

COMPADRE

dual voice compressor & boost

USER MANUAL

strymon[®]

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Controls and Connections – Front Panel

BOOST EQ

Selects the frequency shape for clean and dirty boost.

treble: Tightens the bottom end by boosting mid to high frequencies.

mid: Fattens tone by pushing midrange frequencies.

flat: Full range frequency response.



COMP TYPE

Select the type of compression.

studio: Smooth compression as found in vintage rack compressors.

squeeze: Hard compression typical of classic guitar pedals.

Controls and Connections – Front Panel (cont.)

BOOST

Adjusts the amount of boost when the boost circuit is active. Typical boost ~14dB in Flat Clean boost.

COMPRESSION

Turning clockwise increases compression by lowering the threshold. Fully counterclockwise, no compression is applied.



DRY

Adjusts the amount of dry signal summed with the compressor output.

LEVEL

Adjusts the output level of the pedal by -6dB to +6dB when the compressor is engaged. Noon is unity gain.

Controls and Connections – Front Panel (cont.)



BOOST

Engages and disengages the variable boost independent of the **COMP**. The boost is post-compression. **RED** LED ON indicates that the boost is engaged.

COMP

Engages and disengages the VCA compressor independent of the **BOOST**. **RED** LED ON indicates that the compressor is engaged.

NOTE: When both **BOOST** and **COMP** are disengaged, the bypass is either Buffered Bypass or True Bypass depending on the selected mode.

Controls and Connections – Rear Panel

IN

High impedance ultra low-noise discrete Class A JFET preamp input.

OUT

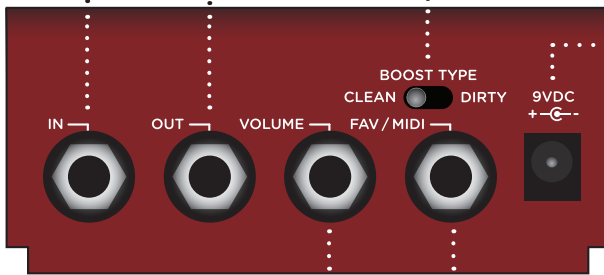
Low impedance mono output.

BOOST TYPE

Selects between a clean or soft clipping boost circuit.

CLEAN: Boost circuit increases output level without introducing noticeable clipping.

DIRTY: Boost circuit increases output level while introducing the soft clipping characteristic of an overdrive pedal.



9VDC

Use the included power supply or an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC maximum center negative. 150mA minimum.

VOLUME

Connect a TRS expression pedal for full-time volume pedal functionality.

FAV / MIDI

Connect a Strymon MiniSwitch for remote selection of a Favorite setting.

(See [page 11](#) for details on configuring for MIDI functionality and use with MultiSwitch Plus.)

Power Up Modes – Bypass Mode

Setting Compadre 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 **COMP** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.



- 2 Turn the **COMPRESSION** knob to select one of the options below. The **COMP** LED will change color to indicate the current status as the knob is turned.

True Bypass: **GREEN**

Auto Bypass: **AMBER** (default)

True Bypass, but forces Buffered Bypass when Volume Pedal jack is connected

Buffered Bypass: **RED**

- 3 Press the **COMP** or **BOOST** footswitch to store the bypass mode and begin using Compadre.

NOTE: Power up modes are saved unless they are changed again with the steps above.

NOTE: Auto and Buffered Bypass allow for the Volume Pedal jack to operate while the pedal is bypassed.

Power Up Modes – FAV/MIDI Jack Options

Select the mode of the FAV/MIDI jack for external control of Compadre.

- 1 Press and hold the **COMP** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.



- 2 Turn the **BOOST** knob to select the function of the FAV/MIDI jack. The **BOOST** LED will change from **RED** to **BLUE** to indicate the current status as the knob is turned.

FAV Mode - **RED** (default)

Allows you to connect MiniSwitch or another external latching footswitch with a TRS cable to store and recall your Favorite setting.

