



KEMPER PROFILING AMPLIFIER

The deeper view & Reference Manual

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Reference Manual

The deeper view

Welcome to the reference part of the KPA documentation. We assume that you have already read the first part of the documentation (“The Basics”) by now, and therefore know your way around the product fairly well. Most of this section is dedicated to the description of all the parameters for the Stomp modules and effects; however, we will also provide additional details about certain aspects of the product and try to give you a deeper understanding of how things work in our amplifier.

Volume

The VOLUME knob on the right side of the lower panel is the individual volume of the currently-selected rig. Note that this parameter does not drive the sound into any power amp distortion, so it will not change the character of the sound, only the volume. The setting is stored with the rig.

- ✓ If you want to modify the overall volume of your Kemper Profiling Amplifier, use the MASTER VOLUME instead.

The KPA is designed so that every profile, distortion or compression will produce approximately the same loudness, thereby avoiding any extreme volume drops or peaks when you browse through the rigs. All the factory rigs come with VOLUME set to the center position, which is the unity or default volume.

If you feel that clean rigs sound softer or louder than distorted rigs, please don't try to fix it by adjusting the volume of the rigs! Instead, you should readjust the “Clean Sens” parameter in the INPUT menu to match your guitar to the KPA.

Try using the VOLUME knob to adjust the level of each rig to suit a particular song in a set list, rather than to balance the level between all the rigs. Be sure to store the rig afterwards, if you want the volume change to be permanent for that specific rig.

Stack Section

The Stack section is the heart of the KPA. It represents the raw virtual guitar amplifier as defined by the profile. Every profile is represented by the 3 modules that make the Stack section.

Amplifier

The AMPLIFIER button calls up a list of parameters that allow you to change the character of the profiled amplifier in numerous ways using the soft knobs.

◆ Definition

The “Definition” parameter controls the characteristic fingerprint of the preamp. The profiling process automatically sets “Definition” to a value that represents the reference amp. You could, for example, use it to modernize the profile of a vintage amp without having to use additional stumps. Alternatively, start with a profile of a modern tube amp, and use “Definition” to give it a more vintage sound when driven into distortion. You can also use “Definition” to align the sound of your guitar to the sound of your amp, if required. Don’t be afraid to keep experimenting until you get the balance that sounds best to you.

Vintage amps distort the lower harmonics in the guitar signal which gives them their *bluesy* sound. These amps were originally designed to deliver a clean sound, so to achieve a creamy distortion, these amps need to be driven by a typical transistor-based device like a treble booster.

Modern tube amps use a different approach, in which the higher overtones of the guitar strings are the driving force for the distorted sound. The expensive *boutique* amps take this concept one step further, by providing an extreme level of top-end frequencies and a large dynamic range. The distortion has a sparkling quality to it, and preserves every nuance of the strings and pickups. Together with the characteristics of the actual speaker, the individual distortion behavior creates the fingerprint that identifies the amplifier.

◆ Power Sagging

“Power Sagging” models the interaction between the guitar signal and the distortion stage. Increase the amount of power sagging to emphasize the velocity and energy of crunch sounds. The guitar sound gains additional energy and presence, without raising the perceived volume of the distorted signal. When you turn “Power Sagging” beyond 50%, you go beyond what can be achieved with an analog tube amp, but without losing any of the natural characteristics of the sound. At full force, power sagging can make sparkling clean notes sound louder than distorted ones, so you can use it to expand the dynamic range of the original sound. With “Power Sagging” set to 0%, the original dynamic range of the profile is maintained.

Power sagging is a phenomenon that occurs when the tubes draw a lot of electric power at high distortion rates, thereby weakening the supply voltage. Under such load, the tubes will change their distortion characteristics and sort of shut down; then as soon as the load lessens, the tubes *catch their breath* again. What might at first seem like a technical limitation of the tube amp design has turned out to be a real benefit for the musical expressivity of the guitarist. The KPA masters this technical behavior without degrading or changing the basic character of the amp model whatsoever.

- The amplifier interacts with the guitarist and reacts to the plectrum and fingers with the highest possible sensitivity.
- The guitar sound gains extra energy and presence, without raising the perceived volume of the distorted signal.
- Muted picking gives better results than usual, as the plectrum will not be suppressed.
- The realms of clean and distorted sounds move closer together, causing the velocity and energy of the crunch sounds to grow. The amp doesn't just distort everything mercilessly - instead, all of the fine nuances are represented faithfully. The overall sound becomes much more alive, with more punch and juice. It almost sounds as if a compressor has been switched off, thereby allowing the guitar to establish itself a lot easier among the other instruments on stage, such as the drums or bass.

As the dynamic range of an analog tube amp is limited by the laws of physics, power sagging can only go to a certain level before the breakdown of supply voltage destroys the beauty of the distortion characteristics. The KPA allows for a much wider dynamic range, while preserving the character of the tubes at the same time.

Turning down the volume knob on the guitar results in a very natural, clean sound with full dynamics and lots of energy.

Power sagging cannot be reproduced using a conventional compressor, but it can be further enhanced with our dedicated compressor circuit. The breathing of the tubes becomes most apparent with dynamically played, semi-distorted or so called *crunch* sounds. With fully distorted sounds the tubes are always under full load, while clean sounds don't put any load on the tubes at all. With sounds such as these, power sagging has only a minor effect.

◆ **Pick**

The “Pick” parameter allows you to control the level and sharpness of the pick attack independently from the sustained portion of the sound. The result is also independent from the amount of distortion. You can use this parameter to make clean sounds even more percussive without having to use a compressor. With fully distorted sounds, you can revive the attack phase of any notes that get drowned in the natural compression caused by distortion. If you set “Pick” to a negative value, it will soften the attack, resulting in a more fluid sound.

◆ **Compressor**

This compressor is different from the stomp compressor, because it is a part of the simulated amp circuit. In other words, it allows for completely different sounds compared to compressors that are inserted before (pre-) or after (post-) the amp section. Distorted signals are not affected by compression, so only clean signals will be boosted. The dynamics of your playing are fully retained, so, purely by the strength of your picking, you can go from a crunchy sound to a compressed, clean sound. The volume knob on your guitar works exactly as you would expect: for instance, reducing the volume of your guitar will transform a dynamic crunch into a clean, compressed sound with full energy.

