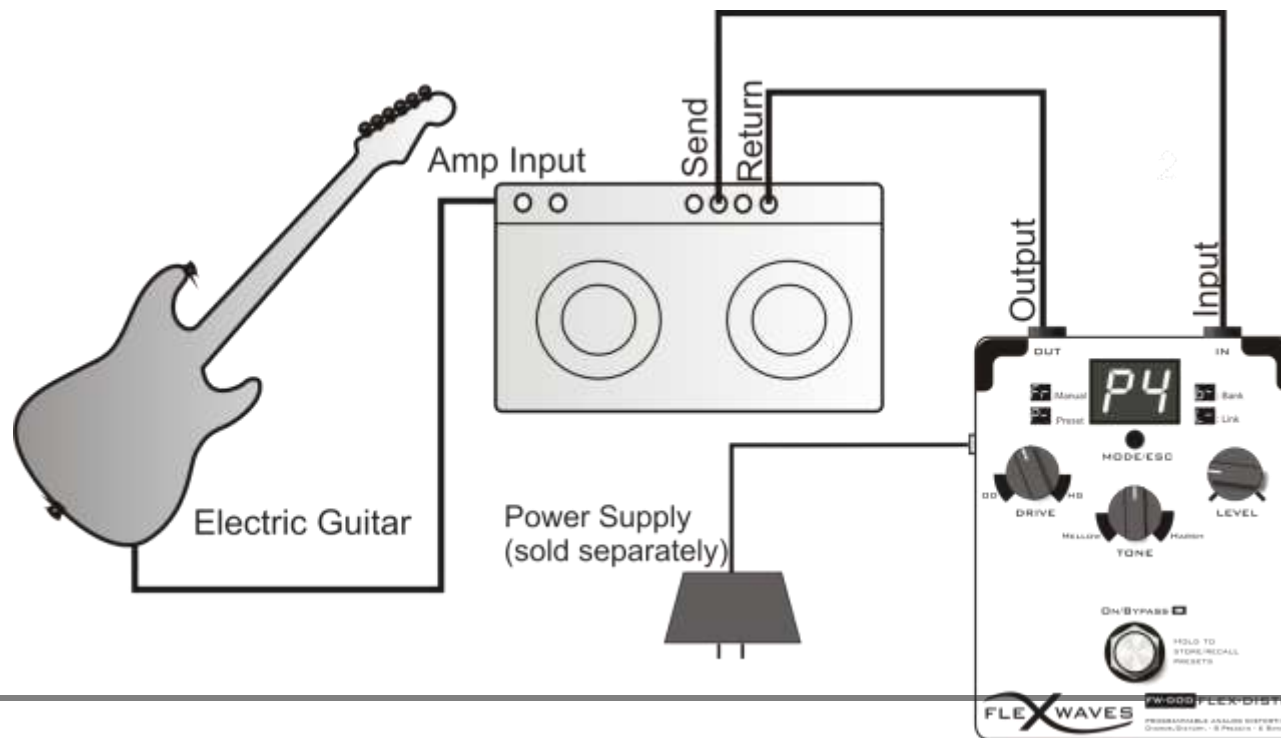
This setup illustrates how to use the FLEX-DISTO pedal in a mono setup (one amp only) .



OPERATION

SETUP SEND/RETURN

This example illustrates how to connect your FLEX-DISTO pedal as a send/return effect in an effects loop. The pedals are designed to see an unbalanced, high impedance signal such as that from guitar pickups so you would need a re amp device (or use a passive DI box in reverse) to properly match the pedal inputs for the best sound.



OPERATION

The FLEX-DISTO has four mode of operation, selectable by pressing the Mode/ESC switch, the modes are: FREE SET Mode (Manual), PRESET Mode, BANK Mode and LINK Mode.

FREE SET Mode (Manual)

When the power is turned on, the default pedal settings are Bypass (' – ' symbol on 7 Segments Display) and FREE SET Mode.

