

empress  
effects



# HEAVY MENACE

User Manual

## Further Information

On our website ([www.empresseffects.com](http://www.empresseffects.com)) you will find lots of further information and details on the following points:

### Download

This manual is also available as a PDF file for you to download.

### Keyword Search





Use the search function in the electronic version of this manual to find your topics of interest quickly.

### Customer Support

If you have any problems with the device our Customer Support team will gladly assist you.

## Symbols and Signal Words

Signal Word	Meaning
<b>DANGER!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates an immediate dangerous situation that will result in death or serious injury if it is not avoided
<b>CAUTION!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in minor injury if it is not avoided.
<b>NOTICE!</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in material and environmental damage if it is not avoided.

Warning Signs	Type of Danger
	General warning sign
	Electricity Hazard
	Hot Surface
	Sudden Loud Noises







## Intended Use

This pedal is designed for enhancing guitar tones in live performances and studio recordings.

Use as outlined in the user manual.

The manufacturer is not liable for damages resulting from improper use or use under non-recommended conditions.

## Safety

	<p><b>DANGER! Danger for children</b></p> <p>Dispose of plastic bags and packaging properly to keep them out of reach of babies and young children to prevent choking hazards. Ensure children don't detach small parts like knobs to avoid choking. Never leave children unattended with electrical devices.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER! Electrical shock</b></p> <p>Risk of electrical shock from exposed wires or damaged components. Inspect pedals for damage before use. If damaged, stop use and seek professional repair.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER! Power Supply Issues</b></p> <p>Use the right voltage and current for your pedal's power supply to prevent damage and safety risks. Check the power supply's condition, and for multiple pedals, opt for a dedicated supply to avoid overloading by daisy-chaining.</p>
	<p><b>CAUTION! Overheating</b></p> <p>Avoid overheating. Do not stack pedals or place in confined spaces. If a pedal overheats, stop using and let it cool.</p>
	<p><b>CAUTION! Tripping Hazard / Pedal Placement</b></p> <p>Prevent tripping: Secure cables and place pedals firmly to avoid slips and falls.</p>
	<p><b>CAUTION! Volume Spikes</b></p> <p>Beware of volume spikes and unexpected sounds when adjusting pedal settings</p>



**NOTICE! Allergies or Sensitivities**

Allergy Alert: Some pedal materials, like adhesives and coatings, may cause reactions. Stop use and seek medical advice if needed.



**NOTICE! Fire Hazard**

Keep away from direct heat and open flames.

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# Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Heavy Menace from Empress Effects - a streamlined evolution of our Heavy pedal that offers new features and a convenient, more compact size.

The Channel switch selects between the original Heavy and Heavier modes and a new Lite(ish) mode, covering everything from crunch to crushing.

Dial in your perfect tone with the 3-band EQ and selectable midrange frequency, and shape your low frequency response with the Weight control for thick chords or tight palm muting.

The adaptive noise gate is footswitchable, and it can be linked to the distortion or activated independently. We also added a Gate Key Input for even more flexibility.

However you get heavy, add some Menace to sculpt your signature sound.

- Taylor Hunt  
Lead Designer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Hunt', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

## Noise Gate

A noise gate opens when the input signal is above a set threshold level, allowing audio to pass through. The gate closes when the input is below the threshold, ensuring that unwanted low-level signals such as line noise or pickup hum are silenced when you aren't playing.

The gate in the Heavy Menace is triggered from the signal at the input jack, before the distortion stages. It is an adaptive circuit that responds to your performance, allowing sustained notes to decay naturally but clamping down quickly when it detects a fast stop. When the gate is closed, the LED over the Gate footswitch will be orange. When it is open, the LED will be green.

When the Gate Thresh knob is fully counterclockwise, the threshold is at its lowest setting and will let the most signal through. Turning the knob clockwise will raise the threshold and require a progressively higher input signal to open the gate. We suggest raising the threshold to the point at which any background noise in the signal is silenced, then fine-tuning so that the gate responds as naturally or aggressively to your playing as you want.

For additional options regarding the noise gate, please refer to the *Advanced Configuration and Startup Preferences* section of this manual.

# Advanced Configuration and Startup Preferences

The Advanced Configuration mode lets you customize the behaviour of your pedal. To access these options, press and hold both footswitches at startup while connecting or turning on the power supply. The LEDs will flash momentarily to indicate that you are in the Advanced Configuration mode.

Press the Bypass footswitch to toggle between true bypass and buffered bypass:

Bypass LED off = true bypass (default)

Bypass LED on = buffered bypass

Press the Gate footswitch to toggle between normal and independent bypass modes. In Independent mode, you can use the gate without having the distortion engaged, as though it was a separate pedal.

Gate LED off = normal (default)

Gate LED on = independent

Once you've made your desired changes, press and hold both footswitches again. The LEDs will flash momentarily to indicate that you have exited the Advanced Configuration mode.

By pressing and holding either footswitch while turning on the power, you can also set the Distortion



and Gate to engage automatically on startup. The LED will flash several times to indicate the setting has changed, then the pedal will start up as normal.