◆ **Clarity**

“Clarity” changes the sound of the distortion in a new and unique way. Turning the “Clarity” soft knob to the right will bring the clean character of the sound into focus without lowering the amount of distortion. The distortion itself will become less forward in the mid frequencies and sound far more transparent.

◆ Tube Shape

“Tube Shape” controls the distortion characteristics of the tubes, ranging from very soft to very hard. All kinds of crunch sounds can be dialed up, from *warm blues* to *singing metallic* to *harsh*. Depending on the gain setting or the playing style, the resulting effect can be rather subtle; completely distorted sounds are mostly unaffected by this parameter, as are clean sounds. Set the value to 3 o’clock to simulate the typical sound of preamp tubes. To achieve a power amp tube character, try setting “Tube Shape” to 9 o’clock. Power amp tubes produce a much harder distortion, because the negative feedback in the power amp circuit linearizes the tube amplification, making the distortion curve edgier.

◆ Tube Bias

“Tube Bias” influences the overtone structure of the distortion. While the effect on the character of the sound is fairly subtle, you should feel a quite a difference in the distortion dynamics: as you increase the amount of “Tube Bias” the guitar will go into distortion much earlier in the dynamic range, yet still retain a lot of dynamic headroom. At maximum value the distortion characteristics mimic those of a Tube Screamer.

EQ

Holding the EQ button will bring the equalizer into focus. Use the soft knobs to control the frequency bands of the equalizer. We assume that you will have set the equalizer of the reference amp to your preferred setting before profiling. Effectively, the equalizer in the KPA is a recreation of a generic passive tonestack, but it is designed to have more impact on the frequency bands. When all soft knobs are in the middle position, you will hear the unaltered sound of the profile.

Cabinet

The CABINET button brings the cabinet section into focus. You can freely combine cabinets and amps from different profiles to create new stacks. The cabinet has three parameters to tweak its character in an artificial way:

◆ High Shift, Low Shift

Both of these parameters influence the characteristic formants of a cabinet profile, thereby simulating a change in size. “High Shift” will make the higher formants more prominent, whereas “Low Shift” does the same for the lower frequencies.

◆ Character

Use this parameter to change the overall character of the cab. Turning the knob to the right of center will enlarge the peaks and notches in the frequency response curve. This will emphasize the character of the cabinet, and may sound too penetrating at extreme values. Turning it to left of center will smooth the differences between the peaks and notches in the frequency response curve, and flatten the character of the cabinet. Towards the leftmost position, the sound will resemble that of analog cabinet simulations (which often have a very simple frequency response and little character).

Stomp Section

The STOMPS section holds 4 Stomp modules called A, B, C and D which are placed in the signal flow before the amplifier stack. The modules represent your choice of virtual stomp boxes. The STOMPS section is all mono because the amplifier will only accept a mono signal. In difference to that, the X and MOD stomps in the EFFECT section work in stereo, if desired.

The Stomp modules offer you all kinds of effects which are identified by eight different colors that are easy to memorize:

Distortion	Red
Wah	Orange
Chorus	Blue
Phaser & Flanger	Purple
Compressor	Cyan
EQ	Yellow
Delay	Green
Effect Loop	White

Press and hold any STOMP button to bring it into focus. If the stomp is active the display will change its color to match the effect. The soft knobs will display the parameters available to edit.

There are two ways to choose a new effect: either turn the BROWSE knob to select a new local effect preset, or turn TYPE, to change the basic algorithm of the module.

Many parameters are common to several different effects, such as “Mix”, “Volume”, “Rate” - to name just a few. When you change the algorithm of an effect using the TYPE knob, the values of these mutual parameters will not be changed. This allows for effect types that share a mutual parameter set to keep these values. For example, you can create a great flanger effect with your desired rate and depth setting. Then

select the phaser by turning TYPE to check the same settings with the phaser algorithm, that is somewhat relative to the flanger. Some generic parameters, common to most of the stomp effects, are:

◆ Mix

Controls the amount of effect in the signal. At the default setting of 100% you get the most intense effect. With some effects, such as Wah or Compressor – only the effect signal is audible at the 100% position to give the strongest effect. With other effects, typically modulation effects like flanger or phaser, the dry signal is still in the mix for maximum interference with the effect signal.

When MIX is at 0% you will hear no effect. The MIX control is scaled to perfection individually per effect, so there is no volume drop or boost at the 50% position. Some effects, such as the Air Chorus, don't offer a MIX control, as this would contradict the character of the effect.

◆ Volume

The “Volume” control allows you to change the gain for driving the next distortion stage. The output volume of the stomp effect can be boosted, or attenuated, by +/-24 dB, which is much more than in the real world. This will reduce the need to switch to a different rig, if all you need to do is boost a solo sound; just dial the stomp effect that you need for the solo and boost the Volume control. By activating this stomp you engage the effect and the boost at the same time.

◆ Stereo

The “Stereo” parameter is only available for the X and MOD modules in the EFFECTS section. It controls the stereo intensity of these effects. With modulation effects this is done by offsetting the LFO modulation phases of the left and right side. For other effects parameters, such as filters, frequencies are shifted in opposite directions for the left and right sides. That way, even the Wah Wah can create a stereo effect, when dialed up in the effects section!

The recommended value for most effects is +50% (or +90°), which will often produce the nicest stereo image. At the middle zero position the effect will be fully mono. With negative values you will get the same

stereo effects as with positive values, but the left and right sides are reversed. With extreme settings of the stereo parameter, you can exaggerate the stereo width.

Wah Stomps

The *Wah* effects are a versatile collection of different effects, that can all be controlled by a Wah pedal. Alternatively, you can switch from Pedal Mode to Touch Mode and control the effect using your picking strength.

Wah Wah	This is the classic Wah pedal effect. By modifying the “Peak” parameter you can achieve different Wah characteristics.
Wah Low Pass	An alternative Wah pedal effect derived from the Access Virus synthesizer. It’s a 4-pole lowpass filter, with the “Peak” parameter emphasizing the filter resonance.
Wah High Pass	Similar to the Low Pass Wah, but it will cut the low end of your guitar sound when you move the pedal up.
Wah Vowel	A vowel filter, that simulates a talkbox effect. The vowels are extended to a broader range compared to existing vowel filters, as it includes some european vowels as well. The range is: U O Â A Ä E I Ü Ü Ö OE O U - Choose the desired range using the “Manual” and “Range” parameters.
Wah Phaser	A huge phaser effect that you can control using the Wah pedal. The Wah Phaser is derived from the regular phaser effect, that is described in detail later. In addition to the common Wah parameter it has inherited two additional parameters from the regular phaser: “Stages” and “Peak Spread”.
Wah Comb Filter	The Comb Filter is a special version of the flanger, based on a delay with feedback, that creates a pitched resonance or ringing effect. Use the “Manual” parameter, or the pedal, to control the delay time, or pitch. Use the “Peak” parameter to control the intensity of the resonance.

