

# Riverside

— multistage drive —

USER MANUAL

**strymon**<sup>®</sup>

## Front Panel

- **GAIN**

Toggles between the low or high gain channel.

- **DRIVE**

Adjusts the amount of gain applied to the signal. Employs continuously variable circuit tuning to adjust many circuit parameters as you turn the knob.

- **BASS**

Active shelving/parametric low frequency control.

- **FAVORITE**

Used to recall a single stored favorite setting, which consists of all knob, switch, and noise gate settings.

**RED LED** indicates that the Favorite setting is selected. Press and hold Favorite switch for 2 seconds to save a new favorite sound.

### COMPARE MODE

With FAVORITE on, LED turns from from **RED** to **GREEN** if current position is identical to saved favorite.



- **PUSH**

Toggles between flat or enhanced midrange frequencies.

- **LEVEL**

Controls the output volume level when the effect is ON.

- **TREBLE**

Wide-ranging high frequency active shelf control.

- **MIDDLE**

Parametric mid boost/cut control with optimized frequency center.

- **ON**

Bypasses analog and digital gain stages. Defaults to relay based true bypass, but can also be set to buffered bypass mode in which the volume pedal and boost functionality are preserved.

## Rear Panel

- **PRESENCE SWITCH** .....

Tailors the top end character of the output to match your amp. Try minus (-) or center in front of an amp. Try plus (+) when plugging straight into a power amp.

- **POWER** .....

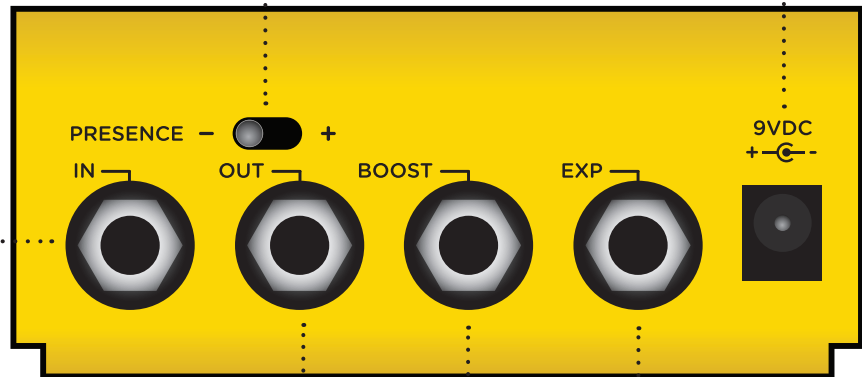
Use an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC center negative. 250mA minimum.

- **IN** .....

Mono instrument input.

- **OUT** .....

Mono signal output.



- **BOOST** .....

**Boost Switch Mode** - Use an external Favorite switch to toggle up to +6dB of post boost on/off (See page 8 for setup).

**Favorite Output Mode** - Connect to the EXP input of another Strymon pedal set to work in Favorite EXP mode to toggle the Favorite setting of that pedal with the on-board FAVORITE switch (See page 8 for setup).

- **EXP** .....

Can be used in one of two ways with a standard TRS expression pedal:

**Expression Pedal Mode** - Allows continuous control over any of the knobs (See page 11 for more info).

**Volume Mode** - Allows control of the output volume of the effect (See page 11 for more info).

## Multistage Drive Topology

Riverside achieves its sound by passing the signal through a cascade of individual gain stages. Dynamic complexity and additional harmonics are generated at each stage as the signal travels from one stage to the next.

### STAGE ONE: Class A Analog JFET Input Gain Stage

Touch response and dynamic interaction with your guitar are optimized with the class A JFET input gain stage. This analog gain stage is digitally controlled to maximize headroom and noise performance while adding as much as 20dB of analog gain.

### STAGE TWO, THREE AND FOUR: Tube-Inspired DSP Gain Stages

Our analysis of tube gain circuits has resulted in a wide-band series of cascading gain stages that are detailed, rich and full of complex harmonics. At each stage, more harmonics are generated and the signal dynamically evolves as the inter-stage circuitry optimally conditions the response for the following stage.