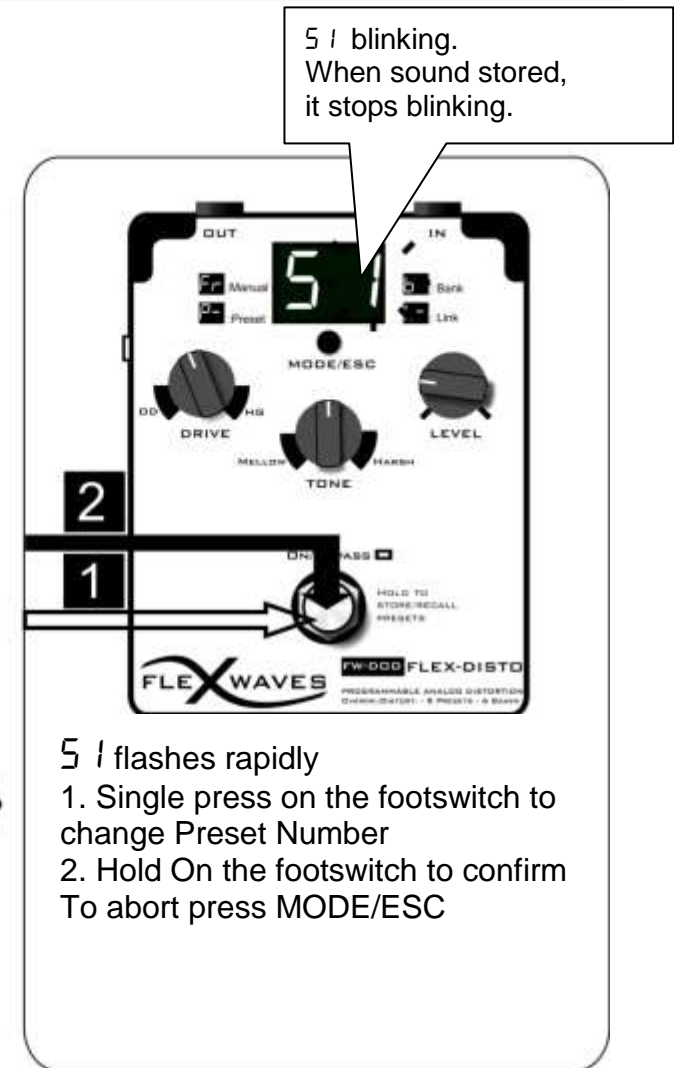
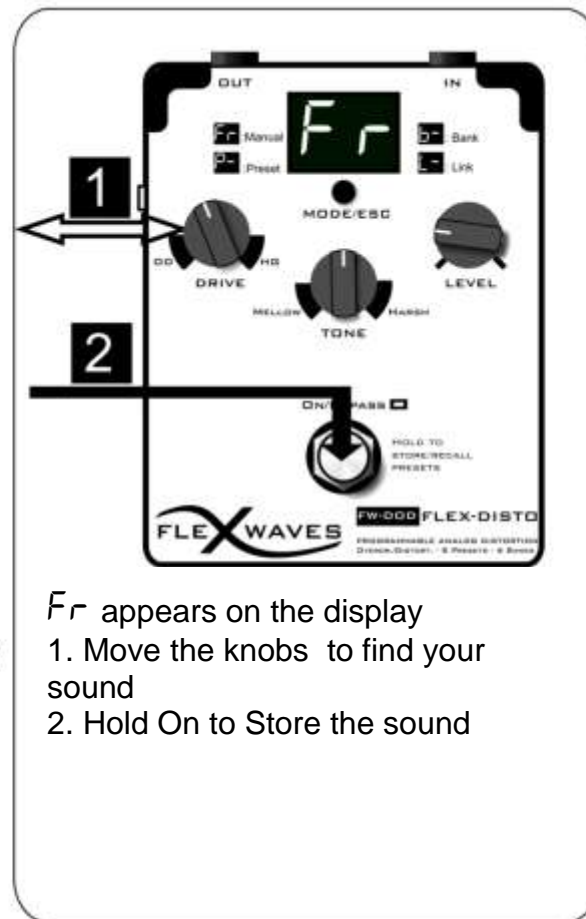
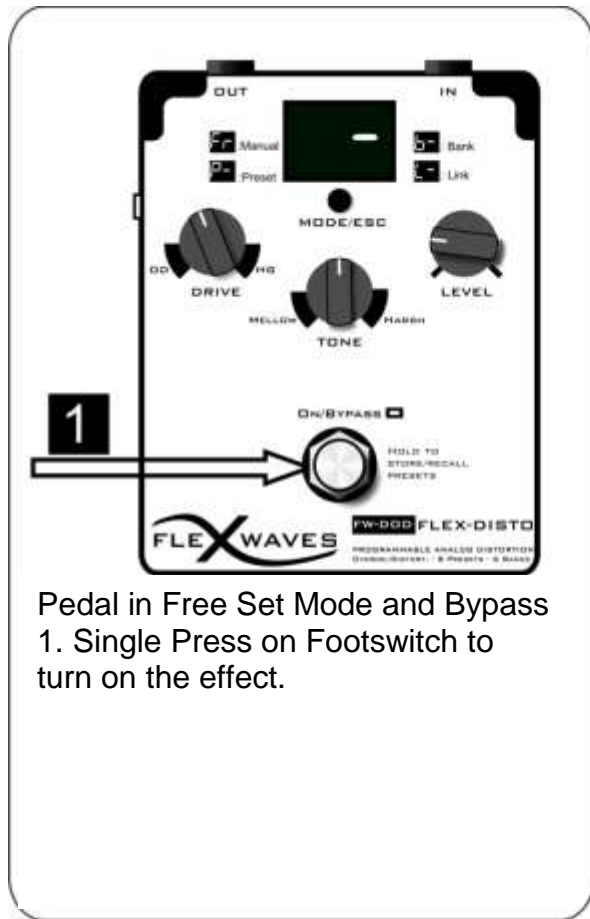
Each “single” press of the On/Bypass footswitch turns the pedal on or off. When the effect is off (' – ' symbol on display), the sound coming in through the IN Jack is True Bypassed to the OUT jack.