✓ At the lowest pitch, or longest delay, it will resonate on an E major chord.

The Wah Parameters

◆ Manual

This is the base value for the Wah effect. It determines the zero or *heel* position of the pedal. When “Pedal Mode” is set to off, “Manual” controls the static pedal position.

◆ Peak

This parameter controls the intensity of the effect. The actual choice of the physical parameter depends on the effect type: for Wah Wah, and other filter effects, the “Peak” control varies the Q-factor or resonance of the filters. On other effects it controls the feedback of the effect, which is quite similar to Q-factor or resonance.

◆ Pedal Range

This parameter determines the maximum impact of the pedal, as an offset to the value selected for the “Manual” parameter. Negative values of “Range” will reverse the swell direction of the pedal or touch effect, so the effect will go down, when you push the pedal forward.

◆ Peak Range

Determines to what extent the position of the pedal influences the “Peak” intensity. Many original wah pedals have a dependency between the pedal position and the Q-Factor of the wah filter. This can be controlled by “Peak Range”.

◆ Pedal Mode

Selects how the Wah effect responds to the Wah pedal, or to touch response.

Off	The pedal has no effect. The effect will be static, and can still be controlled by the “Manual” soft knob.
Touch	Uses the picking strength to control the effect, as described below.
On	The Wah pedal is active. Control the impact of the pedal by the “Range” parameter.
Bypass @ Stop	The Wah pedal is active. The stomp effect will be smoothly faded in when you start moving the pedal, and smoothly faded out when you stop moving it.
Bypass @ Heel	The Wah pedal is active. The stomp effect will smoothly fade out when you park the pedal at the heel position.
Bypass @ Toe	The Wah pedal is active. The stomp effect will smoothly fade out when you park the pedal at the toe position.

◆ Touch

This mode resembles the classic *Touch Wah* behavior, where the depth of modulation is controlled by the picking strength, and is available for all Wah effects. As with the regular Wah pedal, the “Range” parameter controls the intensity of the Touch effect.

When “Touch” is engaged, three more parameters are added to the effect, that you can access by pressing the right Page button:

Touch Attack	Controls the speed of reaction to the guitar attack.
Touch Release	Determines the rate at which the effect falls back to its rest position.
Touch Boost	Use this to extend the scale of the Range parameter. You will also notice, when “Range” is low, but “Touch Boost” is high, you can push the intensity up to a ceiling, that can be useful for certain effects.

Compressor

A compressor for guitar is mostly used for clean sounds, as the strings of the guitar decay pretty fast. On distorted sounds, the distortion itself adds compression as a side-effect; this means the compressor could even be in the way, as additional compression will kill the dynamics and touch-sensitivity of the distortion. Still, there is always the nice trick of compressing the guitar to the max, then gently driving it just into the distortion of the amplifier, so that every tone of the guitar gets the same decent amount of distortion.

Clean sounds benefit from compression, as it helps to lengthen the sustain of the strings. Another typical application is to emphasize the attack of the picked strings with the attack time parameter. In the KPA you should use the “Pick” parameter in the AMPLIFIER module to achieve this effect. It has been optimized for controlling the energy of your pick, and does this job much better than a regular compressor.

The Stomp Compressor is a faithful recreation of a vintage stomp compressor. We also added a new parameter, called “Squash”, to make our compressor even more versatile.

There is no immediate need to readjust the compressor’s volume on clean sounds, as its volume is automatically adjusted to the unity volume of the rig.

◆ Intensity

Controls the amount of compression applied to your instrument. At zero position there is no compression. In the first half of the Intensity range the effect will be fairly subtle, as the compressor will only cut the loud attacks of your instrument. Then, as you increase “Intensity” past halfway, you will start to hear the soft notes getting boosted as well.

◆ Attack

Adjusts the reaction time of the compressor. The higher the “Attack” value, the longer it takes for the compressor to kick in. This will let the first peak of the signal pass unaffected when you hit a string, thus increasing the percussiveness of your pick.

◆ Squash

This gives you control over the dynamic behavior of the compression. At the center position the compressor will work as you expect. When you turn “Squash” towards zero, the compressor will emphasize the first phase of the strings’ decay, resulting in less “squash”. When you turn it more to the right, the first phase of the strings’ decay gets squashed, and the volume sags. You will notice that the compressor recovers from squashing when you let the strings decay further - even boosting the sound a little, compared to when you hit the strings. Now, the compressor becomes really noticeable!

“Squash” does not change the compression ratio. The compression ratio is always infinite on vintage stomp compressors.

Distortion Stomps

The KPA offers a variety of distortion stomps that have been modeled on vintage guitar distortion pedals. Every one of these classic pedals is famous for its distinctive character, and has been exploited by some of the greatest guitar heroes of all time. We have carefully modeled the distortion curves and tonal characteristics of these legendary effects, including the original tone controls.

◆ Drive

Use this to boost the gain of the signal as it comes into the distortion stage - the higher the gain, the more distorted the sound.

◆ Tone

Some of the original distortion pedals that inspired this collection are equipped with tone controls.

Green Scream	The sound of this one just screams 'tubes' - a very special kind of overdrive which results in a wonderful, smoky tone. Good for achieving a subtle distortion effect whilst still retaining headroom for dynamics.	Use the Tone control to soften the sound with a lowpass filter.
Plus DS	A more extreme distortion.	Like in the original, this does not feature a Tone control.
One DS	The 'orange' one. A very harsh distortion, popular with the grunge movement.	The bipolar Tone control allows for great versatility by combining both a low pass and a high pass filter - turn it down for a warm, dark tone, and up for a harsh, brittle sound.
Muffin	A big distortion effect famous for its fuzzy character.	This effect uses a dual filter array, similar to One DS. Use lower values to soften the sound with a low pass filter, and higher values for a brighter, thinner sound.
Mouse DS	A clear, powerful distortion that's perfect for making leads cut right through the mix.	Use the Tone control to soften the sound with a lowpass filter.
Fuzz DS	A classic "fuzzbox" overdrive.	No tone control, just in-your-face fuzz.
Metal DS	A sharp-sounding, high-gain distortion, optimized for metal music.	Use the 3-band EQ to shape the tone.