### VARIABLE CIRCUIT TUNING

Riverside's continuously variable circuit tuning dynamically tweaks multiple parameters as you adjust the Drive, optimizing the signal path to sit in the 'sweet spot' at any gain setting. This results in a super-versatile drive pedal that is equally comfortable providing sparking clean and mildly-overdriven tones, to high-gain lead and heavily saturated distortion.



## Controls



### 3-BAND EQ

Riverside’s 3 band EQ, with independent Bass, Middle and Treble knobs, is designed to complement your amp’s tone with the flexibility needed to dial in your sound effectively and efficiently. The controls are post-drive, meaning they effectively sculpt and shape the harmonics generated in Riverside’s gain stages.



### PUSH SWITCH

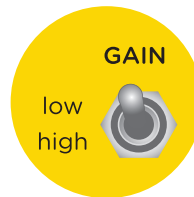
Adding a mid-band EQ push just after the analog front-end gain results in pushing the subsequent drive stages harder, and tightens up the response. This works great

when looking for fat drive tones, or for pushing a distorted or on-the-edge amp into further breakup. For cleaner or more transparent tones, select the ‘normal’ position.



### PRESENCE SWITCH

The **minus (-)** position provides clarity with a controlled top end that works well with many amps that have a brighter voice or extended top end character. The **enhanced** (center) position extends the top end to allow for more sizzle on high gain tones. This works well with amps that have a warmer voicing, or if you want enhanced detail in the uppermost frequencies. When plugging directly into a power amp, the **plus (+)** position further increases high end detail that may be required. The **plus (+)** position will also deliver extended high end detail to the darkest amps.



### GAIN SWITCH

The ‘low’ channel selects a gain structure that allows for a wide range of low to medium gain sounds while still getting heavily overdriven at maximum Drive settings. The

voicing is dynamic and touch-sensitive, and at high Drive settings is slightly ‘loose’ like a dimed vintage amp.

The ‘high’ channel increases the gain throughout the signal path and tightens things up. While still staying clean at lower Drive settings, the ‘high’ gain mode goes to heavy crunch and high gain as the Drive knob is increased.

## Noise Reduction Threshold

Riverside has a variable-threshold noise reduction feature to tame hum and buzz when you're not playing. A downward expander with advanced signal detection techniques creates a seamless transition to noise reduced silence with all types of input signal dynamics, including staccato bursts and slowly sustained notes.

- 1 Press and hold the ON footswitch until the LED rapidly blinks.

Release the ON footswitch.



- 2 Turn the DRIVE knob past the 12 o'clock noon position to engage the noise reduction.

The FAVORITE LED will change from **GREEN** to **AMBER** to indicate the noise reduction has been engaged. Turning DRIVE past 12 o'clock increases the noise reduction threshold for louder and noisier setups. The FAVORITE LED will change from **AMBER** to **RED** to indicate the increased noise reduction threshold level.

- 3 Press the ON footswitch to store the new noise reduction setting to Riverside.

The noise reduction setting can be saved independently for both the FAVORITE and MANUAL settings of Riverside.

## Bypass Mode Selection

Setting Riverside to Buffered Bypass mode preserves the high frequency response of your guitar signal through your pedal chain and long cable runs.

1 Press and hold the ON footswitch while powering up the pedal.

2 Turn the LEVEL knob to select True Bypass or Buffered Bypass

**GREEN** (LEFT) - True Bypass (default)

**RED** (RIGHT) - Buffered bypass.  
Using Buffered Bypass allows Volume Mode and Boost Switch Mode.

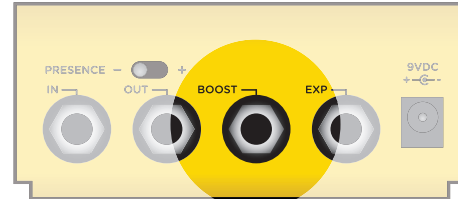


3 Press the ON or FAVORITE footswitch to store The Bypass mode and begin using Riverside.

## Power Up Mode - Boost Jack Options

Selecting what the BOOST jack will do.

- 1 Press and hold while powering up the pedal.



- 2 Turn the DRIVE knob to set the BOOST jack mode.

- **GREEN** – Boost Switch Mode  
(See page 9 for more info)
- **RED** – Favorite Out Mode  
(See page 10 for more info)

- 3 Press the ON or FAVORITE footswitch once again to store power up modes and begin using Riverside.