When the effect is on and FREE SET Mode (' Fr ' on display) the pedal plays according to the positions of the controls.

1. Turn the Level knob to adjust the output level to feed your amp.
2. Turn the Drive knob to adjust the amount of overdrive/distortion of your sound.
3. Turn the Tone knob to shape your sound with darker or brighter tones.

OPERATION

HOW TO STORE A SOUND



HOW TO STORE A SOUND

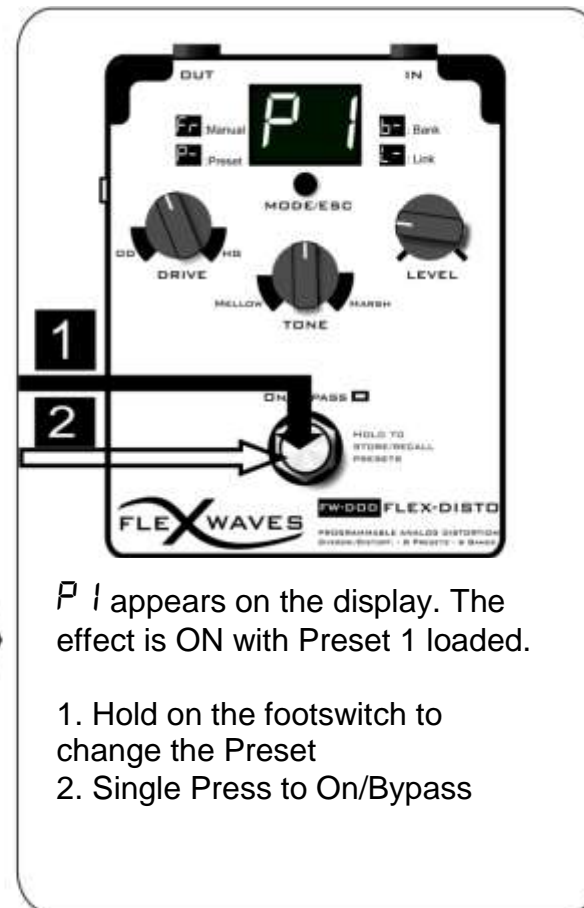
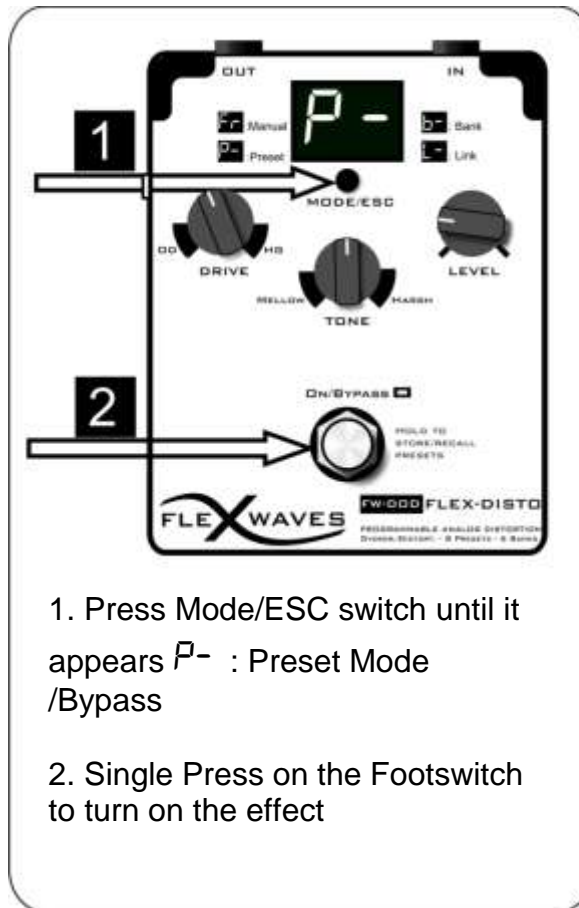
With the FLEX-DISTO you can store the sound settings in presets (8 presets are available) that you can recall in the PRESET MODE. The data retention of the presets is about 20 years¹.

