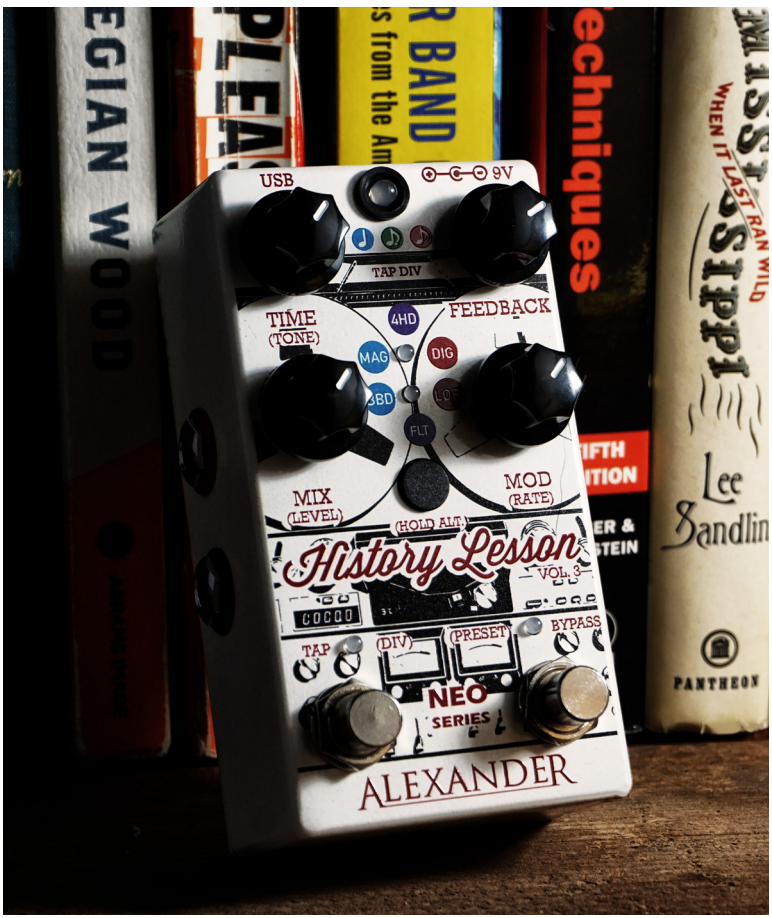
History Lesson

VOL.3



USER MANUAL

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About Alexander Pedals

Alexander Pedals builds hand-crafted effects pedals in Garner, North Carolina. Each Alexander Pedal is meticulously voiced and tweaked by our sonic scientists to achieve sounds that are both instantly familiar yet completely unique.

Alexander Pedals are designed by Matthew Farrow and a group of trusted players, builders, and friends. Matthew has been building guitar pedals since the late 1990s, first with Pharaoh Amplifiers, and now with Disaster Area Designs. Matthew has designed some of the most innovative effects units on the market, including some big names he's not allowed to tell you about.

Alexander Pedals was started for two reasons - to make great tones, and to do good. The great tones part you probably have some idea about. As for doing good, Alexander Pedals donates a portion of the profits from every pedal sold to charity, whether you buy from us or our dealers. Matthew's younger brother Alex passed away in 1987 of a form of cancer called neuroblastoma. Alexander Pedals honors his memory by helping in the fight to end childhood cancer.

ALEXANDER

GREAT TONES. DOING GOOD.

alexanderpedals.com

Introduction

The History Lesson Vol.3 is our loving homage to the best echoes the past has to offer.

We've included our favourite echo and delay sounds ranging back over 60 years. We focused on vintage tech like tape echo, analog "bucket brigade" delay, and digital time manipulation. You'll find a host of familiar sounds in the History Lesson Vol.3 as well as great new tones to help you sculpt your music.

We've also updated the pedal with our usual Neo Series magic, adding presets, MIDI, expression control, and extra functionality for each mode.

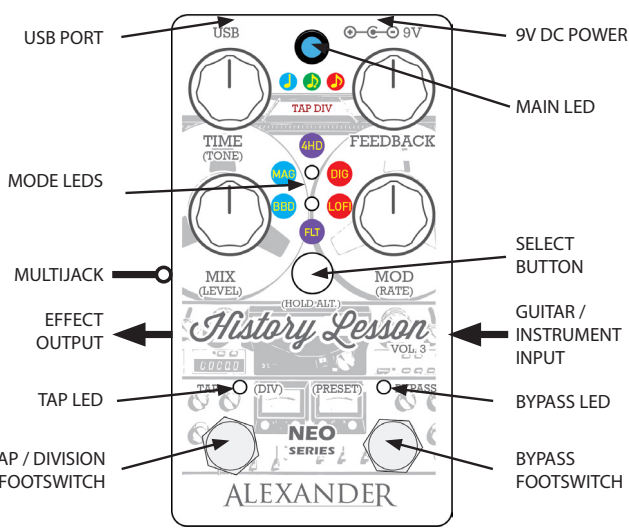
Plug in and turn some knobs with us on our journey through the past!