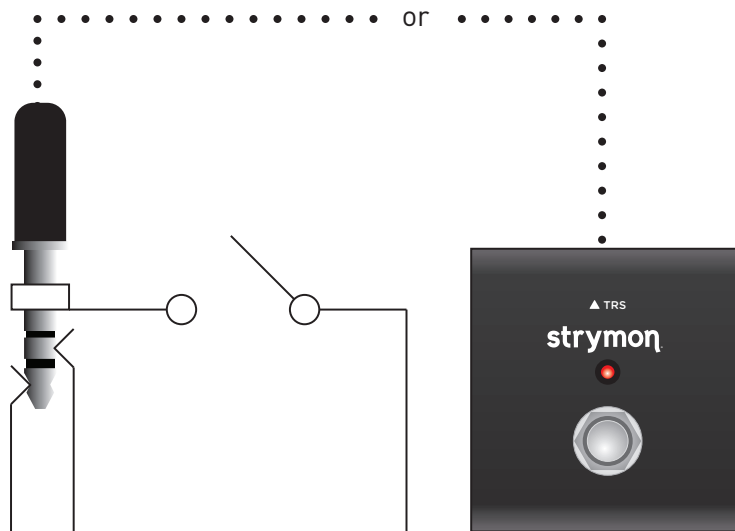
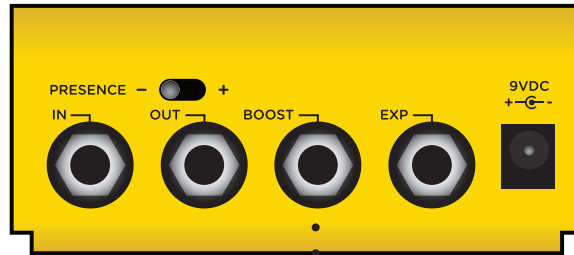
## Power Up Mode - Boost Switch Mode

Connect an external footswitch with a TRS cable to toggle the boost of up to +6dB on and off.

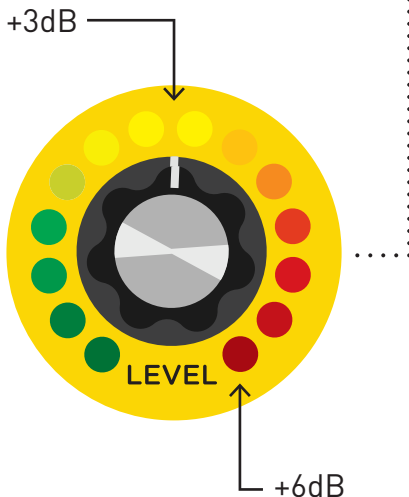
1 Press and hold the ON footswitch until the LED rapidly blinks.

2 Release the ON footswitch.

3 Turn the LEVEL knob to set the amount of boost up to +6dB. As you turn the boost amount up, the color of the blinking LED changes from GREEN for low boost settings to RED for high boost settings.



4 Press the ON footswitch to store the new boost level to Riverside.



NOTE: The Boost setting is saved globally to the Manual, Favorite, and Bypass settings of Riverside.

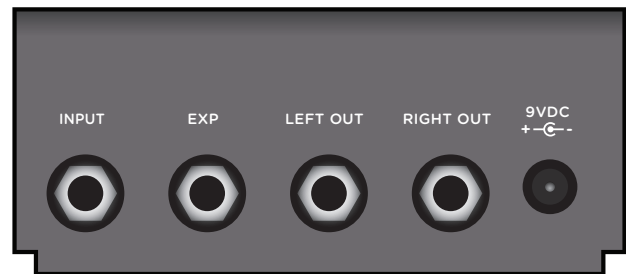
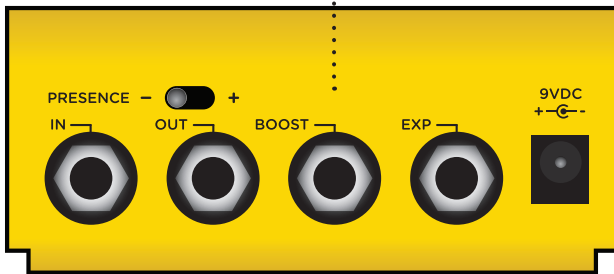
## Favorite Output Mode

Connect another Strymon pedal set to External Favorite Switch.