1. **Single Press** of the Footswitch to turn the effect on (Fr on display).
2. Create the sound you want using knobs.
3. **Hold On** the footswitch: on the display appears $\text{S } 1$ with '1' flashing rapidly. $\text{S } 1$ stands for "Saving Preset 1"
4. **Single Press** of the footswitch to select the preset number (numbers from 1 to 8 will appear).
5. **Hold On** the footswitch to store the sound into the selected preset number.
6. It is possible to abort the storing operation pressing MODE/ESC button before the execution of step 4.

¹ Please be aware that all data contained in the unit's memory may be lost when the unit is sent for repairs and that the contents of memory can be irretrievably lost as a result of a malfunction, or the improper operation of the unit.

OPERATION

HOW TO RECALL A PRESET



PRESET MODE

In the Preset Mode the effect plays according to the recalled preset, so the knobs positions don't match the currently recalled values.

Preset Mode is useful to recall previously stored sounds, 8 presets are available and you may step between the 8 presets by keeping pressed the Footswitch On/Bypass. Bypass is still available simply pressing once the same footswitch.

HOW TO RECALL A PRESET

1. Effect in Bypass. Press Mode Switch until you enter in PRESET MODE: $P-$ will appear on the display²
2. **Single Press** of the footswitch to turn ON the Preset 1. $P 1$ appears on display.
3. **Hold ON** the footswitch to change the Preset number. $P 2$ will appear on display.
4. Repeat Step 4 to switch between the 8 available presets.
5. When you recall a preset, **single press** of the footswitch to return in Bypass (switch OFF the effect).

² If the effect was On, $P 1$ will appear on the display. It means that you entered in Preset Mode with Preset 1 loaded

BANK MODE

In Bank Mode the presets can be copied and organized into one of the 6 available Banks:

bA (Bank A), *bb* (Bank B), *bC* (Bank C), *bd* (Bank D), *bE* (Bank E), *bL* (Bank Link). The Link Bank is a reserved bank for the Link Mode feature.

Bank Mode is useful when you have to recall preset in a different order or number than P1..P8. Each Bank has 8 positions that can be programmed with presets. Also the Bypass state (-) can be programmed in the bank positions.

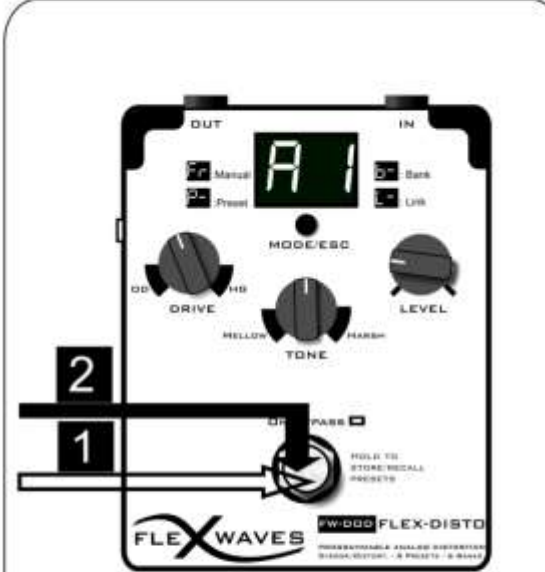
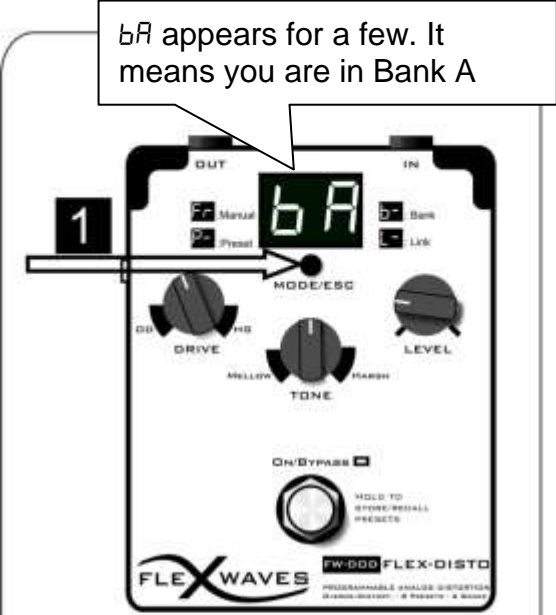
For example assuming that you want to use during a Song A only presets 2,1 and 5 you may prefer not to step through all eight preset 1-8, so you can program the bank A (*bA*) only with P2, P1, P5. The preset inside the *bA* will be recalled in the order P2-P1-P5.

