



A field guide to
CONDOR HIFI

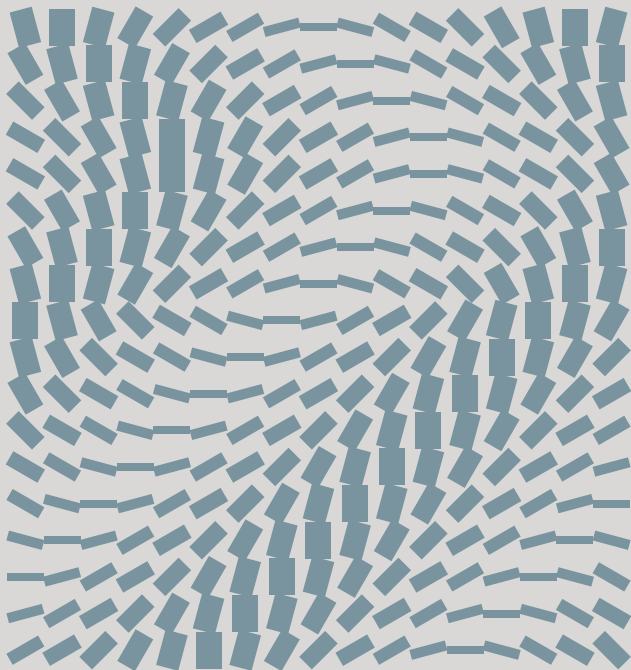


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9V DC Power req: 9V DC Center Negative ~200 mA

Overview

With Condor HiFi, you can fit in anywhere.

You can sculpt your ideal always-on tone,
you can shape-shift to suit the moment,
you can sit just right in any mix.

It's a helpful little bird pedal.

How does it do all that?

Condor HiFi is a carefully tuned collection of the essentials with a 100% analog signal path. It splits apart the frequency spectrum and gives each chunk its own uniquely-voiced EQ circuit - taking inspiration from synths, mixing boards, and classic pedals - then adds a hearty helping of drive to bring it all together.

Jump from warm, smoky tones to raw overdrive in an instant, punch in jangly highs for the verse and cutting resonance for the solo, enjoy a sentimental moment of lo-fi radio tones on the way out.

Condor HiFi includes two notable improvements over the original:

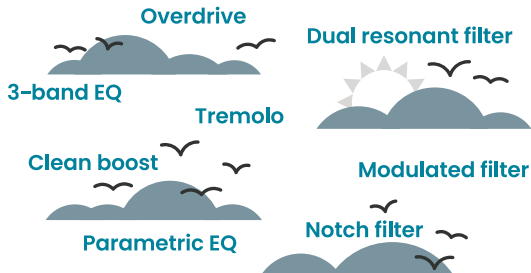
POWER

Condor HiFi uses the same power supply as our Preamp MKII to internally boost the voltage from 9V to a whopping 30V. This gives you a massive amount of clean headroom to play with.

PARTS

Condor HiFi uses a more modern op-amp - the OPA1662 - for lower noise and a more high-fidelity response.

Here is a sampling of what it can be:



Let's learn how.

Setup

Here's some info to help you get Condor settled into its new home.

POWER

Condor requires a 9V DC, center negative power supply with at least 200 mA of current.

You'll see this symbol on your power supply:

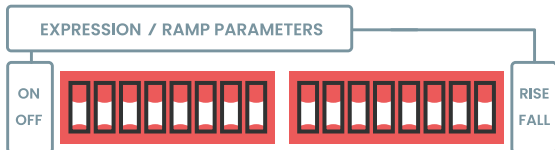


OPTIONS

Condor has a few ways to customize and fine-tune your experience. If you'd like to get right into all that, check out:

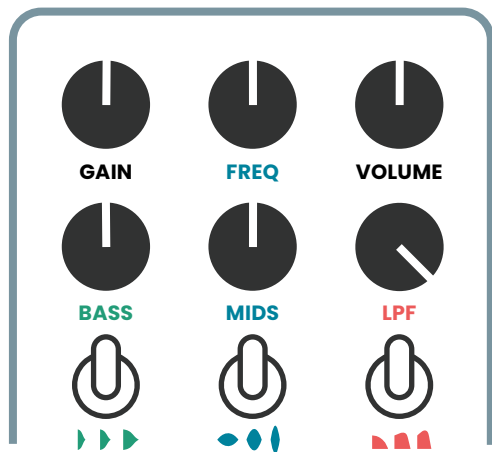
- Customize (pg. 24)
- Ramping (pg. 26)
- External Control (pg. 28)

Otherwise it's probably best to start with all dip switches turned off.



**Let's
get
started.**

Getting Started



Begin with this:

Everything centered except the LPF knob.

You can return here any time for a neutral sound.



Now crank the **MIDS** knob and move around **FREQ** for a while. Settle somewhere that sounds good with your instrument and dial back **MIDS** to taste.

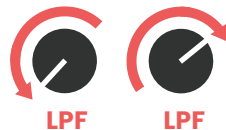


Turn down **BASS** to narrow in on those mid frequencies.



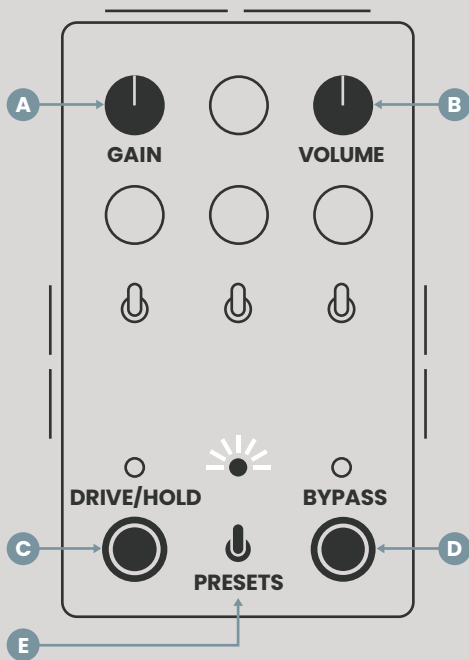
And turn on the **DRIVE** to give it some edge. You should now have a nice, focused overdrive tone.

Now use the **LPF** to introduce some emphasis and intensity. Give it a good sweep downwards, then open it back up gradually until you find the spot that works for you.



Balancing each of these layers is the key to using Condor; boosting what helps, cutting what doesn't, and finding spots to emphasize. It's about defining your sound and finding your shape.

Controls - General



Boost, drive, save.

A

GAIN

Controls how much the input signal is amplified, especially interactive with the drive channel. If ramping is engaged (pg. 26), this knob's function will change to control the ramping speed.

B

VOLUME

Sets the overall output level of the pedal.

C

DRIVE / HOLD

Engages Condor's overdrive. Can also be assigned an alternate HOLD function (pg. 25).

D

BYPASS

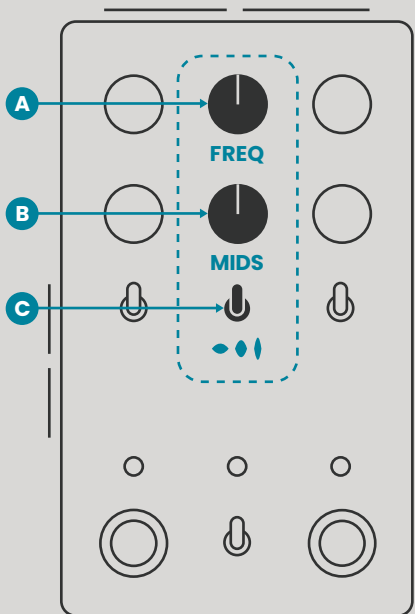
Engages the effect. Condor can be true bypass or buffered bypass (pg. 24).