(See page 10 for more details.)

MIDI Mode - **BLUE**

Connect MIDI EXP Cable or MIDI > TRS interface to access 300 presets and remotely control patch parameters via MIDI.

(See page 13 for more details.)

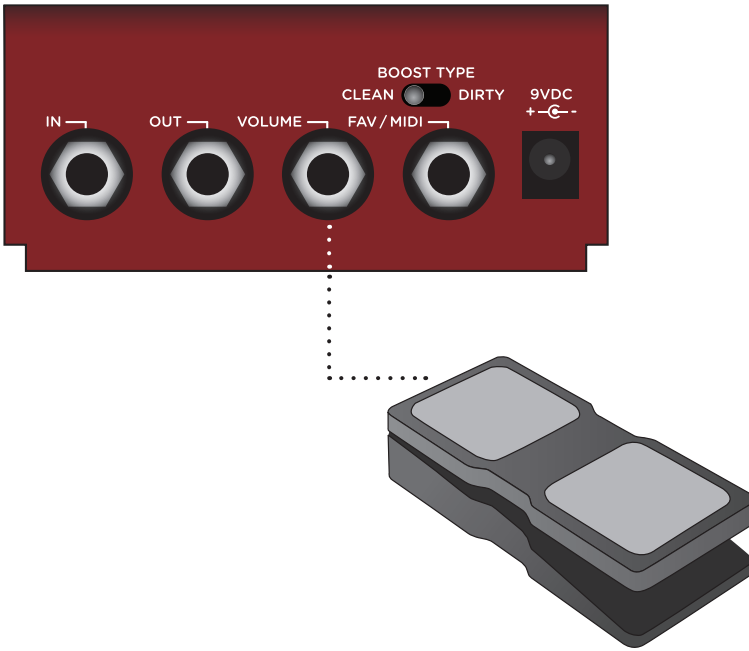
- 3 Press the **COMP** or **BOOST** footswitch to store the bypass mode and begin using Compadre.

NOTE: Power up modes are saved unless they are changed again with the steps above.

External Control – Volume Pedal

Use a TRS Expression pedal to control the output volume.

- 1 Connect the Expression pedal to the **VOLUME** jack of Compadre using a TRS cable.



NOTE: When Compadre is in Buffered Bypass or Auto Bypass mode, the pedal will still function as a Volume pedal even when both **BOOST** and **COMP** are bypassed.

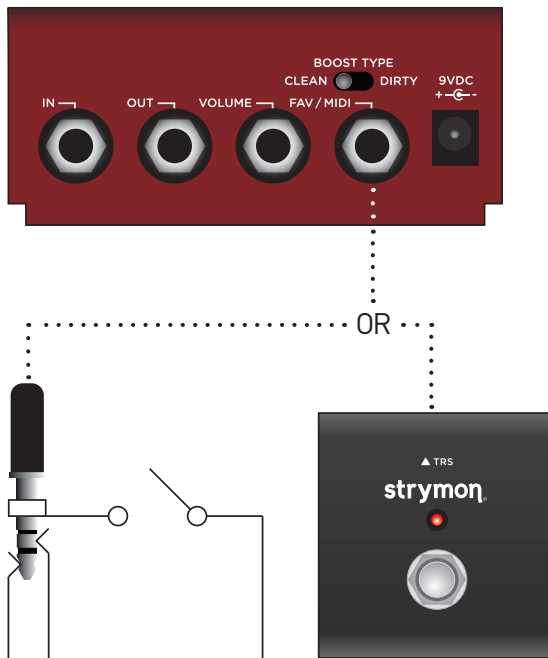
(See [page 7](#) for more details.)

We recommend using an expression pedal with a 25k Ohm minimum potentiometer.

External Control – FAV Switch Setup and Compare Mode

Connect MiniSwitch or other external latching footswitch with a TRS cable to store and recall your favorite setting.