- 1 Connect the BOOST jack of Riverside to the EXP input of another Strymon pedal with a TRS cable.

- 2 Make sure the connected pedal is set to Favorite EXP mode.

Please refer to the favorite switch setup section of the connected pedal's owner's manual for details. All manuals available at [strymon.net/support](http://strymon.net/support).



- 3 Save a Favorite setting on the connected Strymon pedal.

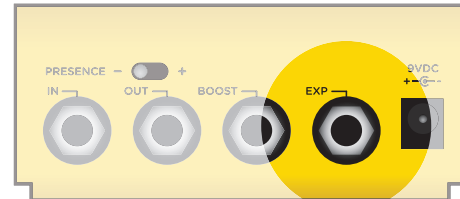
**OPTIONAL STEP:** Store a new Favorite setting on Riverside to go along with the Favorite setting on the connected Strymon pedal.

- 4 Pressing the FAVORITE switch on Riverside will toggle the Favorite setting on both Riverside and the connected Strymon pedal as well.

## Power Up Mode - Expression Jack Options

Selecting what the EXP jack will do.

1 Press and hold while powering up the pedal.



2 Turn the LEVEL knob to set the EXP jack mode.

- **GREEN (LEFT)** - Expression Pedal Mode
- **AMBER (MIDDLE)** - Volume Mode (Default)
- **RED (RIGHT)** - Favorite IN Mode to toggle the Favorite preset on and off remotely.



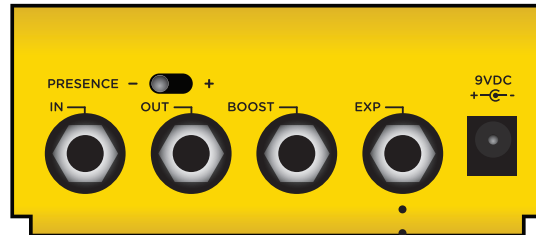
3 Press the ON or FAVORITE footswitch once again to store power up modes and begin using Riverside.

**NOTE:** Power up modes are saved for all future power ups until they are changed again with the steps above.

## Expression Mode

Use a TRS Expression pedal to control the knobs of Riverside

- 1 Connect the Expression pedal to the EXP jack of Riverside using a TRS cable.



- 2 Press and hold both FAVORITE and ON footswitches for a few seconds until both LEDs begin blinking **GREEN**.

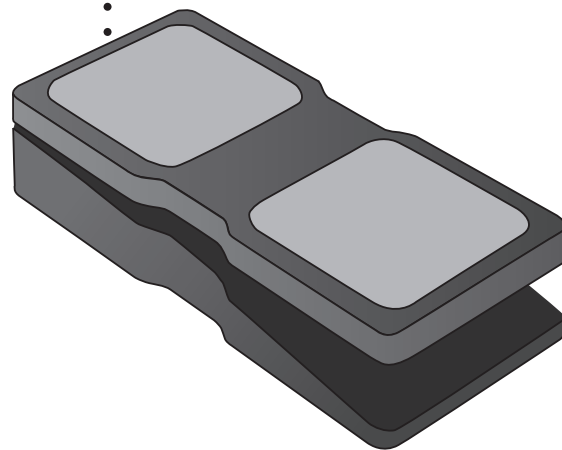
- 3 Rock the expression pedal back to the HEEL position and only the FAVORITE LED will blink **GREEN**.

- 4 Set the knobs the way you would like them to be in the HEEL position. The FAVORITE LED will turn **RED** to indicate that the setting has changed.

- 5 Rock the expression pedal forward to the TOE position and only the ON LED will blink **GREEN**.

- 6 Set the knobs you would like to control to the setting for the TOE position of the expression pedal. The ON LED will turn red to indicate that the setting has changed.

- 7 Press the FAVORITE or ON footswitch once to save the expression settings.