For the Song B you need Preset 8, Preset 4, Bypass, Preset 3, Preset 5, you can program the Bank B (*bb*) with P8, P4, - (Bypass), P3, P5 and so on.

OPERATION

Working with Banks – Play Mode

bA appears for a few. It means you are in Bank A



1. Press Mode/ESC switch until it appears *bA* : Bank Play Mode
bA appears for a few, then it will appear *A1* (default programmed).

A1 appears on the display (default)

1. Single Press on the footswitch to change the bank position
2. Hold On the footswitch to change the Bank

Working with Banks – Play Mode

1. Press Mode Switch until you enter in BANK MODE: *bA* appears on the display for few milliseconds, it means you entered in Bank A.
2. *A 1* (from default configuration) appears on the display, it means you entered in Bank A with Preset 1 loaded.
3. **Single Press** of the footswitch to change the bank position. By *default* the Bank A has been programmed with Preset 1, Preset 2, Preset 3 and Preset 4, so if you continue to single press the footswitch, on the display will appear *A 1, A2, A3, A4*
4. **Hold On** the footswitch to change the Bank, when you reach the desired Bank, release the footswitch.
5. *b5* stands for Bank Save: it is a reserved Bank that lets you enter in **Bank Saving Mode**.

OPERATION

Working with Banks - Save Mode

b5 appears for a few. It means you are in Bank Save

1. From Bank Play Mode, Hold On the footswitch to change the Bank, release it as you reach *b5*.

b5 stands for Bank Save.

bA blinking. Select the Bank.

1. Single Press on the footswitch to change the Bank to program.
2. Hold On the footswitch to confirm the selection.

- blinking. You must select which Preset to store in the first position of Bank A.

5 1 flashes rapidly

1. Single press on the footswitch to change Preset Number (you can hear the Preset sound if you play).
2. Hold On the footswitch to confirm
3. Repeats step 1 and 2 for the other positions. You can choose also - Bypass
4. To terminate the Sequence, select *E* (it stands for Sequence END). To abort press MODE/ESC

Working with Banks – Saving Mode

The **Bank Saving** feature permits you to copy the presets into the bank and to organize your sounds for your gigs, your recording sessions etc.

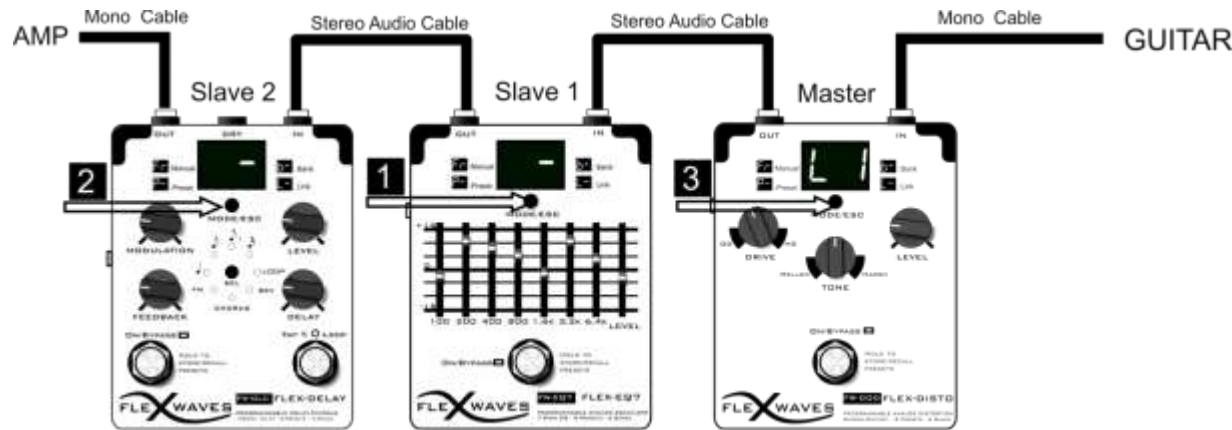
In the example below we will program the Bank D **bd** with the presets 1,5,2,- (bypass)