Getting Started

History Lesson v3 is pretty much like any other pedal. Plug in on the right side, then plug the lower jack on the left side to your amp or next pedal. Power it up, hit the footswitch and see what happens!

Want to hear some sounds that we like? Hold down the BYPASS footswitch to load in the factory presets. We put four cool tones in the pedal for you to tweak.

Experiment. Turn the knobs. Push the buttons. We think you'll find something you like.



Messing with the knobs will get you a long way, but there is a lot to this pedal just under the surface. When you're ready to dive in to the advanced features of your new pedal, read on.

Sounds and Controls

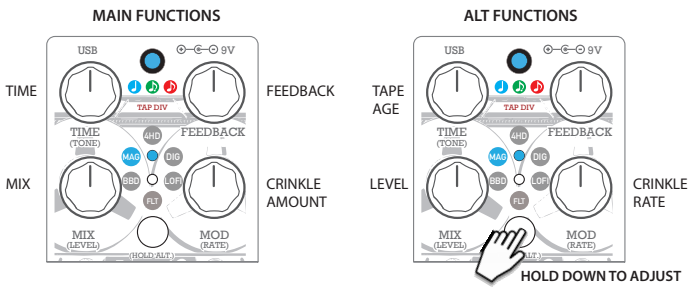
History Lesson v3 does a lot of stuff, but that doesn't mean that it's hard to use! Generally you can just turn the knobs on the pedal and explore new sounds, but we put a few extra controls on the pedal that we think you can use.

Tap the center Select button to move to the next Effect Mode. You'll notice that the small LEDs in the center of the pedal change to show the current Effect Mode.

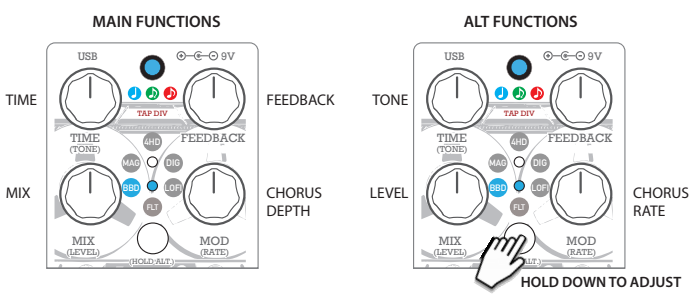
If you *hold* the center Select button, you can access the "Alt Functions" for the pedal knobs.

Here's a run-down on what all of the knobs do in each Effect Mode of the pedal.

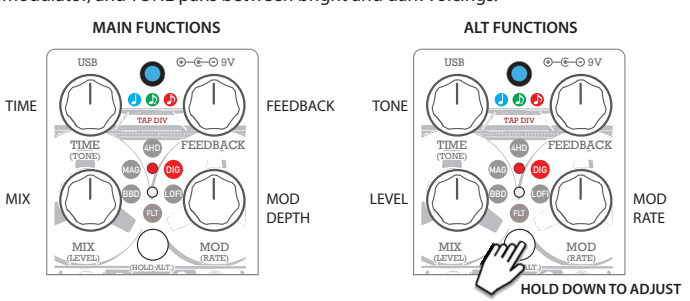
MAG (upper blue) Magnetic tape style delay. The MOD knob adjusts the amount of tape crinkle, and RATE changes how often the crinkle happens. Use TONE to simulate worn tape.



BBD (lower blue) Analog bucket-brigade delay. MOD and RATE add an adjustable chorus modulation, and TONE changes the percussive attack of the delay.

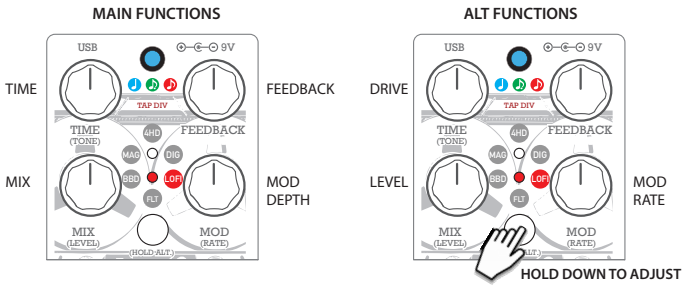


DIG (upper red) Bright and clean 24-bit digital delay. MOD and RATE control a digital pitch modulator, and TONE pans between bright and dark voicings.