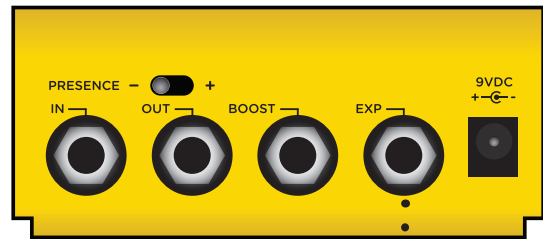


**NOTE:** Expression pedal settings are global and will affect both the manual and saved Favorite preset settings on Riverside.

## Volume Mode

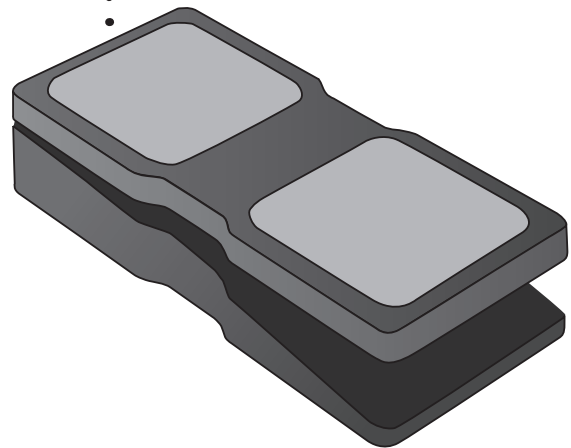
Use a TRS Expression pedal to control the output volume.

- 1 Connect the expression pedal to the EXP jack of Riverside.



- 2 Set the LEVEL knob to the setting you would like for the highest TOE down position of the expression pedal.

- 3 When the FAVORITE setting is engaged, the highest TOE down position of the expression pedal will correspond to the setting that the LEVEL knob was saved as for the favorite setting.

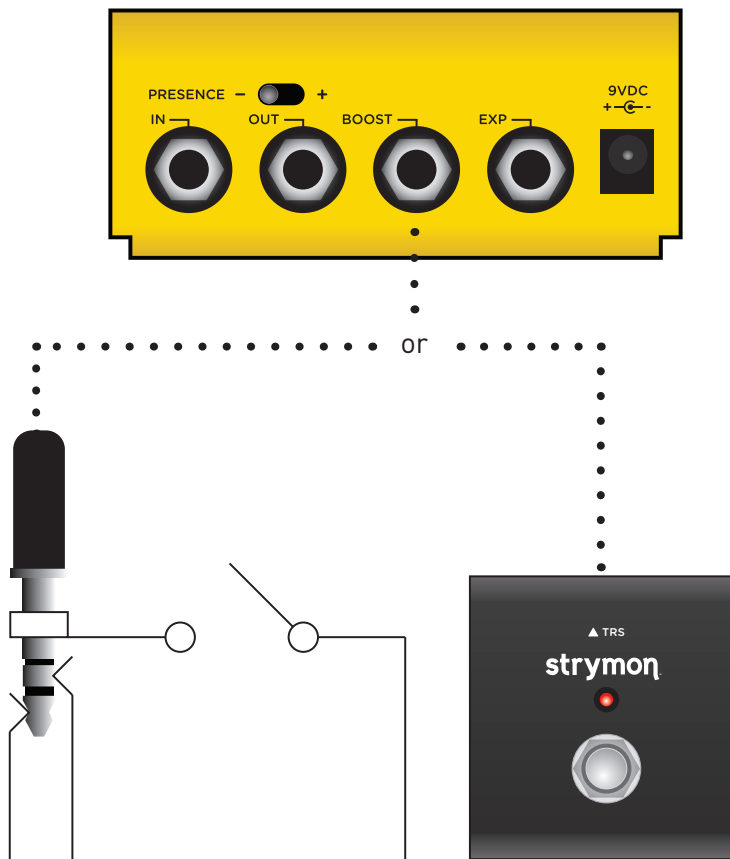


**NOTE:** When Riverside is in Buffered Bypass mode and the Expression Jack is configured for Volume Mode, the pedal will still function as a Volume pedal whether the effect is bypassed or engaged.

## Favorite In Mode

Connect a MiniSwitch with a TRS cable to toggle the Favorite preset on and off.

- 1 Connect a Switch with a TRS cable to the EXP jack of Riverside.
- 2 Dial in a setting on Riverside using the knobs and switches for your desired sound.