◆ Treble Booster

A classic sound-shaping stomp pedal, that doesn't feature a built-in distortion. Instead, the Treble Booster is made to shape the high frequencies of your guitar so that they improve the distortion as well as making it more transparent, especially when being used with old amplifier models that were not originally designed for distortion. Use the "Tone" control to shape your sound.

Before you reach for the Treble Booster, please try the "Definition" parameter in the AMPLIFIER menu first. This will also modify the distortion result, but directly in the profile, and with less changes to the residual frequency response.

◆ **Lead Booster**

This is a tunable peak filter that can emphasize specific frequencies of your guitar. Set the desired sound by using the “Tone” control. The Lead Booster can neutralize the Treble Booster to a certain extent, when they are used together in the STOMPS section.

◆ **Pedal Booster**

With the Pedal Booster you can use the Wah Pedal to control volume, instead of having to use a dedicated volume pedal. The parameters are the same as for the “Volume Pedal” parameter in the RIG menu.

Modulation Stomps

Vintage Chorus

The Vintage Chorus is an emulation of the 70's chorus technology based on *bucket brigades*, which can be considered a predecessor of today's digital sampling technology. The Vintage Chorus not only covers the exact sound of the famous Chorus Ensemble but also many other models of that era which were based on the same basic circuitry.

You may notice the somewhat dull sound of the effect signal; this is due to the limited sample-rate of the bucket brigade. When this signal is mixed to the direct sound, it will result in a very warm chorus sound, because the overall signal gets a low and mid frequency boost. When you place the Vintage Chorus in the STOMPS section before the amp, you will achieve the well-known, mono modulation effect. When placed in the EFFECTS section, the Vintage Chorus will sound more lush with less modulation, since it works in stereo. This is because there is a separate chorus for the left and right sides, modulating in opposite ways. If you prefer the original mono sound, set the "Stereo" parameter to the middle position.

- ✓ Note: If you happen to own an original chorus unit from the analog era, you may notice that our choruses don't feature a volume boost when you switch them on. This is because our philosophy is to always maintain the same volume level, no matter whether effects are being used or not. This makes it easier for you to choose the best effect purely by its character, and not to favor one effect over another simply because it sounds louder. Of course, if you still want the volume boost, you can always use the "Volume" parameter for this.

◆ Rate

Use the "Rate" parameter to adjust the speed of the chorus modulation.

◆ Depth

Use the "Depth" parameter to adjust the intensity of the chorus modulation.

- ✓ Tip: For the original Chorus Ensemble sound leave the “Depth” parameter at exact middle position and use the “Rate” parameter to create your favorite sound - the original devices did not have a depth control.

◆ X-Over

Each of the chorus algorithms feature the “X-Over” (crossover) parameter. By raising the value of “X-Over” you can protect the lower frequencies from being influenced by the chorus modulation, thus giving the sound a stable bottom end. This feature was inspired by specialized bass chorus units; we found, however, that this type of crossover control is not merely an advantage for bass sounds - it is suitable for shaping any sound.

Hyper Chorus

The Hyper Chorus is probably one of the most complex choruses ever made; it is a six-voice chorus with up to three delay lines for both the left and right sides. Despite this, it is staggeringly simple to use, as you only need adjust the “Depth” parameter to achieve a huge, warm sound.

◆ Depth

By adjusting “Depth”, you change the amount of detune and fatness that the chorus adds to the signal - everything else is perfectly adjusted to give you the lushest chorus sound with no further tweaking necessary. You can even choose very small amounts of detune without the typical comb filter effect of a regular chorus. When you bring “Depth” down to zero, the chorus effect completely goes away, even with the “Mix” parameter at full position.

◆ Amount

If the full sound becomes too complex, you have the option to continuously reduce the amount of delay lines. You can smoothly fade the numbers of delay lines from one to three on each stereo side. So yes, even 1.5 choruses are possible: this simply means one chorus is at full volume, the other is at half.

◆ X-Over

Increase the value of the “X-Over” parameter to prevent the chorus effect from modulating the lower frequencies of the input signal.

Air Chorus

The Air Chorus is a subtle kind of chorus, as it doesn't mix the direct sound with the processed signal; instead, it modulates the pitch of the left and right sides of the signal independently from each other. The resulting chorus sound happens in the air between the speakers, where both signals are added together - hence the name. This is actually how the famous Jazz Chorus amplifier works.

◆ Depth

In most circumstances, as with the Hyper Chorus, the “Depth” control will be the only control you need for achieving the sound you want. Higher values will give you a noticeable but delicate chorus, whilst lower values will create a subtle stereo-widening of the soundstage, but without the typical *beating* effect you often get with a chorus.

◆ X-Over

The “X-Over” parameter enables you to position the bass and middle frequencies of your signal to a stable mono position between your speakers, while the highs still float around.

Vibrato

The Vibrato effect modulates the pitch of the sound using a sine modulation.

◆ Rate

Use the “Rate” parameter to adjust the speed of the modulation.

◆ Depth

Use the “Depth” parameter to adjust the intensity of the modulation.

◆ X-Over

Use the “X-Over” parameter to blend out the vibrato effect for the lower frequencies of the signal. This will result in an old-school modulation effect, quite similar to a scanner vibrato of a Hammond organ.

Rotary Speaker

The Rotary Speaker chorus type is a faithful recreation of the sound produced by the legendary Leslie speaker - best known for the classic effect it has on the sound of the Hammond organ. The Leslie speaker modulates the sound by rotating both the bass speaker drum and the tweeter horn inside a cabinet - but, crucially, they are rotated at different speeds from each other. The result is a complex example of the Doppler effect, and the way it affects the sound is magical - something rather like combined vibrato, tremolo and chorus.

Our Rotary Speaker effect won't color the sound; instead, the coloration will come from the amp cabinet profile. By engaging the Rotary Speaker on an amp and cabinet sound that you like, you turn your cabinet into a rotary cabinet, while maintaining the character of your amp.

