

B Ramp

One bass amp built from interchangeable pieces: any preamp, any power amp, any cabinet.

A Lab plug-in. The Lab is where new GFX plug-ins are built in the open: they may change sound or controls between versions.



Overview

B Ramp is the bass sibling of Ramp and Ramp Mini. It takes the bass amps of the range (Amp Head's BASS model, the AD-200 and the 5F6) and a new solid-state head, the SB-80, and splits each one into a preamp, a power amp and a cabinet. Every piece plugs into every other: the SB-80's graphic into the AD-200's valves and the 5F6's open 4x10, say.

Choose the pieces of one original and you have that amp, sound for sound. Each piece feeds the next at the level its own partner would, and a mixed rig is level-matched to the preamp's own amp, so swapping a piece doesn't jump in loudness. Changing a piece dips the sound for a moment (8 ms out, 8 ms back), so nothing clicks.

The SB-80 is new, in the spirit of the 80s British solid-state bass amps: a transistor preamp with a built-in compressor, a mid-scoop PRE-SHAPE key and a seven-band graphic, into a big clean power amp that rounds off at its rails.

DRIFT (50 % = standard, 0 = none) works as each piece's original did: the valves' bias and balance wander and the supplies breathe. On the SB-80 the supply rails breathe, and its own speakers loosen a little as they warm up with playing.

Reach for it for

- The GFX bass amps in one plug-in
- Bass rigs that never existed: a solid-state graphic into valve power, a tweed preamp into a clean 1x15
- Clean DI-and-amp blends, deep dub, slap, grinding rock bass
- Swapping cabinets on a finished part to find where it sits

Controls

The header

PRESETS	Opens the preset list.
◀ / ▶	Steps to the previous or next preset, wrapping round.
Preset display	Shows the preset's name; click it for the list.
OS	Oversampling for the preamp and power amp: click to step 1x, 2x, 4x. 1x (the default) keeps each original's own anti-aliasing; higher is cleaner on bright, hard-driven sounds and costs more CPU (the 5F6 power amp is the heaviest piece). 2x adds 31 samples of latency, 4x 37 (reported to REAPER).
S / M / L / ?	Panel size, and the credits with a link to this manual.

PREAMP

Click the module box to choose the preamp, or step through them with ◀ / ▶ under it. The plate beside it changes to that amp's own controls and colours. Each preamp remembers its settings while you try the others.



AMP HEAD	Two valves. GAIN sets the drive. BASS, MIDRANGE and TREBLE cut or boost (0 = flat), and MID FREQUENCY moves the midrange between 220 Hz and 3 kHz. ULTRA LO adds deep lows, ULTRA HI adds top sparkle.
AD-200	A valve preamp with two MODELS: CRUSH (more gain and grind) or DEEP (warmer, rounder). GAIN, then a passive BASS / MIDDLE / TREBLE stack with its MID FREQUENCY (250 Hz to 1.5 kHz). SUB keeps a clean low end under the drive.
5F6	The tweed. MODEL: TWEED or GREYBEARD (the later, cleaner voicing; the plate turns charcoal). VOLUME drives the two inputs; BLEND moves from the normal input to the bright one. TREBLE, MIDDLE and BASS are the tweed's own stack after its cathode follower.
SB-80	Solid state. GAIN into the transistor stage; COMP is the built-in compressor (0 = off), evening out the notes and adding sustain. PRE-SHAPE cuts the mids and lifts the lows and highs (the scooped slap sound). The seven faders are the graphic EQ, 50 Hz to 3.2 kHz, ± 12 dB each; double-click a fader to put it back to 0 dB.

POWER AMP

Click the module box to choose the power amp, or step through them with ◀ / ▶ under it. Each model key (CRUSH / DEEP, TWEED / GREYBEARD) is level-matched, here and on the preamps, so switching it changes the sound, not the loudness.

AMP HEAD	A big push-pull valve stage on a sagging supply. MASTER drives it.
AD-200	Four power valves inside a feedback loop, with a valve rectifier. MASTER, and its own CRUSH / DEEP model.
5F6	The tweed's two power valves. MASTER (5 = the original amp), PRESENCE in the feedback, and its TWEED / GREYBEARD model. The low feedback lets the speaker's own resonance through: loose, bouncy lows.
SB-80	A big, clean solid-state amp that rounds off softly at its rails,

on a supply that sags a little when pushed. MASTER drives it.

CABINET

SPEAKERS	Click the box, or step with ◀ / ▶ under it: Line out (no cabinet), 8x10 (Amp Head), 8x10 sealed, 4x10 sealed or 1x15 ported (AD-200), 4x10 open back (5F6), or 4x10 and 1x15 (SB-80).
MIC	Moves the mic from on axis (bright) to off axis (darker).

IN / OUT

MONO IN	Feeds both sides from the mixed input.
GUARD	Levels the input towards -18 dBFS (it never boosts).
TRIM	Input level, -24 to +12 dB.
GATE	A noise gate before the preamp; fully down is off.
DI	Blends in the clean DI signal (in time with the amp) after the cabinet, 0 - 100 %: the classic studio DI-plus-amp sound.
DRIFT	0 - 100 %, 50 % = the originals' standard amount.
OUTPUT	Output level, -24 to +12 dB. The house output stage follows (a soft clip, ceiling -0.3 dBFS).
Meter	L / R output, -42 to +3 dBFS, the peak held. Click it to clear the peaks.

Knobs: drag up or down (hold Shift for fine moves) or use the mouse wheel; double-click or Ctrl-click returns to the default. A knob's name shows its value while you touch it. S / M / L set the panel size; ? shows the credits.

Presets

Init	Amp Head's BASS model at its defaults, into its 8x10.
Valve Warm	Amp Head: round and full, the treble down a little.

Valve Growl	Amp Head pushed, the mids up, a little DI underneath.
Soul Fingers	The AD-200 on DEEP into its sealed 8x10.
Deep Dub	The AD-200 on DEEP, bass and SUB up, into the ported 1x15.
Grunge Growl	The AD-200 on CRUSH, driven.
Chicago Shuffle	The 5F6 tweed turned up, the middle forward.
Soul Clean	The 5F6 on GREYBEARD, clean and warm.
Clean Punch	The SB-80 with a little COMP and a gentle smile on the graphic.
Slap Scoop	The SB-80 with PRE-SHAPE in, more COMP, a bright top and some DI.
Rock Drive	The SB-80's GAIN up, the upper mids pushed.
Graphic into Valves	The SB-80 preamp into the AD-200's DEEP valve power amp and 8x10.
Tweed on the Rails	The 5F6 preamp into the SB-80's clean power amp and 1x15.
Stack Grind	Amp Head's preamp hot with ULTRA LO, into the AD-200's CRUSH power amp and sealed 4x10.
Sub Fifteen	The AD-200 preamp on DEEP with SUB, into the 5F6 power amp and the SB-80's 1x15.
Graphic Tweed	The SB-80 preamp into the 5F6 on GREYBEARD and its open 4x10.

Presets set every control except OS, and come in at about the same loudness.

Tips

- Start from a matched set (the first presets), then swap one piece at a time to hear what it brings.
- The cabinet shapes a bass sound most: try the same preamp and power amp through each one, and Line out with DI for a direct sound.

- COMP on the SB-80 comes after its GAIN stage: a little evens out fingerstyle playing without squashing the attack.
- The valve power amps sag: dig in and they squash and bloom; the SB-80 stays tight until it rounds off.

File: gfx-lab-b-ramp.jsfx