- 1 Configure the **FAV/MIDI** jack for **FAV** mode.
(See [page 8](#) for more info.)
- 2 Connect an external switch with a TRS cable to the **FAV/MIDI** jack.
- 3 Dial in your desired sound.
- 4 To save your sound as the **FAV** setting, press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch until the **BOOST LED** blinks **BLUE**. Press the **BOOST** footswitch again to save the **FAV** setting.



Step on the external footswitch to toggle between your **FAV** setting and the current knob and toggle switch positions.

COMPARE MODE

With the **FAV** engaged, as a knob or switch is adjusted, the **BOOST LED** flashes **GREEN** when the current knob or toggle switch position matches the setting of the saved **FAV** setting.

NOTE: Along with the knobs and toggle switches on the face of the pedal, the setting of the rear **BOOST TYPE** switch and the bypass state of **BOOST** and **COMP** are stored with the **FAV** setting.

NOTE: Saving presets works differently when using MIDI.
(See [page 17](#) for more details.)

NOTE: The **FAV** setting is stored at MIDI program change number 0.

External Control – MultiSwitch Plus Setup

Configure Compadre and MultiSwitch Plus for remote access to three presets.

- 1 Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Hold until both LEDs stop blinking.
- 2 Turn the **BOOST** knob all the way counter-clockwise to set the MIDI channel to Channel 1. The **BOOST** LED should be **GREEN**.
- 3 Turn the **COMPRESSION** knob all the way counter-clockwise to set the MIDI Out mode to On. The **COMP** LED should be **GREEN**.
- 4 Press the **BOOST** or **COMP** footswitch to exit and store the MIDI channel and the MIDI Output setting.
- 5 Configure the **FAV/MIDI** jack for MIDI mode. *(See page 13 for details.)*

- 6 Connect a TRS cable to the **FAV/MIDI** jack on Compadre.



- 7 Press and hold the **A** footswitch on MultiSwitch Plus while connecting the TRS cable to MultiSwitch Plus to select Preset mode on MultiSwitch Plus.



External Control – MultiSwitch Plus Setup (cont.)

Selecting and saving Compadre presets using MultiSwitch plus.



NOTE: Footswitches A, B, and C on MultiSwitch Plus correspond to MIDI program changes 1, 2, and 3.

- 1 Step on a switch that is not illuminated to recall the corresponding preset.
- 2 Step on an illuminated switch to bypass Compadre.

