

Ramp

One guitar 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

Ramp takes the four GFX guitar amps (Amp Head, Fullerton 65, Mali 120 and GR-120) and splits each one into a preamp, a power amp and a cabinet. Every piece plugs into every other, so you can run the GR-120's graphic preamp into the Fullerton's 6L6 power amp and the Mali's 2x12. Most of these combinations never existed as hardware. Pick the three pieces of one amp and you have that amp exactly as it sounds on its own.

Each piece feeds the next at the level its own partner would, so a mixed rig stays in the same loudness range as the originals. Changing a piece dips the sound for a moment (8 ms out, 8 ms back), so nothing clicks.

The FX LOOP is new: it sits between the preamp and the power amp and lends the amps' own effects to any preamp: the Mali's chorus / vibrato, a spring tank and the Fullerton's optical tremolo.

DRIFT (50 % = standard, 0 = none) works as each piece's original did. The preamp valves' bias wanders, the power valves drift out of balance, the supply breathes, and the Mali's distortion and rails move. The loop chorus's clock wanders like the Mali's chorus did.

Reach for it for

- The four GFX guitar amps in one plug-in
- New rigs: a valve preamp into a solid-state power amp, an op-amp distortion into big EL34s
- Chorus, spring or tremolo on an amp that never had them
- Surf, ambient clean, crunch, doom and lead tones from the presets

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 preset list too.
OS	1x / 2x / 4x: each click moves on. The preamp and power amp run at that rate. 1x keeps each amp's own anti-aliasing and adds no latency; 2x adds 31 samples, 4x 37 (reported to REAPER). The GR-120 pieces always ran at 2x, so they sound most like the original at 2x. Changing it dips the sound for 5 ms.

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	All valve. GAIN, BRIGHT, DRIVE (the clean or drive channel), BASS, MIDDLE, TREBLE and REVERB (its own spring tank).
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FULLERTON 65	Black-panel NORMAL and VIBRATO channels, each with VOLUME, TREBLE, MIDDLE, BASS and BRIGHT. JUMPER links the two channels. REVERB is its three-spring tank; SPEED and INTENSITY are its optical tremolo, and STEREO TREM spreads it across the speakers.
MALI 120	Solid state. The input key picks NORMAL, EFFECT or BOTH channels, each with VOLUME, TREBLE, MIDDLE, BASS and BRIGHT. DISTORTION is the op-amp drive on the effect channel, smoother than the original's; REVERB is its short spring. The Mali's chorus and vibrato live in the FX LOOP, where every preamp can use them.
GR-120	The cascaded high-gain preamp. GAIN, BASS, TREBLE, FREQ CONTOUR (six mid voicings, 1 to 6), the DOOM / LEAD voicing and a six-band GRAPHIC (100 Hz to 3.2 kHz, ± 12 dB) with its own IN key.

FX LOOP

Between the preamp and the power amp, in this order. Each effect has its own IN key and glides in and out; an effect that is out is greyed.

CHORUS	The Mali's bucket-brigade chorus. CHORUS mixes it with the dry sound; VIBRATO gives only the wobbling copy (a true pitch vibrato). SPEED and DEPTH.
SPRING	A spring reverb tank: AMP HEAD (long) or MALI (short and bright). LEVEL is how much returns; DWELL is how hard the tank is driven, which sets its splash and length. Changing the tank fades it out and back in.
TREMOLO	The Fullerton's optical tremolo: SPEED and INTENSITY. STEREO swings the two sides against each other.

POWER AMP

Click the module box to choose the power amp, or step through them with ◀ / ▶ under it.

AMP HEAD	EL34-style push-pull with supply sag. PRESENCE and MASTER.
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FULLERTON 65	Four 6L6-style valves inside a feedback loop. MASTER (new: 5 = the original's drive; higher pushes the valves harder).
MALI 120	A clean solid-state stage that clips hard at its rails. MASTER (new: 5 = as the original).
GR-120	Four EL34-style valves with little feedback and a big transformer. PRESENCE, MASTER and its own DOOM / LEAD voicing.

CABINET

SPEAKERS	Click the box, or step with ◀ / ▶ under it: Off (line out), 2x12 open or 4x12 closed (Amp Head), 2x12 open (Fullerton 65), 2x12 (Mali 120), 2x8 (its smaller sibling, the Mali 55) or 4x12 closed (GR-120). Off gives a direct line-out sound.
MIC	From on axis (bright) to off axis (darker). It moves the mic on the Amp Head and GR-120 cabinets.
WIDTH	Spreads the two speakers apart: 100 % = one left, one right.

IN / OUT

MONO IN	Feeds both sides from the mixed input.
GUARD	Levels the input towards the amp's sweet spot; it never boosts.
GATE	A noise gate before the preamp. Fully down = off.
TRIM	Input level, -24 to +12 dB.
DRIFT	0 to 100 % (50 % = standard): see the overview.
OUTPUT	Output level, -24 to +12 dB, then the house output stage with its soft clip.
Meter	L and R output levels. 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 and this manual's address.

Presets

Init	The Amp Head, clean, into its open 2x12.
Fullerton Clean	The Fullerton 65 as it is: the vibrato channel with its own spring tank.
Mali Chorus	The Mali 120: the normal channel with the loop chorus.
Head Crunch	The Amp Head's drive channel into its closed 4x12.
GR Doom	The GR-120 in DOOM: a low, heavy wall.
GR Lead	The GR-120 in LEAD with a mid push on the graphic and the Amp Head's spring in the loop.
Black Panel Crunch	The Fullerton's preamp pushed into the Amp Head's EL34s and closed 4x12.
Chorus Stack	The Amp Head's drive into the GR-120 power amp and 4x12, chorus in the loop.
Fizz Wall	The Mali's op-amp distortion into the GR-120's EL34s and 4x12.
Surf Trem	The Fullerton's normal channel into the Mali power amp, a wet spring and stereo tremolo in the loop.
Vibrato Drive	The Amp Head's drive through the loop vibrato and the Mali's short spring into the Fullerton.
Small Box Lead	The GR-120's lead into the Mali's power amp and little 2x8.
Ambient Clean	The Mali's effect channel with chorus, a long spring and slow stereo tremolo into the Fullerton.

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 power amp MASTER is where valve power-amp drive lives: try a clean preamp into a power amp with MASTER high.
- The loop CHORUS adds a chorus to any preamp, including amps that never had one.
- Try OS 2x on the GR-120 and on heavy drive for the cleanest top end.
- CABINET Off gives a line-out sound for your own cabinet impulse.

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