E

PRESETS

The left and right positions each store a preset, while the middle position is live. To save to the right slot, hold the right footswitch for 3 seconds, then add the left footswitch for another 3 seconds. Do the same for the left slot, but start by holding down the left footswitch. The middle LED will blink to indicate success.

Controls - Mids



Shift, cut, emphasize.

A

FREQ

Selects the frequency that the **MIDS** knob will boost or cut. All the way counter-clockwise is roughly 150 Hz and all the way clockwise is a little over 4 kHz.

B




MIDS

Boosts or cuts the frequencies selected by the **FREQ** knob up to 18 dB. Rotating clockwise boosts and rotating counter-clockwise cuts. At noon the mids will be neutral.

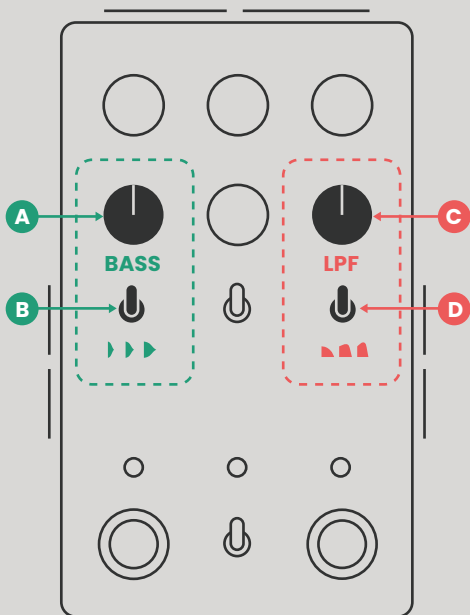
C

MIDS TOGGLE

Selects the emphasis and width of the mid boost / cut.

-  Mellow, wide range
-  Mild resonance, medium range
-  Heavy resonance, narrow range

Controls - Bass and LPF



Thin, darken, sweep.

A

BASS

Boosts low frequencies up to 10 dB and cuts up to 20 dB. Rotating clockwise boosts and rotating counter-clockwise cuts. At noon the bass is neutral.

B

BASS TOGGLE

Selects the range of frequencies affected by the BASS knob.

- ▶ Bass only
- ▶ Bass and lower mids
- ▶ Bass, lower mids, and mids

C

LPF

Sets the cutoff frequency of the low-pass filter. All the way clockwise is open – no frequencies are cut. As the knob is turned counter-clockwise, high frequencies are gradually removed. At the minimum position little to no frequencies remain.

D

LPF TOGGLE

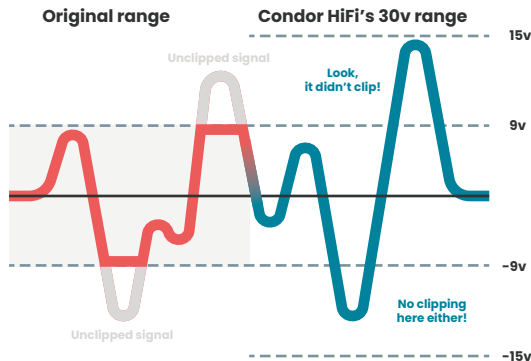
Sets the resonance and slope of the low-pass filter.

- ▶ Mellow, tone knob-like filtering
- ▶ Balanced resonant filtering
- ▶ Heavy resonant filtering

Volume, Gain, Drive

Condor gives you a variety of ways to control your loudness.

It includes both a **GAIN** control that boosts the signal going into the pedal and a **VOLUME** control that sets the level of the output. It uses a unique power supply that boosts the voltage from 9V to 30V internally, resulting in a massive amount of clean headroom. This will come in handy when you're boosting the EQ or using hotter input signals.



Crank **VOLUME** and dial back **GAIN** to push your amp.



Crank **GAIN** and dial back **VOLUME** to lean into Condor's grit, particularly with the drive channel engaged.