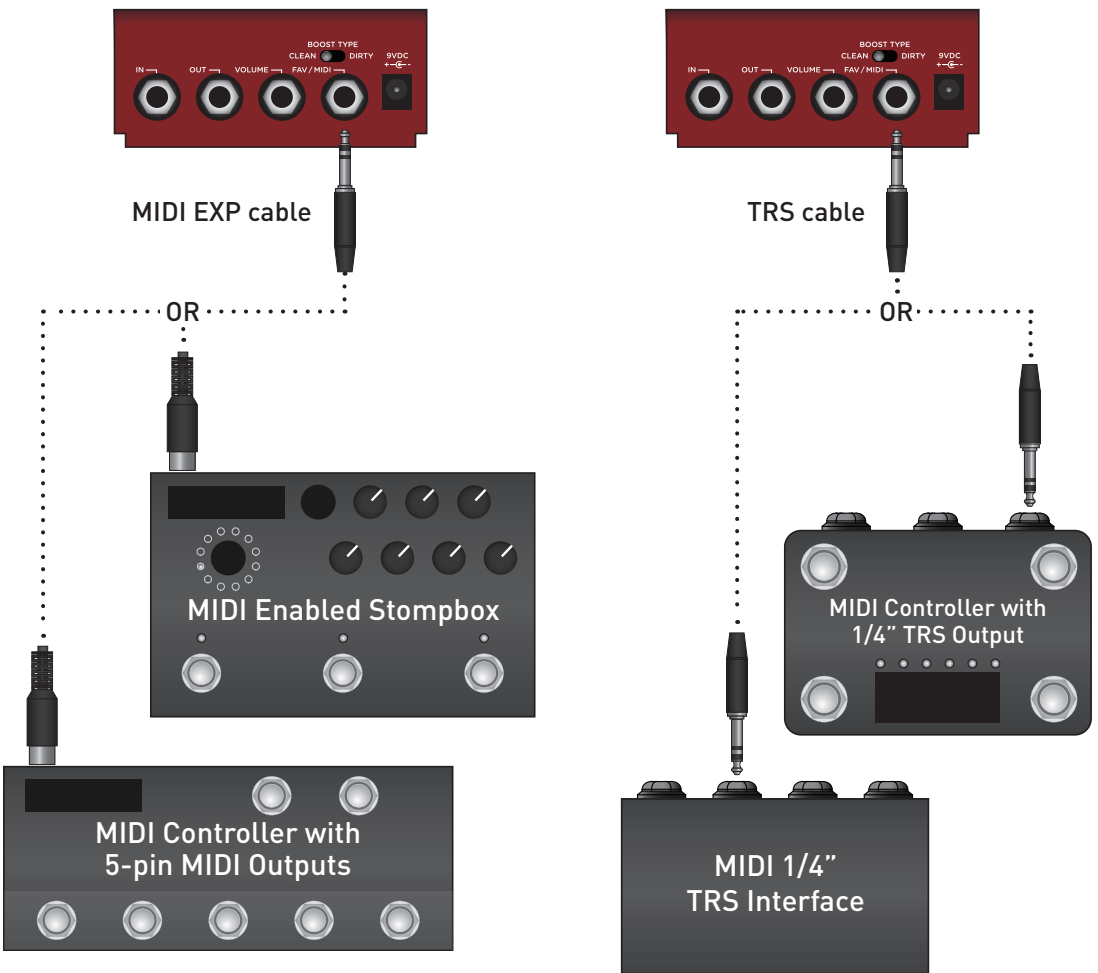
Saving Compadre presets with MultiSwitch Plus:

- 1 Dial in the sound that you would like to save as your preset on Compadre.
- 2 Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch on Compadre until the **BOOST LED** blinks **BLUE**.
- 3 Press the **A**, **B**, or **C** footswitch on MultiSwitch Plus to save the current state of the pedal to the desired location.

MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI

Using MIDI unlocks a set of tools that can be used to load any of Compadre's 300 preset locations using a suitable MIDI controller or interface connected to Compadre's **FAV/MIDI** jack. This requires a MIDI controller/interface with at least one quarter-inch output or a Strymon MIDI EXP cable. When using a Strymon MIDI EXP Cable, the MIDI OUT mode must be set to OFF.

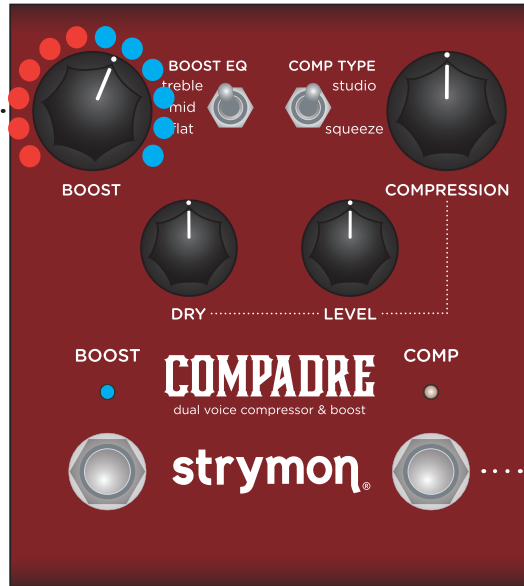
Check strymon.net/support/compadre for a list of compatible devices.



MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI (cont.)

Step 1 – Set FAV/MIDI Jack Mode to MIDI Mode

- 1 Press and hold the **COMP** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.



- 2 Turn the **BOOST** knob clockwise until the **BOOST** LED is **BLUE**.