1. **Hold On** the footswitch to change the Bank and release it when you reach **bS** (Bank Save). You entered in the Bank Saving Mode.
Please note that you can abort the operation pressing the MODE/ESC switch button.
2. **bA** (with **A** flashing) will appear on the display. First thing you should do is to choose the Bank to program.
Single Press of the footswitch to change the bank selection, **Hold ON** the footswitch to confirm the selection.
In this example we will program the Bank D, so press S1 until you reach **bd** (with **d** flashing) and **Hold On** the footswitch to confirm.
3. Next thing you should do is to store the presets in the bank positions.
1- (- flashing) appears on the display. It stands for Position 1 Bypass.
Single Press of the footswitch to change the Preset Number (if you play you can hear the preset sound): - (Bypass), P1..P8 (Preset 1..8), E (sequence END) are the available choices.
4. Select Preset 1 on position 1 (**1 1** with **1** flashing) and **Hold On** the footswitch to confirm it.
5. Now it will appear on the display (**2 -** with **-** flashing), repeat the step 4 to store into the bank the Preset 5, Preset 2 and Bypass.
6. On the display it will appear now **5-** (with **-** flashings), you have to terminate the sequence. **Single Press** of the footswitch until you reach **5E**, E stands for End & Exit, Hold On the footswitch to confirm the sequence end.
7. The pedal automatically exits from Bank Saving Mode and enters in Bank Play Mode, so Bank A with first stored preset will appear on the display.

OPERATION

The Link Mode (FW BALANCED CABLE LINK MODE™)

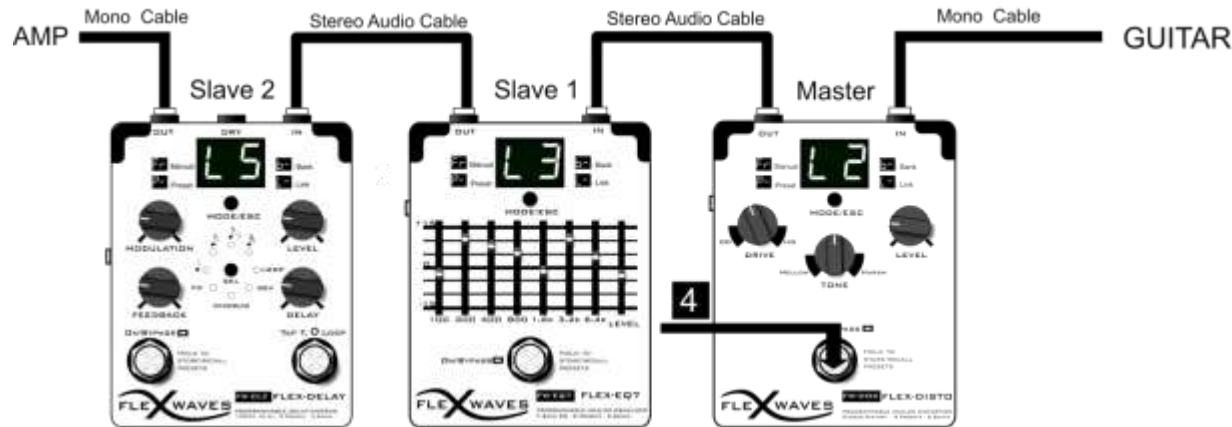
The **FW BALANCED CABLE LINK MODE™** gives you the total control of your sounds using only one footswitch. It's like having a pedalboard.



Program the Link Bank of all the effects (please read Bank Save explanation).