Or find your own balance of the two.

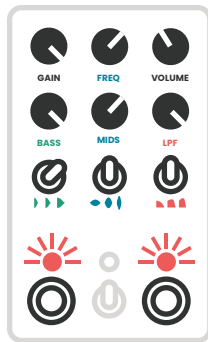


It also has a **DRIVE** mode you can activate when you need a push.

TIP:

Condor's **BASS** control comes before the gain stage and can be boosted to increase the amount of break up.

Try these settings.



EQ – Bass

Condor has four knobs and three toggles to fine-tune your EQ, each with a wide range and response. The three key blocks are color-coded to show which controls are connected.

The Bass section is the most straightforward, giving you a simple way to boost or cut the low frequencies.

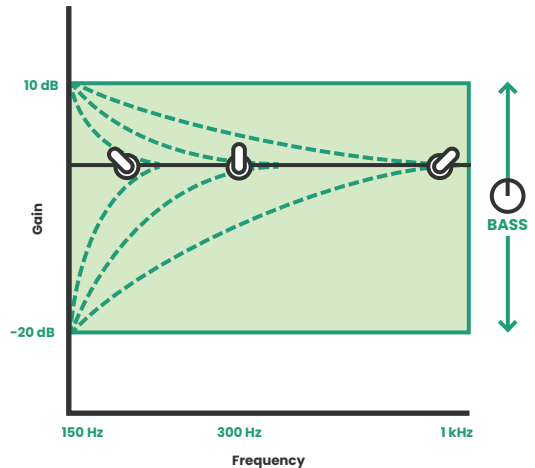
This can help to remove mud and clarify your signal, or add heft and weight.



The BASS knob boosts low frequencies up to 10 dB and cuts up to 20 dB.



The toggle selects how much of the frequency spectrum will be affected.



EQ - Mids

The Mids section is the key to getting the most out of Condor.



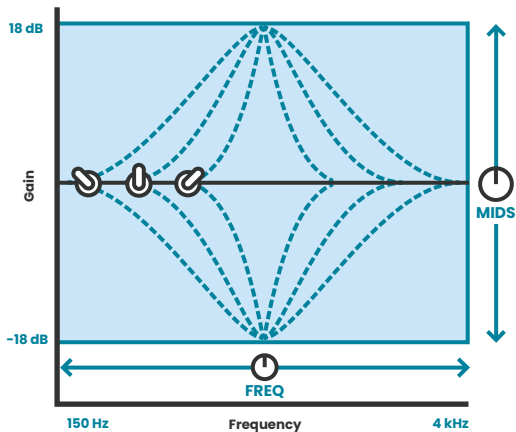
It's a parametric EQ, meaning that you can freely select which frequency you're controlling. This is what the FREQ knob does.



In the case of Condor you can cut or boost that selected frequency by 18 dB – enough to make it disappear or become the focal point. This is what the MIDS knob does.



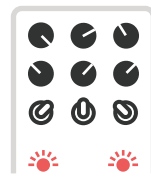
And finally, you have a toggle to select how many frequencies surrounding the target frequency are affected as well. The more narrow the EQ, the more intense the sound.



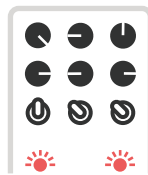
Finding just the right spot to scoop or push is the secret. You can recreate coveted overdrive tones, match or modify guitar profiles, and isolate the magic frequency that helps you cut through or make space.



Clean Zing



Bump Drive



Mid Scoop

EQ – LPF

Low-pass filters (LPF) are the heart of a good synthesizer – a characterful, electrically-charged way to mellow the highs. Condor uses an original, funky LPF circuit design not found anywhere else.

Rotating the LPF knob creates a unique and powerful sweep that shears away the high frequencies, gradually consuming your sound.



