

Axe-Fx II Firmware Release Notes

3.00

NOTE: THIS VERSION WILL LIKELY CHANGE THE SOUND OF EXISTING PRESETS. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS. YOU SHOULD AUDITION ALL YOUR PRESETS AFTER INSTALLATION AND CHECK FOR PROPER OPERATION AND TONE. AN AMP MODEL CAN BE RESET BY TEMPORARILY CHANGING THE AMP TYPE AND THEN CHANGING BACK TO THE DESIRED TYPE. THIS WILL LOAD THE MODEL WITH DEFAULT PARAMETERS.

NOTE: FACTORY BANK A HAS BEEN REDONE TO REFLECT THE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS. THE SYSEX FILE TO INSTALL THIS BANK IS INCLUDED ALONG WITH THIS FIRMWARE.

Added IR Capture feature. Please see the separate instructions for details on the use of this feature.

Greatly improved power amp modeling. New pentode model with adjustable hardness. Improved power supply modeling. Improved screen grid modeling and bias excursion modeling (more apparent "knock" on high-gain tones).

Added POWER TUBE HARDNESS parameter. This parameter adjusts how rapidly the power tubes enter saturation. Higher values give a slightly more aggressive distortion character. Lower values give a smoother breakup.

Added TRANSFORMER MATCH parameter. This is an extremely powerful parameter that sets the relative output transformer primary impedance which in turn controls how easily the power tubes are driven into clipping. The higher the Master Volume setting the more pronounced the effect of this parameter. Decreasing the matching causes the power tubes to clip later and therefore the phase inverter and grid clipping becomes more predominant. Increasing the matching causes the power tubes to clip sooner. At lower settings the speaker resonance will be more pronounced, at higher settings the speaker resonance will be less pronounced. For optimum results bring up the Master until the desired amount of power amp distortion is achieved, then adjust the matching until the character of the distortion is as desired. The various LF and HF resonance parameters interact strongly with this parameter so be sure to experiment with those as well when crafting your ideal tone. The value of this parameter is relative to the actual transformer matching which is set internally and not directly exposed. The value is reset to 1.0 whenever they amp type is selected.

Added AMP VOICING parameter. This parameter voices the amp to a variety of tonal styles. Voicings take the guesswork out of mix engineering by automatically crafting the tone like a professional engineer would. Choose "Neutral" for the raw amp sound. Choose one of the other voicings to rapidly achieve a mix-ready tone.

Improved speaker load modeling. Now incorporates magnetic eddy current losses.

Added speaker impedance graph to the Amp block and moved all related parameters to that page. This graph allows you to visualize the resulting speaker impedance curve and how the various parameters affect the impedance. Note that

the power amp frequency response will not equal the speaker impedance if the Damping is greater than 0. This is because negative feedback flattens the response curve.

Added quick reset to amp block graphic EQ. Pressing Enter while in the EQ menu resets all bands to zero.

Added mid-frequency resonance to Amp block. While most speakers don't have a mid-frequency resonance, this parameter allows you to fine-tune the edge-of-breakup profile enabling you to achieve "hyper-realistic" tones.

Added "TX STAR" amp model. This model is based on the lead channel of a Mesa Lonestar.

Added "FAS WRECK" model. This model is based on the original WRECKER 1 model from the Axe-Fx Ultra.

Added "PRINCE TONE" model. Based on a single-ended Fender Princeton model 5F2-A.

Reworked "MR Z 38 SR" model. If you are using this model it is highly recommended that you reset the model by selecting another model and then reselecting the "MR Z 38 SR" model.

Reworked "BRIT JM45" model. Model is now based on Channel 1 (the bright channel).

All amp models have been reworked to some extent. The models listed above received major rework.

Reprocessed most Redwirez cabinet IRs to reduce excessive low end.

Reworked all mic models and added Proximity parameter to allow the user to adjust the desired proximity effect.

Improved Spring Reverb modeling.

Added Drive parameter to Spring Reverb modes.

Added LOWCUT parameter to Pitch block.

Changed preset recall "wraparound" so that recall stops at the wrap point briefly. Continuing to increase or decrease the value will then result in the preset wrapping around after a brief period.

Improved Output Level knob tapers.

2.00c

Fixed crashing under rare circumstances when loading presets created with certain versions of Axe-Edit.

2.00b

Fixed slight corruption in tuner indicator.

2.00a

Fixed level bug in Jr. Blues model.