1. Press Mode/Esc switch until you reach Free Set (Manual) Mode on Slave1
2. Press Mode/Esc switch until you reach Free Set (Manual) Mode on Slave 2
3. Press Mode/Esc switch until you reach Link Mode

All the slaves will automatically switch to Link Mode. The Flex Waves pedals will load the Preset Number associated to the first position of the Link Bank.



The first pedal of the chain is the Master and it controls all the Flex Waves pedals of the chain.

4. Single Press on the footswitch of the Master to change the Preset Number associated to the Bank Link in all every pedal of the chain. . If a slave is ON, you can press its ON/Bypass footswitch for bypass.

Total control of your sounds using only one footswitch button.

LINK MODE (FW BALANCED CABLE LINK)

The **FW BALANCED CABLE LINK MODE™** gives you the feature to use the FW Pedals like a pedalboard.

This feature is useful because you can recall the Presets of different FW pedals pressing just the footswitch of the first FW effect. Flex Waves guitar pedals can be connected together by just a balanced/stereo cable (NO MIDI or other controller devices are necessary) .

The first pedal of the chain becomes the Master and it controls the other FW effects (the Slaves).

With all pedals in Link Mode, just pressing the stomp switch S1 of the Master, it will change the preset in Link Bank of the Master AND also the presets of all the Slaves linked together.

Warning

- Link Mode features are only available using Balanced/Stereo Cables to link the pedals. Mono Cables can be used but Link Mode will not be available.
 - The FW pedals must be linked one after the other to use the Link Mode features.
 - For a correct usage of the Link Mode, you need to program the Link Bank of all FW pedals connected.
1. Link the FW Pedals with stereo cables in chain (you can buy them on Flex Waves website www.flexwaves.com)
The first pedal of the chain will become the Master.
 2. Press the MODE/ESC switch on the FIRST SLAVE pedal (the second pedal connected) until you reach Free Set Mode, repeat the operation for all the Slave connected (following the order from the first slave to the last slave).
 3. Press the Mode Switch on the Master (the FIRST pedal of the chain) to enter in Link Mode from Bank Mode. Automatically all the Slave pedals will change their mode to Link Mode.
 4. Press the Stomp Switch S1 of the Master to change Link Bank Preset of the Master, automatically it will change the presets of all linked slaves.
 5. If a slave is ON, you can press its ON/Bypass footswitch for bypass.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- ❖ *Inserting a connecting plug into the INPUT jack will automatically switch the unit on.*
- ❖ *The use of an AC adaptor is recommended as the unit's power consumption is relatively high.*
- ❖ *The Flex-DISTO requires 9V 200mA. Use a regulated power supply with the right polarity to prevent malfunctions or noise related problems.*
- ❖ *To prevent malfunction and/or damage to speakers or other devices, always turn down the volume, and turn off the power on all devices before making any connections.*
- ❖ *Some connection cables contain resistors. When connection cables with resistors are used, the sound level may be extremely low, or impossible to hear. For information on cable specifications, contact the manufacturer of the cable.*
- ❖ *If there are batteries in the unit while an AC adaptor is being used, normal operation will continue should the line voltage be interrupted (power blackout or power cord disconnection).*
- ❖ *Once the connections have been completed, turn on power to your various devices in the order specified. By turning on devices in the wrong order, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to speakers and other devices.*
- ❖ *When powering up: Turn on the power to your guitar amp last.*
- ❖ *When powering down: Turn off the power to your guitar amp first.*
- ❖ *If the power is turned off inappropriately while saving a preset/bank, saved data may be lost.*
- ❖ *Link Mode features are available only connecting the Flex Waves pedals in chain using Stereo Audio cable. Please use the patch cables provided by Flex Waves or similar ones.*
- ❖ *It can happen that turning on the unit or inserting the jack in the input port, the Flex Disto changes its state in Link Mode (L- on display). Press the mode switch to change the Mode.*
- ❖ *As with all true-bypass effects, switching is not perfectly silent. There may be some popping sound when you switch. A popping sound is not an indication that the effect is defective or not working. It is the small drawback to the great improvement in tone that takes place when poorly buffered effects are taken out of the loop (thus made true-bypass).*

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| FW-DOD FLEX-DISTO ³ | |
| Nominal Input Level | -20 dBu |
| Input Impedance | 470 Ohm |
| Nominal Output Level | -20 dBu |
| Output Impedance | 1 k Ω |
| Equivalent Input Noise Level | -120 dBu |
| Input Connector | 1/4" phone jack w. stereo sense |
| Output Connector | 1/4" phone jack w. stereo sense |
| Residual Noise Level | 1 k Ω |
| Power Supply | DC 9 V: Dry Battery 9 V type (6F22/9 V), AC Adaptor |
| Option | AC adaptor |
| Dimensions | 100 (W) x 120 (D) x 55 (H) mm 3.937(W) x 4.724(D)x 2.165(H) inches |
| Weight | 400 g |

³ In the interest of product improvement, the specifications and/or appearance of this unit are subject to change without prior notice.