Use it to darken your signal,



create emphasis,



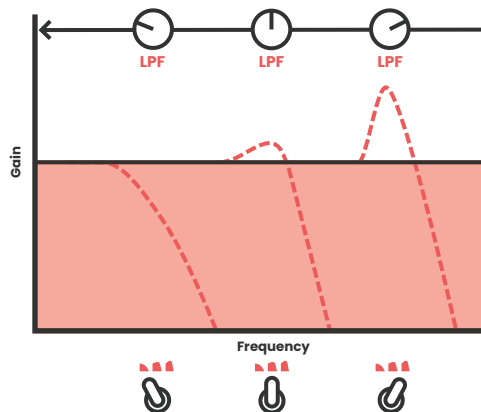
or take on a more electronic character.



The LPF knob sets the cutoff frequency of the filter – this is the point that will be emphasized in more resonant settings and beyond which high frequencies are removed. The lower this knob is set, the darker the sound.



The toggle controls the steepness and resonance of the filter, which sets the intensity and emphasis of the sound.

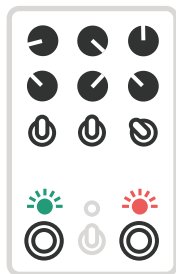


Hidden Modulation

Tucked within Condor are some very interesting kinds of modulation that you can mix and match, made possible by ramping Condor's various knobs (check out pg. 26 for a breakdown if you're new to ramping.)

Each knob creates its own kind of motion, from classic tremolo (**VOLUME**) to deep filtering (**LPF**) to phase-y sweeps (**FREQ**). The real magic starts when you combine multiple types.

There's a lot to discover and explore, but here are some ideas to get you started.

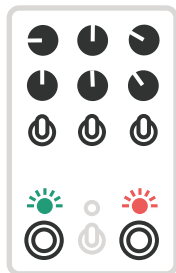


GOOD VIBES

 **BOUNCE, FREQ**

 **GAIN**

This setting gives you a Uni-Vibe type sound by bouncing the **FREQ** knob to make a hypnotic swirling effect. Try changing the position of the mids toggle to alter the character of the modulation.

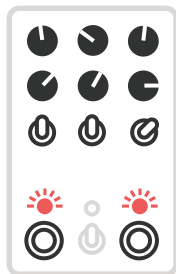


LILTED TREM

 **SWEEP, BOUNCE, VOLUME**

 **GAIN**

Because of the unique nature of the ramping waveform, this setting creates a one of a kind tremolo effect with a gentle lilt to it.



STREET SWEEPER

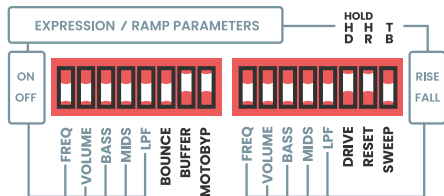
 **DRIVE, BOUNCE, LPF**

 **GAIN**

Use the **HOLD** function to sweep the **LPF** knob, which creates a real time filter sweep. Start the sweep by holding down the left footswitch and let go where you want it to stop.

TIP: When ramping multiple knobs, try using opposite **RISE** and **FALL** settings so they move in different directions.

Customize



Condor offers a few different ways to customize the behavior and response of the pedal.

BUFFER

Turns on a high-quality buffer when Condor is bypassed.

MOTOBYP

“Momentary to bypass.” **MOTOBYP** turns Condor’s bypass footswitch into a momentary control, meaning the effect will only engage when you hold it down. **MOTOBYP** can also be used to disengage the pedal with a momentary hold – simply turn on the **MOTOBYP** dip while the pedal is already engaged.

HOLD OPTIONS

- **DRIVE** - Allows you to change the function of the **DRIVE** footswitch. By default (D) the footswitch will alternate between clean (☀️) and drive (🔥). With **HOLD** engaged (H) you are able to use it to control Condor’s ramping abilities. There are two options, selected by the **RESET** dip switch.
- **RESET** - Sets the function of the left footswitch when **HOLD** is engaged (will only have an effect if the pedal is ramping). In the **HOLD** position (H), ramping will only be active when the footswitch is held down. In the **RESET** position (R), ramping will reset when the footswitch is pressed and only remain active when the footswitch is held down.