**gain:** Adjusts the amount of distortion in conjunction with the Channel switch.

**low, mid, high:** Boosts or cuts each frequency band by up to 15dB. The low shelf filter starts around 80Hz, and the high shelf filter starts around 3kHz.

**gate thresh:** Adjusts the threshold level for the noise gate.

**mid freq:** Selects the centre frequency of the midrange EQ; sweepable from 200Hz - 2.5kHz.

**gate footswitch:** Turns the gate on and off.



## at a Glance



**weight:** Changes the character of the low end. Turn clockwise for a thicker sound, and turn counterclockwise for a tighter response that's perfect for palm muting.

**output:** Adjusts the overall pedal volume.

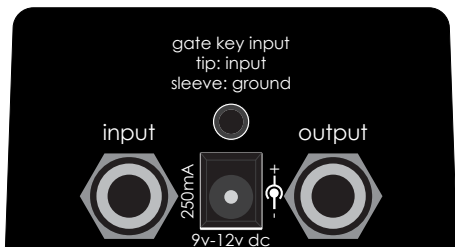
**channel:** Selects the voicing and gain range. Lite(ish), heavy, and heavier offer progressively more gain and high end.

**bypass footswitch:** Turns the distortion on and off.

## Gate Key Input

The noise gate can optionally be triggered by an external signal with the Gate Key Input. This can be particularly useful if you have other pedals before the Heavy Menace in your signal chain. Splitting the signal before those pedals and sending a clean signal to the Gate Key Input ensures the gate will behave consistently regardless of changes to the signal at the main input. Alternatively, you can use a completely different source for creative effects.

The Gate Key Input will accept an 1/8" TS or TRS cable. With a TRS cable, the tip (left) signal will control the noise gate, and the ring (right) signal will be grounded.



# Quickstart

## Thick & Punchy

A heavy distortion with pushed mids to help rhythm tracks stand out in a mix.



## Tight & Brutal

High gain with some mid scoop so your guitar can chug.

## Rock & Roll

Lite(ish) gain for classic rock crunch.



## Big Dipper

All of the gain with none of the mids. Grab your guitar with the lightning bolt finish and get ready to pull off some divebombs.

## Powering the Heavy Menace

Go to [www.empreseffects.com/power](http://www.empreseffects.com/power) for list of power supplies we've tested.

Please note: The Empress Heavy Menace requires at least 250mA of current to function properly. Any power supply rated at 9V DC, supplying negative tip polarity and at least 250mA of current should work.

## Regulatory Compliance Information

### FCC (USA)

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

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

### Responsible Party in the USA

Americas Compliance Consulting LLC dba iCertifi

1001 SW Disk Drive, Ste 250

Bend, Oregon 97702 USA

FCC\_sDoC@icertifi.com

icertifi.com

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful

interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

## **ICES-003 (Canada)**

CAN ICES-003(B) / NMB-003(B)

## **CE (European Union)**

This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of Empress Effects Inc- 105-62 Steacie Dr, Kanata Ontario K2K 2A9. The device identified on the front page of this manual is in conformity with the requirements of the European Union's Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive 2014/30/EU, in accordance with the following harmonized standards:

- EN 55032:2015/A11:2020 – Electromagnetic compatibility of multimedia equipment - Emission Requirements
- EN 61000-3-2:2014 – Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-2: Limits - Limits for harmonic current emissions (equipment input current  $\leq 16$  A per phase)
- EN 61000-3-3:2013 – Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-3: Limits - Limitation of voltage changes, voltage fluctuations and flicker in public low-voltage supply systems, for equipment with rated current  $\leq 16$  A per phase and not subject to conditional connection
- EN 55035:2017/A11:2020 – Electromagnetic compatibility of multimedia equipment - Immunity Requirements



Name: Colin King

Title: Design Engineer

Company: Empress Effects Inc

Date: August 19, 2023

Location: 105-62 Steacie Dr, Kanata Ontario K2K 2A9





## WEEE (2012/19/EU)

This product must not be disposed of with regular household waste. In compliance with WEEE regulations, please take this product to a designated collection facility or return to the supplier for proper recycling. Comply with local laws and regulations for disposal. Contact your local authority or [support@empresseffects.com](mailto:support@empresseffects.com) for specific information.



## Disposal of the packaging material

For the transport and protective packaging, environmentally friendly materials have been chosen that can be supplied to normal recycling. Ensure that plastic bags, packaging, etc. are properly disposed of. Do not just dispose of these materials with your normal household waste, but make sure that they are collected for recycling. Please follow the notes and markings on the packaging.



FR

ÉLÉMENTS D'EMBALLAGE  
À SÉPARER ET À DÉPOSER  
DANS LE BAC DE TRI








## Specifications

Input Impedance: 1 M $\Omega$

Output Impedance: 100 $\Omega$

Frequency Response (-3dB): 35Hz - 17kHz

Input Voltage: 9V DC +  -

Required Current: 250mA

Power Input Connector: 2.1 mm Barrel Connector

Height: 2.5"

Length: 4.8"

Width: 2.6"

Weight: 1lb