SPECIFICATIONS

For EU Countries



This product complies with the requirements of EMC Directive 2004/108/EC.

For Canada

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.
Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

For the USA

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE STATEMENT

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.

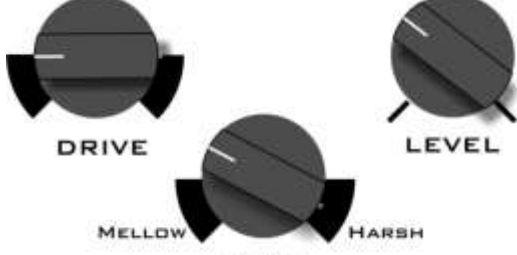
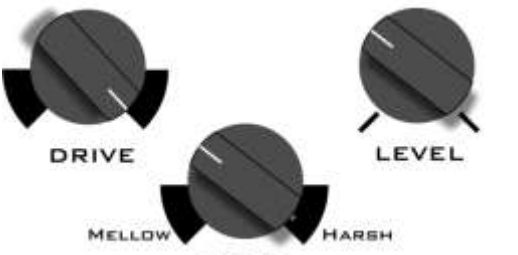
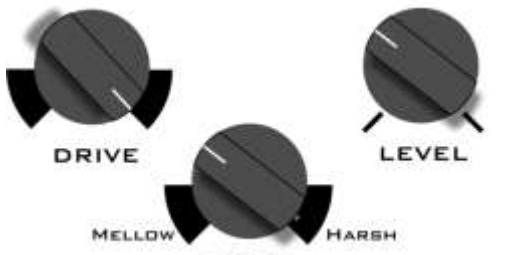
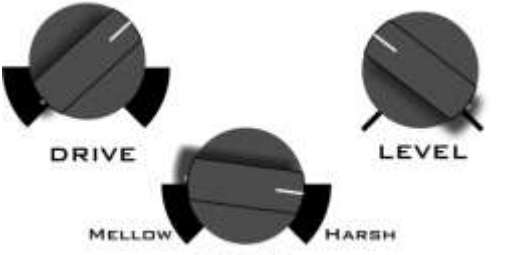
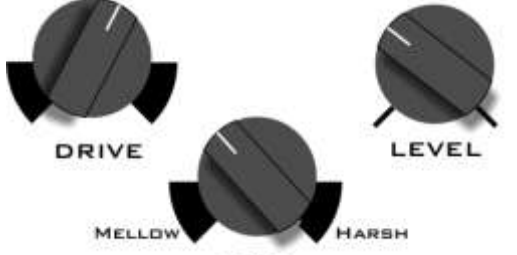
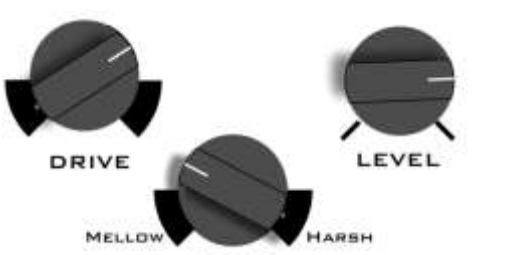
This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Unauthorized changes or modification to this system can void the users authority to operate this equipment.
This equipment requires shielded interface cables in order to meet FCC class B Limit.

PRESETS

The FLEX-DISTO is delivered with the following presets in locations P1 to P6. When storing your own favorite settings, these presets will be overwritten.

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>P1 – BLUES OVERDRIVE</p> |  <p>P2 – HARD ROCK / HEAVY METAL</p> |
|  <p>P3 – MAMA SOUND (SLIDE TONES)</p> |  <p>P4 – HARSH DISTORTION (COUNTRY LEAD)</p> |
|  <p>P5 – LEAD SOUND (MODERN BLUES)</p> |  <p>P6 – INSANE GAIN</p> |

Flex Waves di A.Belletti

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