Interestingly, you can actually profile your own rotary cabinet. If you get the chance to have a real rotary speaker in your studio, as long as you can connect line or guitar signals, you can take a profile of it. Please refer to the Profiling Guide for further instructions. Of course, the KPA already comes with rotary speaker profiles and rigs that we have captured from the real thing.

◆ Speed

Use the “Rate” parameter to switch between Slow and Fast rotation. You will notice that the change in rotation speed is not immediate, thus recreating the acceleration and deceleration of the rotating speakers in the original.

◆ Stereo

Use the “Stereo” parameter to adjust the angle of the two virtual microphones relative to the speakers. If you want the effect to be mono, set the Angle to 0° (center position). Negative values will reverse the rotation direction. Only the high rotor is tapped by two microphones, the low rotor is mono with one microphone – a regular practice of recording a rotary speaker, whether live or in a studio.

◆ Low/High Balance

Use the “High/Low Balance” parameter to adjust the balance between the outputs of the bass rotor and the tweeter horn. Lower values result in a sound that is darker and duller, while higher values will result in a brighter, thinner sound. For a faithful emulation of the classic Leslie sound, leave the parameter set to the center position.

◆ Distance

Use the “Distance” parameter to adjust the distance of the microphones from the cabinet from 4cm up to 50cm. The closer the microphones, the more intense the amplitude modulation (tremolo) will be. At the maximum setting there is no noticeable amplitude modulation.

◆ Mix

Use the “Mix” parameter to adjust the balance between the input signal and the output of the Rotary Speaker effect. For an authentic sound, this is best left at 100%, but it can be very useful if you want to achieve less conventional sounds.

Phaser

Our Phaser is a huge filter bank comprising up to 12 filter stages for each stereo side.

✓ Note: There is a similar phaser in the group of Wah effects, that can be controlled by the wah pedal.

◆ Rate

Determines the rate or speed of the Phaser modulation. When the Tempo is engaged, the rate will be displayed in musical values.

◆ Depth

Determines the modulation depth of the Phaser in relation to the “Manual” value.

◆ Manual

This parameter defines the center frequency for the modulation - in other words, it is around this frequency that the Phaser will sweep. With “Depth” set to zero, you can use “Manual” to create a constant, or static, Phaser sound.

◆ Feedback

Intensifies the Phaser effect as peaks get higher and notches get lower.

◆ Peak Spread

You cannot find this parameter in any vintage phaser, because it would have been too expensive to realize in the analog domain. With “Peak Spread” you can control the spread and width of the phaser peaks and notches in the frequency domain over a wide range. At a narrow setting (more to the left), you can hear the phaser peaks being focused to a narrow field. At a wider spread the phaser seems de-coupled, and dominates the whole sound spectrum.

◆ Stages

You can select the number of phaser stages from 2 to 12, in steps of two. The more stages you select, the more complex and diffuse the phaser sound becomes.

◆ Stereo

Offsets the phaser modulation of the left and right signals. With extreme left or right settings, the modulation will go in opposite ways. At the middle position (zero), the phaser will be mono. Use small deviations to the left or right of zero to achieve a gentle stereo effect.

Flanger

The Flanger effect shares the same heritage as the Phaser, and the resulting sound is somewhat related, too. This is why we put both in the same effect family with color code Magenta (Purple). However, the Flanger is not based on analog filter technology, but on very short bucket-brigade delays.

The parameter set for the Flanger is almost the same as on the Phaser; only the parameters “Peak Spread” and “Stages” are not available.

Thanks to the overlapping parameter set, you can switch back and forth between Phaser and Flanger without altering the basic parameter values.

- ✓ Note: You can find a similar flanger, called *Comb Filter*, in the group of Wah effects, that can be controlled by the wah pedal.

Equalizer Stomps

This group of Stomp effects offers you a nice selection of high-quality equalizers. They can be placed either before or after the stack section, as each configuration has a different impact on the sound.

The “Mix” parameter is common to all the equalizers, and controls the impact of all the EQ bands combined.

Graphic Equalizer

An 8-band, octave equalizer, with fixed frequency bands ranging from 80Hz to 10KHz. Very often, this will prove to be the easiest way to control the frequency spectrum of your sound.

Each band can be boosted or attenuated by 12dB. You can control the mix of the original and the equalized sound by using the “Mix” soft knob.

Studio Equalizer

The Studio Equalizer is a full, 4-band parametric equalizer, similar to those found in professional mixing desks or digital workstations. It offers one lowshelf, one highshelf and two peak equalizer bands. All four bands have adjustable frequency, and the two peak EQ bands come with adjustable bandwidth or Q-factor.

Metal Equalizer

This can be thought of as the little brother of the Studio Equalizer. It’s a 3-band, half-parametric EQ, inspired by the equalizer of the Boss Metal-Zone stomp (you can find a model of this among our stomp distortions).

The Metal Equalizer is perfect for creating the mid-scoop that characterizes the typical metal sound, but since it is also a regular equalizer, it is also suitable for many other sounds and genres.

Stereo Widener

Not an equalizer in the traditional sense, but it does use equalisation to work its magic. By emphasizing certain frequencies on one stereo side, while attenuating them on the other, it creates a subtle stereo effect. This is done symmetrically, so that when the signal is summed to mono, the effect is completely canceled out with no coloration to the sound.

Use “Intensity” to control the impact to the sound. At higher values of “Intensity” you can actually drive the sound out of phase; this is not a problem, however, as the sound still stays mono compatible.

With “Tune”, you can tweak the effect to your taste by shifting the focus towards lower or higher frequencies.

Effect Loops

The Kemper Profiling Amplifier offers a hardware effects loop, represented by the DIRECT OUT/SEND jack and the RETURN jack on the back side of the amp. These are actually the same jacks that you use for profiling. You can apply the hardware effect loop in any of the STOMP modules or in X or MOD in the EFFECTS section. As you might have guessed, you cannot use the hardware effects loop in more than one location of the signal flow. So if you try to engage the loop at more than one location, the first loop in the signal flow will win!

In the X or MOD sections you can even choose an effect loop with a stereo return (Stereo Loop). In this case, the ALTERNATIVE input will work as the right input.

The Distortion Loop is made for connecting distortion pedals to the KPA, and is only in mono. The feature unique to this loop, is that any volume boost of a preceding effect will be applied to the send jack, thus driving the distortion pedal. This is actually what you would expect, anyway.