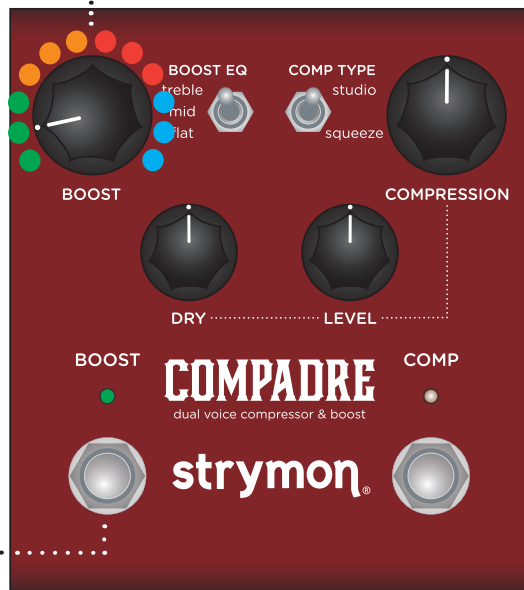
- 3 Press the **BOOST** or **COMP** footswitch again to store the FAV/MIDI jack mode.

NOTE: If you are only sending data to Compadre using the Strymon MIDI EXP Cable, the MIDI Output mode must be set to OFF.
 (See [page 16](#) for details on configuring the MIDI Output Mode.)

MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI (cont.)

Step 2 – Set MIDI Channel: This determines which MIDI channel Compadre will use to send and receive MIDI data. To select channel 4-16, you will need to connect Compadre to a MIDI device.

- 1 Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.



- 2 Turn the **BOOST** knob to set the MIDI communication channel. **BOOST** LED indicates status.

Channel 1: **GREEN** (default)

Channel 2: **AMBER**

Channel 3: **RED**

Channel 4 -16: **BLUE** (Requires 1/4" MIDI connection.)

Once the LED turns **BLUE**, it will blink until the pedal receives a MIDI Program Change message. Once a message is received, the pedal will be set to the MIDI channel that carried the message and the LED will stop blinking.

- 3 Press the **COMP** or **BOOST** footswitch again to store the MIDI channel and begin using Compadre.

MIDI Functionality - Configuring to Use MIDI (cont.)

Step 3 – Set MIDI Output Mode

Determines whether Compadre will send MIDI data out.

- 1 Press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.

TIP: A simple way to check that communication is working is to send CC #27 with a value of 127 when the **COMP** footswitch is OFF. This will turn the **COMP** footswitch on if MIDI is properly connected and configured.



- 2 Turn the **COMPRESSION** knob to select the MIDI OUT mode. The **COMP** LED will flash momentarily to indicate status.

On: GREEN Using Compadre's knobs and switches generates MIDI messages that are sent out of Compadre. (Set to ON when using MultiSwitch Plus.)

Through: AMBER Incoming MIDI messages are sent out of Compadre without any additional MIDI messages generated by Compadre.

Off: RED (default) No MIDI messages are sent out of Compadre.

- 3 Press the **BOOST** or **COMP** footswitch again to set the MIDI output channel and begin using Compadre.

MIDI Functionality - Saving Presets

When in MIDI mode, the current state of the pedal can be saved to any of Compadre's 300 preset locations at any time.

- 1 To enter SAVE mode, press and hold the **BOOST** footswitch. The **BOOST** LED will blink **BLUE** to indicate that it is waiting to receive a MIDI Program Change message.



- 2 Send the unit a MIDI Program Change message from the connected MIDI device. The **BOOST** LED will flash and Compadre will save the current state of the pedal to that preset location.

⋮
 (OR)
 ⋮

Press the **BOOST** footswitch to save the current state of the pedal to the currently loaded preset location.

⋮
 (OR)
 ⋮

Press the **COMP** footswitch to cancel the save operation.