TRY THIS

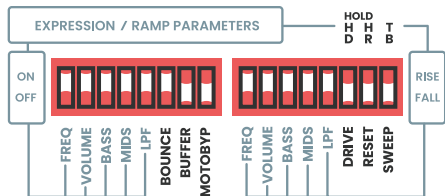
This setting will give you a filter sweep that restarts every time you press the left footswitch.



Now engage the **RESET** (H) dip switch. Instead of restarting the sweep with the left stomp switch, you can use it to hold the position of the sweep.



Ramping



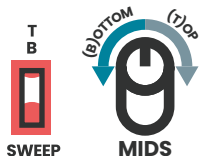
Ramping gives you the ability to automate Condor's knobs, either as a one-time movement (ramp) or continuous motion (bounce).

It's easier to get started with Bounce, so let's do that. We're essentially going to modulate a knob.



1. Engage Bounce.

2. Choose which knob(s) you wish to control.



3. Choose the sweep.



4. Set the speed.



Now the amount of mid boost will steadily shift, turning Condor into a full-on modulation pedal. The position of the knob you're controlling is important, because it either sets the maximum or minimum point of the range (depending on the SWEEP setting).

Ramp is the same idea, but the movement only happens once when you turn the pedal on. Your chosen knob(s) either rise or fall to the position set by the knob, then stay there. Useful for creating a wave of motion and activity when you first turn Condor on.

Check out the Dip Switches 101 document on our website for a step-by-step on ramping.

Ramping is engaged as soon as the dip switch for a corresponding knob is set to ON. At this point, the GAIN knob automatically changes to control the ramp speed. You can still adjust GAIN while ramping by holding down the left footswitch as you move the knob.

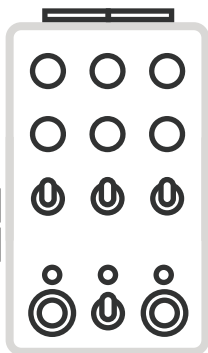
External Control

Condor is compatible with MIDI, CV, expression, and external footswitch.

→ MIDI/EXT

MIDI: TRS cable

EXT: TS cable and normally open switch



CV range = 0-5V (higher voltage or any negative voltage could damage the pedal)

← EXP/CV

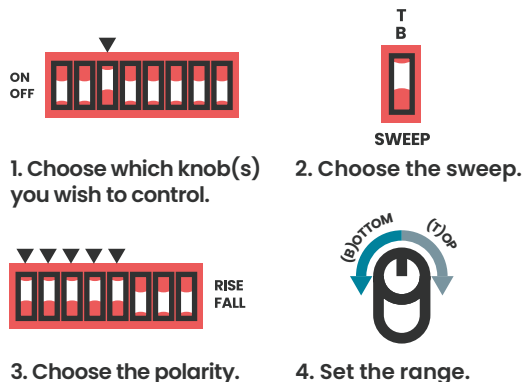
CV: Floating ring TRS to TS cable

EXP: TRS cable

CV and expression can be used to control Condor's knobs.

MIDI lets you go deeper to control all of the knobs and toggles on the pedal, as well as being able to save and recall up to 122 presets.

CV and expression are set up the same way as ramping using the dip switches on the top of the pedal. The pedal will simply detect a CV or expression signal when you plug it in and hand over control.



MIDI requires a Chase Bliss Midibox to convert the signal to a 1/4" TRS jack. For details on getting MIDI going with Condor, check out the MIDI manual.



BYE

This is the end of the Condor manual.
Get out there and fly.

Write us here any time
if you have any questions:
help@chasebliss.com

We're happy to help.

Have fun!

EQ Breakdown