The regular Mono Loop and do this differently: here, the volume boost of a preceding effect will be applied after the return of the loop. The send level will be unaffected, so the connected effect will not be overdriven. The regular Mono Loop and Stereo Loop are suitable for all non-distorting effects.

Effects

Delay

The Profiling Amplifier provides three types of delays, each of which can be found in the DELAY module on the right hand side of the panel:

Tap Delay	The delay time is linked to the tempo as selected in RIG settings, or by the TAP tempo button.
Free Delay	Delay time is freely adjustable in milliseconds, and is independent from the TAP tempo. The delay time can be changed transparently, with no audible artifacts, which is also true for the tap delay.
Analog Delay	Delay time is adjustable in milliseconds, like in the free delay. However, adjusting the delay time will create those crazy pitch shifts or Doppler effects, known from the good ol' bucket brigade delays.

Beside these differences, all three delay types work in the same way, and offer easy ways to create mono or stereo (ping pong) delays. Only the left delay tap will feed its signal back to both delay taps; this simplification will help you to create great rhythmic delay patterns without increasing the density of the sound.

We use a specially designed bandpass filter to control the loss of high and low frequencies with every delay tap, from the softest natural decay up to an artificial tone shaping.

At high “Feedback” settings you get a tape delay sound, complete with infinite oscillation and tape-saturation effect. For the tape delay saturation we use the softest saturation algorithm possible. The modulation will even give a mono delay a full stereo width, creating an airy effect on stereo delays, and adding wow and flutter to a typical tape delay sound. All this will happen separately, or simultaneously, when you use the following parameters:

◆ Mix

Determines the volume of the delay signal relative to the direct signal. It works like a send control on a mixing desk. At three quarters of the range, the delay signal is as loud as the direct signal; beyond this point it will start to attenuate the dry signal. Eventually, with “Mix” turned all the way to the right, you will only hear the pure, delayed signal.

✓ “Delay Mix” is always accessible via the row of knobs in the upper half of the panel.

◆ Tap Left & Tap Right

(Only in Tap Delay). These two parameters set the delay time of the left and right delay taps in musical values, creating a nice little delay pattern. Setting both taps to the same value will produce a mono delay, while different values will create a ping-pong delay. Only the left delay will feed its signal back to both taps, so it’s a good idea to set the left to a bigger value than the right; this will result in a true ping-pong effect. Swapping the values will result in a different pattern. The settings are mostly in multiples of a 16th notes, including odd values like 5/16 or 7/16. To create more complex and interesting rhythm patterns, try using a mix of odd and even values.

✓ To create swing or shuffle rhythms, try using the triplet values.

◆ Delay Time & Delay Ratio

(Only in Free Delay and Analog Delay). The “Delay Time” is set in milliseconds. The “Delay Ratio” determines the ratio of different delay times between the left and right delay taps. The “Delay Time” always represents the longer delay tap, the other “Delay Time” is just a divider of the displayed time. As with the Tap Delay, the feedback is only taken from the left delay tap; thus, swapping the ratio of the left and right delay tap will not only reverse the stereo sides, but also produce a different rhythm pattern.

◆ Feedback

“Feedback” determines how much of the delayed signal is fed back into the delay to be repeated again.

When “Feedback” is at zero, there will only be one audible repeat. As you increase the feedback, the number of repeats increase until, at 100% (center position), the delayed signal will continue repeating infinitely. As you push the values above 100% the delay is slowly driven into the tape saturation. You will notice that the first values above 100% have a very fine resolution - this allows for very subtle control over the amount of tape saturation.

✓ “Delay Feedback” can be controlled with the dedicated knob in the upper half of the panel.

◆ **Bandwidth**

This parameter gives you access to the delay’s bandpass filter mentioned above. When set to zero, there is no sound coloration whatsoever. Increasing the parameter will narrow the bandwidth - at first you will notice a gentle attenuation of the high frequencies, that will cumulate with every delay repetition. As you narrow the bandwidth a bit more, the same will happen to the bass frequencies. When you turn “Bandwidth” beyond the center position, you can clearly hear the character of the bandpass filter: after just a few repetitions the center frequency of the filter will resonate more and more.

◆ **Center Frequency**

This parameter lets you adjust the center frequency of the bandpass filter. You will find a nice, standard value at the center position, perfect for most applications. However, when “Bandwidth” and “Feedback” are set to higher values, the center frequency becomes clearly audible, creating a distinct, musical tone that you might want to tune to your music. This is why the “Center Frequency” is not only labeled in hertz, but also in musical semi-tones that can be precisely adjusted!

◆ **Modulation**

This parameter will add slight deviations to the left and right delay independently, creating a nice stereo effect and de-coupling the delay from the dry signal. With higher values you will create a wow and flutter effect, typical of a tape delay.

◆ Volume

For regular delay applications you should leave delay “Volume” at the center position, as the volume of the delay is usually controlled by the “Mix” parameter. However, when “Feedback” is above 100%, the delay’s volume increases with each repetition, until it’s caught and compressed by the tape saturation. In this state, the delay has turned into a sound generator - the level of which cannot be controlled by the “Mix” parameter any more. In this case, the delay “Volume” parameter will give you instant control of the overall delay level.

Reverb

Our reverb offers studio-quality algorithms and works closely with the delay effect. It comes with 5 different types that allow you to determine the room size, ranging from *Matchbox* to *Large Hall*.

◆ Mix

Reverb “Mix” works exactly like the delay “Mix” parameter, and can be controlled with the dedicated knob in the upper half of the panel.

◆ Delay/Reverb Balance

“Delay/Reverb Balance” is a unique parameter that allows continuous control over the routing of the delay and reverb. For this parameter to work as expected, you will need to have both delay and reverb “Mix” set to a value other than zero.

At the center position, the delay and reverb are simply set in a serial configuration; this means the reverb comes after the delay, and both the dry and delay signals are fed in equal amounts to the reverb. This is pretty much what you would expect in the first place.

Now, when you turn “Delay/Reverb Balance” more to the left, you will notice that the delay reflections will vanish from the reverb; at fully left position, only the dry portion of the delay gets reverberated. Now, the

delay and reverb are working in a parallel configuration. You will hear delay reflections and a reverb tail, but the delay signal doesn't feed the reverb.