MIDI Functionality - MIDI Specifications

MIDI PROGRAM CHANGES

Compadre contains 300 preset locations, numbered sequentially from 0-299. Because MIDI Program Change messages have a maximum number of 128 (0-127) the presets are grouped into three MIDI patch banks.

MIDI BANK 0 = PRESETS 0-127

MIDI BANK 1 = PRESETS 128-255

MIDI BANK 2 = PRESETS 256-299

Compadre always powers up in MIDI Patch Bank 0, so if you plan to stay within the first 127 presets, simply send a standard MIDI Program Change message to load a preset.

If you will be using MIDI Banks 1 and/or 2, it is advisable to send a standard MIDI Bank Change message (MIDI CC# 0 with a value equal to the MIDI Bank#) before each MIDI Program Change.

Selecting bank 0, patch 127 will put Compadre into Manual mode. In this mode, the pedal will be set to the current knob and switch settings. No preset data can be stored at this preset location.

MIDI Functionality - MIDI Specifications (cont.)

MIDI CC NUMBERS

PARAMETERS	CC#	RANGE	NOTES
Bank Select	0	0-2	
Compression Type	11	1-2	(1=studio, 2=squeeze)
Compression Level	12	0-127	
Compression Off/On	13	0, 127	(0=bypass, 1-127=on)
Compression	14	0-127	
Dry	15	0-127	
Boost EQ	17	1-3	(1=flat, 2=treble, 3=mid)
Boost Type	18	1-2	(1=clean, 2=dirty)
Boost Amount	19	0-127	
Boost Off/On	20	0, 127	(0=bypass, 1-127=on)

PATCH CHANGES

0	Existing FAV patch (accessible via external MiniSwitch)
1	MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 1
2	MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 2
3	MultiSwitch Plus footswitch 3
127	Manual mode (“knobs”)

NOTE: All on/off parameters are implemented with 0=off and any other value (1-127)=on. They are documented as “0, 127” because many MIDI controllers send out 0 and 127 for on/off switches.

Factory Reset

Restores the pedal to factory power up modes and secondary functions and replaces all stored presets with the factory defaults.

- 1 Press and hold the **COMP** footswitch while powering up the pedal. Once both LEDs flash, release the footswitch.



- 2 Sweep the **DRY** knob from 0-100% and back two (2) times. The **BOOST** LED will change colors at the extremes of the knob range and blink **RED** to indicate when the reset is taking place.

Turn 1: **AMBER**

Turn 2: **RED**

Turn 3: **AMBER**

Turn 4: Both LEDs flash **RED**, Compadre resets and restarts

FACTORY SETTINGS

FAV/MIDI Jack: Assigned to FAVORITE mode.

Bypass Mode: Auto Bypass

MIDI channel: 1

MIDI Output Mode: Off

Features

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- Analog VCA (Voltage Controlled Amplifier) compressor
- Two voicing options: smooth studio compression and hard pedal style compression
- Independently controlled clean or dirty boost circuit with 3 EQ options
- Dirty boost option provides overdrive when boost is engaged
- DRY Knob lets you blend the dry signal with the compressed signal to preserve attack transients
- Output VCA allows Compadre to function as a volume pedal when a standard TRS expression pedal is plugged into the dedicated Volume jack
- Selectable True or Buffered Bypass
- Compatible with MiniSwitch for remote selection of a Favorite preset
- Compatible with MultiSwitch Plus for remote selection of 3 presets
- Full featured MIDI control. Access to 300 presets and remote parameter control via quarter-inch TRS. (requires Strymon MIDI EXP cable or MIDI > TRS interface)
- High impedance ultra low-noise discrete Class A JFET preamp input
- Low impedance mono output
- Designed and built in the USA

Specifications

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Input Impedance	1 Meg Ohm
Output Impedance	100 Ohm
Max Input Level	+10 dBu
Compressor Signal/Noise	109 dB typical
Bypass Switching	Selectable True Bypass (electromechanical relay switching) or ultra low-noise Buffered Bypass
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

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Use an adapter with the following rating: 9VDC center negative; 150mA minimum. Voltages higher than 9V can result in damaging the pedal.