- 3 Press and hold Riverside's on-board Favorite switch for 2 seconds to save this setting as a new Favorite sound.

**NOTE:** The on-board FAVORITE switch will not toggle the Favorite preset when Riverside is set to Favorite In Mode and a MiniSwitch is connected to the EXP jack.

## Factory Reset

- 1 Press and hold the ON footswitch during power up.



- 2 Turn the DRIVE knob from 0-100% and back two (2) times (back and forth) to reset the pedal to factory power up modes and secondary functions.

### FACTORY SETTINGS

- **EXP Input Jack:** Assigned to work in VOLUME PEDAL mode.
- **Expression Pedal Mode Assignment:** Assigned to control DRIVE.
- **BOOST Input Jack:** Assigned to work in BOOST SWITCH mode.
- **BOOST Amount:** Set to 50%.
- **Noise Reduction:** OFF
- **Bypass Mode:** True Bypass

## Features

- Custom cascading multistage distortion topology provides a wide range of tube-inspired drive tones
- Digitally controlled analog class A JFET input gain stage maximizes headroom while adding up to 20dB of pure analog gain
- Precision crafted DSP gain stages provide detailed complexity and responsiveness
- Low gain channel for smooth classic overdrive
- High gain channel for modern saturated distortion
- 3-band EQ with independent Bass, Middle and Treble controls
- Selectable post-analog gain mid-band EQ push
- Presence switch to tailor the sound for use with all amplifiers from dark to bright
- Optional variable-threshold noise reduction helps tame noisy guitar pickups
- High impedance mono input
- Mono output
- Favorite footswitch to save a favorite setting
- Expression pedal input allows the connection an expression pedal for simultaneous morphing control over multiple parameters (Expression mode), or logarithmic taper for smooth volume control (Volume mode)
- Boost pedal input allows connection of an external footswitch for up to +6dB of analog boost, or to toggle the Favorite preset on other Strymon pedals (Favorite Out mode)
- Ultra low noise, high performance 24-bit 96kHz A/D and D/A converters provide uncompromising audio quality
- Premium analog front end and output section
- Super high performance SHARC DSP in a compact form factor
- 32-bit floating point processing
- True Bypass (electromechanical relay switching)
- Designed and built in the USA

## Specifications

Input Impedance	500k Ohm
Output Impedance	100 Ohm
A/D & D/A	24-bit 96kHz
Max Input Level	+8dBu
Frequency Response	20Hz to 20kHz
DSP performance	1585 MegaFLOPS
Bypass Switching	True Bypass (electromechanical relay switching)
Dimensions	4.5" deep x 4" wide x 1.75" tall (11.4 cm deep x 10.2 cm wide x 4.4 cm tall)

## Power Adapter Requirements

Use an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC center negative; 250mA minimum.



## **Strymon Non-Transferrable Limited Warranty**

### **Warranty**

Strymon warrants the product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years from the original date of purchase when bought new from an authorized dealer in the United States of America or Canada. If the product fails within the warranty period, Strymon will repair or, at our discretion, replace the product at no cost to the original purchaser. Please contact your dealer for information on warranty and service outside of the USA and Canada.

### **Exclusions**

This warranty covers defects in manufacturing discovered while using this product as recommended by Strymon. This warranty does not cover loss or theft, nor does the coverage extend to damage caused by misuse, abuse, unauthorized modification, improper storage, lightning, or natural disasters.

### **Limits of Liability**

In the case of malfunction, the purchaser's sole recourse shall be repair or replacement, as described in the preceding paragraphs. Strymon will not be held liable to any party for damages that result from the failure of this product. Damages excluded include, but are not limited to, the following: lost profits, lost savings, damage to other equipment, and incidental or consequential damages arising from the use, or inability to use this product. In no event will Strymon be liable for more than the amount of the purchase price, not to exceed the current retail price of the product. Strymon disclaims any other warranties, expressed or implied. By using the product, the user accepts all terms herein.

### **How to Obtain Service Under this Warranty**

For North American customers: Contact Strymon through our website at [strymon.net/support](http://strymon.net/support) for Return Authorization and information. Proof of original ownership may be required in the form of a purchase receipt.

For International Customers: Contact the Strymon dealer from which the product was purchased from in order to arrange warranty repair service.

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