As you turn the "Delay/Reverb Balance" more to the right, the opposite happens: the delay reflections keep their reverb tail, but the dry signal loses its reverberation and becomes completely dry. This will emphasize your instrument, as the reverb will not appear until after first delay reflection.

With "Delay/Reverb Balance" set all the way to the right, you can also get an interesting fourth configuration: set reverb "Mix" set to maximum, and instead of hearing a repeating relay reflection, you hear a repeating reverb tail. These reverb repeats can then be controlled by delay "Feedback" and "Time". So, in this configuration, the delay module becomes a pre-delay to the reverb, offering all the features of the delay such as feedback or tap tempo.

- ✓ Please note: Since the reverb offers a pre-delay parameter of its own, it is a good idea to set it to zero in this configuration, so it won't offset the timing of the reverb tails.

◆ Time

Determines the decay time of the reverb, from very short to infinite. While the different room sizes of the reverb types determine the density of the reverb reflections, reverb "Time" is a sort of feedback parameter for them. Unlike other digital reverbs, our reverb time does not change with the room size. This makes it easier to choose the appropriate room size by character alone.

◆ Pre-delay

In a natural reverb there is a silent time-period between the dry signal and the first reverb reflection. You can adjust the length of that period using the "Pre-Delay" parameter. Generally speaking, you should use a short pre-delay for small rooms and a longer one for large rooms. Increasing the pre-delay on short reverbs can give the impression of a bigger room. Also, a long pre-delay will separate the dry signal from the wet, thus making it sounding more direct, but without losing the room character.

The KPA offers an unusually long pre-delay. You can even try to match it to a musical timing, such as an 1/8th note. If you like this idea, you should actually set Pre-delay back to zero and use the Delay effect for that purpose. The way this works is described in the Delay/Reverb Balance parameter section above.

◆ Damping

The reverb tail of a natural room gets darker over time because the high frequencies decay faster than the lower frequencies. As sound waves travel through the air, the oscillation of the air causes friction that attenuates the sound as it travels; because high frequencies oscillate faster, they cause more friction per time, resulting in a faster attenuation. This effect is simulated by the “Damping” parameter. With zero damping, the reverb sounds somewhat artificial, so you should consider this parameter to be as important as “Reverb Time”.

◆ Bandwidth & Center Frequency

You may have seen this before: that’s because this is the same, special bandpass filter as in the delay. In this case, however, the filter will not change the color of the sound over time (this is the job of the “Damping” parameter), but instead create a constant coloration for the Reverb. Use “Bandwidth” to narrow the frequency response of the reverb from soft to artificial. Adjusting “Center Frequency” will change the main focus of the coloration from low to high frequencies. Again, you can set the frequency to a specific musical note. The reverb will resonate around this note when you set “Bandwidth” to higher values.

Rig

This button is used to access all rig-related parameters that are not covered by the knobs on the front panel.

Tempo

The “Tempo enable” soft button enables or disables the tempo for a rig. When tempo is disabled, all tempo-related values in the KPA fall back to a default tempo of 120 BPM and the values are displayed in milliseconds and hertz. The “Tempo” soft knob sets the tempo in beats per minute.

Tagging

“Edit Tag” enters the tagging mode. Since the KPA can literally store thousands of rigs, and organize them in several ways, it is crucial to tag them. Several tags are automatically assigned when you create a new rig; these are based on the information you provided when you first switch on your KPA, such as your name, the date and the time. In addition to the “Tag” button in the RIG menu, we also provide a soft button in the AMPLIFIER and CABINET edit menus for entering tags.

You can create additional tags for the brand and model of amp that you profiled, the location where the profiling took place, as well as other things, such as the microphones you used, or the type of pickup the sound was optimized for, etc.

You don’t have to fill in all of the tags, but the more you do, the easier it will be to find a specific rig later on. To use the tagging function you simply navigate through the list of available tags using the soft knob “Scroll”, or press the “Edit” soft button to enter a name.

Use the page buttons to navigate through the text, and then select a character using the soft knob “ABC” to switch between upper and lower case.

Character	Use the “Character” soft knob to select a character
Insert	Use the soft button “Insert” to insert a space to the left of the currently selected character.
Delete	The soft button “Delete” clears the currently selected character and closes the gap.
Done	When you finished inputting the text, press the soft button “Done” to complete the procedure.

Snapshots

Back in the RIG page, the soft button “Browse Snapshots” allows you to browse snapshots with the BROWSE knob.

Snapshots are backups of entire rigs, and are automatically generated for everything that would otherwise be lost. For instance, a snapshot is created when you store over an existing rig. This way, you can go back to what you’ve overwritten, at any point in time. You can also take snapshots manually by using the soft button “Store Snapshot” in the regular play screen.

After pressing “Browse” you can use the soft button “Delete” to delete a selected snapshot, and the soft button “Load” to load a selected snapshot.

On the next page of the RIG menu, you can determine the location of the volume pedal to be pre-stomps, post-stomps, pre-effects or post-effects as well as set the range of the pedal.

Pedals

The Kemper Profiling Amplifier will easily work in combination with two expression pedals - one to control volume, and the second as the Wah pedal that works with the family of Wah effects.

The Volume pedal does not have its own effect type, as this would block a stomp or effect slot every time you wanted to use the pedal. Instead, you will find two parameters for the Volume Pedal in the RIG menu.

◆ Volume pedal position

Selects the position of the volume pedal in the signal flow:

Off	The volume pedal has no effect
Pre-stomps	Directly before STOMP A
Post-stomps	Right after STOMP D. At this position you control the gain of the amplifier.
Pre-effects	Right before STOMP X. At this position you control the overall volume of the sound, but delay and reverb tails will still decay naturally, when you swell down the pedal.
Post-effects	Right after the reverb. At this position you control the overall volume of the sound, including reverb and delay tails, that can instantly be attenuated.

◆ Volume pedal range

This is a bipolar parameter. In the middle position, the volume pedal has no effect. When you set the range more to the left, you determine the minimum volume at heel-position, while the maximum volume at toe-position stays the same. At the minimum position, the pedal performs the swell from zero level, just as you would expect from an analog volume pedal. When you turn “Volume Pedal Range” to the left half, the volume pedal turns from an attenuation pedal into a booster pedal. Now, the heel stays at standard volume, and the toe-swell will give you a volume or gain boost. The maximum boost, at the top position of “Volume Pedal Range”, is +24 dB.