Appendix 1

Power Up Modes Quick Reference

Power Up Modes Quick Reference

Below is a list that details how to access all Power Up parameters that are adjustable from Compadre's interface and do not have dedicated knobs or switches. Power Up functions persist through power cycles. Return all function defaults with factory resets.

Press and Hold the **COMP** footswitch while connecting power to Compadre until BOTH LEDs start blinking to enter Power Up mode. Release the footswitch and use the knobs as described below.

Press **COMP** or **BOOST** to store your changes and exit.

BYPASS MODE

(See [page 7](#) for an illustrated description.)

Turn **COMPRESSION** knob - status shown on **COMP LED**

True Bypass: **GREEN**

Auto Bypass: **AMBER**

Buffered Bypass: **RED**

FAV/MIDI JACK MODE

(See [page 14](#) for an illustrated description.)

Turn **BOOST** knob - status shown on **BOOST LED**

Favorite Mode: **RED**

Digital Mode: **BLUE**

FACTORY RESET

(See [page 20](#) for an illustrated description.)

Turn **DRY** knob - status shown on **BOTH LEDs**. Turn the **DRY** knob from 0% to 100% and back two (2) times.

MIDI Power Up Settings Quick Reference

Below is a list that details how to access all Power Up parameters that are adjustable from Compadre's interface and do not have dedicated knobs or switches. Power Up functions persist through power cycles. Return all function defaults with factory resets.

Press and Hold the **BOOST** footswitch while connecting power to Compadre until BOTH LEDs start blinking to enter Power Up mode. Release the footswitch and use the knobs as described below.

Press **BOOST** or **COMP** to store your changes and exit.

MIDI CHANNEL

(See [page 15](#) for an illustrated description.)

Turn **BOOST** knob - status shown on **BOOST LED**

- 1: **GREEN**
- 2: **AMBER**
- 3: **RED**
- 4-16: **BLUE**

MIDI OUTPUT MODE

(See [page 16](#) for an illustrated description.)

Turn **COMPRESSION** knob - status shown on **COMP LED**

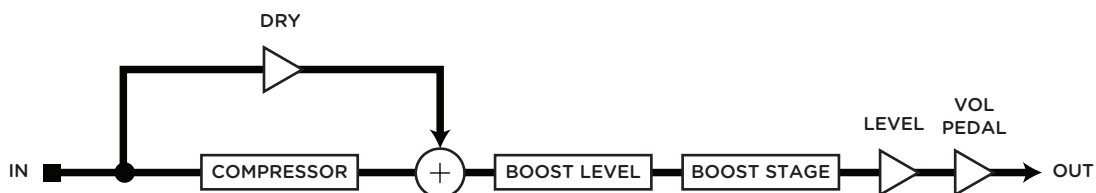
- On: **GREEN**
- Through: **AMBER**
- Off: **RED**

Appendix 2

Signal Flow Diagram

Signal Flow Diagram

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NOTES:

The audio processing in Compadre is completely analog, but it is digitally controlled. This allows you to save and recall up to 300 presets and have full MIDI control over the analog parameters.

When **COMP** is bypassed, the compressor is completely removed from the signal path.

The **LEVEL** knob is only active when the compressor is engaged, and it is located after the boost in the signal chain. This gives you the flexibility to allow the **DIRTY** boost setting to provide significant overdrive without requiring a jump in volume.

Appendix 3
Sample Settings

Sample Settings

Always On

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 0

Smooth Sustain

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 1

CLEAN

Solo Boost

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 2

CLEAN

Amp Push

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 3

DIRTY

Break Loose

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 4

CLEAN

Subtle Sustain

BOOST EQ: treble, mid, flat

COMP TYPE: studio, squeeze

BOOST

DRY

LEVEL

COMPRESSION

BOOST

COMP

MIDI Program Change 5

Strymon Non-Transferrable Limited Warranty

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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 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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