2.00

NOTE: THIS VERSION WILL LIKELY CHANGE THE SOUND OF EXISTING PRESETS. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AMP MODELING. YOU SHOULD AUDITION ALL YOUR PRESETS AFTER INSTALLATION AND CHECK FOR PROPER OPERATION AND TONE. AN AMP MODEL CAN BE RESET BY TEMPORARILY CHANGING THE AMP TYPE AND THEN CHANGING BACK TO THE DESIRED TYPE. THIS WILL LOAD THE MODEL WITH DEFAULT PARAMETERS.

NOTE: ALTHOUGH THE AXE-FX II WILL AUTOMATICALLY REBOOT UPON UPDATING THE FIRMWARE IT IS RECOMMENDED TO POWER CYCLE THE UNIT AFTER INSTALLING THIS FIRMWARE.

NOTE: DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THIS FIRMWARE YOU MAY NEED TO RESET YOUR SYSTEM PARAMETERS. IF YOU EXPERIENCE STRANGE PRESET BEHAVIOR AFTER INSTALLING THIS PRESET WE RECOMMEND PERFORMING A PARAMETER RESET VIA THE UTILITY MENU.

Added "Triode Hardness" parameter to amp block. This parameter controls how sharply the triodes enter saturation and can be used to simulate softer or harder tubes. The default value is 5.0 and is set to this value whenever the type is changed. The effect of this is subtle and most apparent at edge of breakup. Lower values give softer saturation, higher values give a more aggressive breakup.

NOTE: Existing presets should be checked as this value may load to a value of other than 5.0 depending upon what version of firmware was originally used to create the preset. All factory presets have been reworked as the factory presets will load to 0.0.

Exposed the second-to-last triode plate frequency: Triode1 Plate Freq. This parameter sets the cutoff frequency of the plate impedance for the next-to-last triode in the chain. Many amps have a capacitor across this triode's plate resistor. This capacitor is used to smooth the response and reduce noise. You can adjust the amount of capacitance, and the resulting frequency, using this parameter. The last triode plate capacitor is also exposed: Triode2 Plate Freq.

Reworked most amp models. Corrected various mistakes and updated Miller capacitance values based on recent research.

Added SOLO X99 LEAD model. Based on the lead channel of a Soldano X99 preamp.

Added RECTO ORG MDRN model. Based on the Modern channel of a new Dual Rectifier with the voicing in the Modern position.

Added Cabinet Size warping. This allows the user to change the relative size of the speaker. Note: feature only available in Mono modes.

Reverted Output Level tapers to original taper.

Reduced power-off pop. For maximum suppression of output transients at power-down turn the Output Level controls full CCW before turning power off.

Added Low Rate Mult parameter to Rotary block. This parameter adjusts the rate of the virtual LF drum relative to the HF rotor.

Added Time Const. Parameters to Rotary block. These parameters control how fast the respective rates change in response to changes in the rate.

Added Input Select to Volume block.

Exposed Mixer block Output Mode parameter to Modification.

Improved GUI performance. Screen draws are now faster which should reduce sluggishness at high CPU usage. Added knob highlights for kicks.

Fixed bypass state not being saved properly when switching between X/Y and then changing state.

Fixed Looper block not reporting controllers correctly to MFC-101.

Fixed Pitch block using same custom scale degrees for both X and Y.

Fixed MIDI processing not handling running status properly.

Fixed CPU usage increasing if USB not initialized.

1.05

Fixed X/Y copy not working in Reverb.

Increased sequencer steps to 32.

Added Hicut to Quadchorus.

Added Bypass Mode to Volume block.

Added FAS Brown and Big Hair models.

Exposed Drive block Bit Reduction parameter to Modification.

Exposed Delay block Bit Reduction parameter to Modification.

Exposed Delay block Drive parameter to Modification.

Exposed Crossover Freq parameter to Modification.

Patch recall now wraps at boundaries.

Quick Control knobs now work in Global EQ menu.

Fixed crashing on certain GUI messages (X/Y, etc.).

Changed Output Level knobs so that volume goes to zero and eliminated "beating".

Fixed noise in USB audio when using OS-X aggregate device and changing presets via MIDI.

Fixed some Bypass Mode Modifiers not correctly mapped.

Fixed pop when X/Y switching between regular and reverse delay types.

1.04

Fixed Output 2 Configuration not working.

1.03

Fixed Reverb "Y" not recalling properly

Changed X/Y so that switching by MIDI preserves bypass state

1.02

Fixed popping when switching between certain amp models.

Fixed X/Y not working properly in Cabinet block.

Improved Rotary block.

Added X/Y copy feature. To copy all parameters from "X" to "Y" double-click "Y". Likewise double-click "X" to copy from "Y".

Added Tube Pre model.

1.01

Initial production release.