System

Press this button to access the global settings pages. Global settings do not change when you switch to another rig.

LCD/HW Setup

On this page you can control the settings for the display and adjust the “Line Frequency” parameter. The soft button labeled “Factory Rigs” will allow you to reload all the Factory rigs that came with the KPA. Please note that your own rigs and profiles will be overwritten. Make sure that you backup all your data before executing this function.

Contrast	The soft knob “Contrast” lets you set the contrast of the display. Adjust this settings if you find the display hard to read under certain circumstances.
Brightness	The soft knob “Brightness” controls the brightness of the display.
White Balance	The soft knob “White Balance” adjusts the white balance of the display.
Line Frequency	The soft knob “Line Frequency” lets you choose between a Line frequency of 50 or 60 Hz. The Noise Gate will use this setting to eliminate ground hum which frequency is based on the physical location the KPA is being used at. Auto 50 or Auto 60 will detect the Line frequency automatically while 50 or 60 can be used if the automatic detection fails.
Brightness	Using the page buttons you can navigate to the next page where you can set the brightness separately for the color LEDs, the buttons and the LED collars and the TAP button using the soft knobs.
Quick	On this page you can determine the function of the QUICK button using the soft knob “Quick Function”. This function allows you to use the QUICK button as a shortcut to get to often used pages like “MIDI Settings” or “Browse Snapshots” directly.

Rig Autoload	On the same page you can use the soft button “Rig Autoload” to activate the Rig Autoload function. This will automatically load a rig when it is selected in the rig browser. The “Load” button in the rig browser will disappear when you activate “Rig Autoload”.
Direct Edit	The soft button “Direct Edit” will change the behavior of the section buttons on the front panel. Instead of holding them briefly to enter the edit page for a module or section, clicking on a button like AMPLIFIER, EQ or STOMP will immediately display the edit screen.

MIDI Settings

On the next system page you can assign up to 128 MIDI program change numbers to rigs in the KPA to switch between them by using an external MIDI pedal or by sending program changes from your computer.

To do so, first select the rig you want to assign a program change number to and then press the SYSTEM button. Navigate to the MIDI Settings page using the right page button, press the soft button labeled “Prg # Assign” and then select the PrgChg slot. Use the soft knob labeled “Midi Device ID” to set the MIDI channel that you want to use for communication.

Date and Time

On this page you can set the date and time using the soft buttons “Edit Date” and “Edit Time”. Make sure the correct date and time is entered as this will help you to organize your rigs and profiles.

Version Information

On this page the Firmware version of the KPA is displayed. KPA Version is the version of the KPA operating system. KPA Date is the date the version was released. DSP Date is the date the DSP version was released. The soft button labeled “CPU ID” will display the CPU ID.

Pedals, Program Changes and MIDI

The Kemper Profiling Amplifier features two jacks for the direct connection of expression pedals or switches.

Expression Pedals

An expression pedal works just like a wah or volume pedal, but is made for digital devices. It only needs one cable with a stereo jack, connected to one of the dedicated pedal inputs.

The PEDAL 1 INPUT is routed to the wah stomp effects, as well as a few others, including the phasers and flangers. Pedal 2 represents the Volume Pedal that can be found in the RIG menu. You can configure both pedal inputs on page 3 of the SYSTEM menu.

If you use a regular expression pedal (e.g. Roland), please select Pedal (Type 1) with soft knobs 1 or 3. If you use an expression pedal with reversed polarity (e.g. Yamaha), please select Pedal (Type 2).

You can monitor the changing swell value of the pedal on soft knobs 2 and 4. If you find that the pedal does not cover the full value range, press “Pedal Init” on the respective soft button, then perform a full swell on the pedal to re-calibrate it.

✓ Note: The two expression pedal destinations can also be accessed by MIDI controllers via the MIDI IN jack.

Pedal 1 (Wah Pedal) responds to MIDI controller #1 (Modulation Wheel). Pedal 2 (Volume Pedal) responds to MIDI controller #7 (Channel Volume).

Switches

Besides the expression pedals, the two jacks can also be used to connect switches (or a combination of both). Switches can be used for all kinds of tasks, such as switching effects, engaging the tuner, or to tap the tempo. Simply select the desired destination by soft knob 1 or 3.

- ✓ Note: the Profiling Amplifier expects so-called “momentary” switches. These close the contact when you step on them, and open it again when you lift your foot off. Channel switches for tube amps are not compatible with the KPA, as they use a latching mechanism instead.

Double Switches

The “Double Switch” selection is special: it can take a double or stereo switch from a single jack, so the other jack is still free to use an expression pedal, or even another stereo switch.

In BROWSE MODE, the default assignment for “Double Switch” is Rig Up/Down. In Profiler Mode, it switches from Kemper Amp to Reference Amp, and in the Store Menu, it will navigate the cursor to the left or right. Alternatively, you can create your own “Double Switch” set-up by assigning any combination of the available functions with the Soft Knobs.

Operation of a MIDI remote pedal

The Kemper Profiling Amplifier connects easily to MIDI remote pedals from any manufacturer. Simply connect your MIDI pedal to the MIDI IN jack of the KPA. There are three groups of MIDI messages that the KPA can receive:

◆ Program Change

You can assign up to 128 program change numbers to your Rigs. The assignment is done in the SYSTEM Menu/Program # Assign.

◆ Expression Pedals

The two expression pedal destinations can also be played by MIDI controllers. Pedal 1 (Wah Pedal) responds to MIDI controller #1 (Modulation Wheel). Pedal 2 (Volume Pedal) responds to MIDI controller #7 (Channel Volume).

◆ Effect Switches

Some MIDI pedals allow you to assign control change numbers (CC#'s) to individual foot buttons. These can be used to switch stumps and effects in the KPA. Here is the list of the control change numbers:

#17	Stomp A
#18	Stomp B
#19	Stomp C
#20	Stomp D
#23	Stomp X
#24	Stomp MOD
#26	Delay
#27	Delay Mix
#28	Reverb
#29	ReverbMix

The respective effect is engaged by a value greater than zero, and bypassed by a zero value.

If you use CC's #26 or #28 to bypass the Delay or Reverb, you will cut the effect tails abruptly (the same happens if you bypass them from the front panel of the KPA).

To bypass the Delay/Reverb without cutting off the effect tails, you should use CC's #27 and #29 respectively (this is the recommended approach for live performance).

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