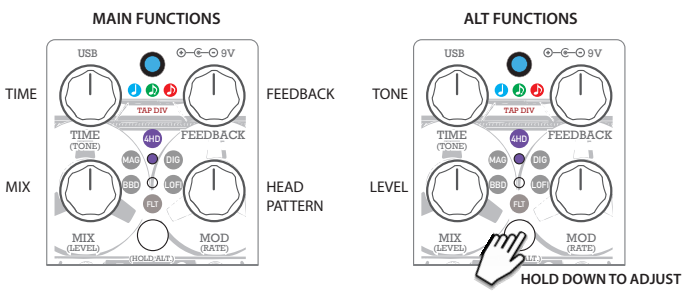


Sounds and Controls (continued)

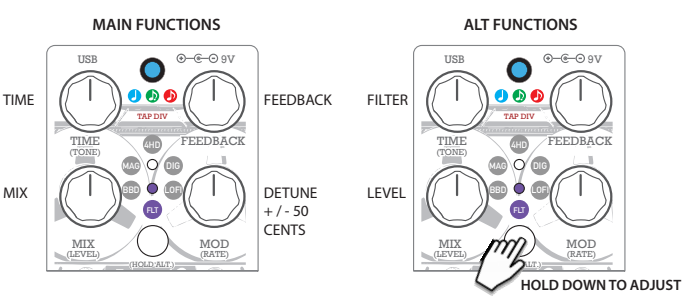
LOFI (lower red) Dirty, low-fidelity tape delay. MOD and RATE adjust the wow and flutter of the tape, while TONE sets the amount of transistor drive applied to the delay signal.



4HD (upper violet) Four-head multi-tap delay. TONE controls the brightness of the echo signal, and MOD selects one of eight head patterns.



FLT (lower violet) 12-bit rack-style digital delay. TONE controls a resonant filter, and MOD adds a pitch detune for thickening or wild modulation effects.



Loading and Saving Presets

Have you ever spent a lot of time tweaking your gear to get the sounds you really love, only to find that your pedal knobs moved between your practice space and the gig? Or maybe you need a lot of sounds but don't have a ton of room on your board for multiple pedals?

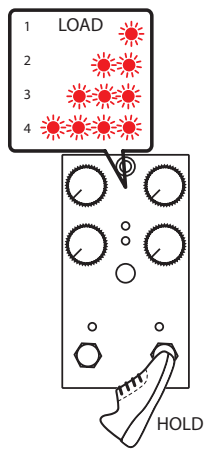
Presets to the rescue!

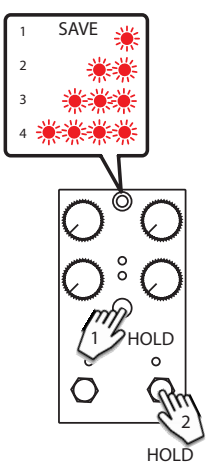
History Lesson v3 and all of our other Neo Series pedals have built-in preset capability. That means you can save and recall four sounds from a single pedal with no extra hardware or funny business. If you do have a MIDI controller, the preset capability expands to 16!

To load a preset, simply hold down the BYPASS footswitch for 1 second.

The upper LED will blink one, two, three, or four times to indicate the current preset and you're all set!

ALL of the pedal settings are recalled as part of the preset - knob positions, expression settings, and effect modes.





To save the current preset, press and hold the center Select button, then hold the BYPASS footswitch down.

The upper LED will blink to indicate the preset that was saved.

If you're using a MIDI controller to access presets on your Neo Series pedal, just send a program change (PC) message to load a preset.

You can access an additional 12 presets using MIDI for a total of 16.

To save presets 5-16, load in the preset by sending a MIDI program change then edit its settings. Once satisfied, save as normal. The current settings will save in the current preset.

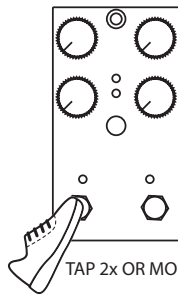
Tap Tempo

History Lesson v3 supports setting delay time using Tap Tempo, to allow you to match the delay time to the beat of your music.

Tap the left footswitch two or more times to set the tempo of the delay.

The pedal will set its delay time based on the most recently used control, so turning the knob will override the tapped tempo and vice-versa.

If you save a preset after tapping or using the knob, the preset will retain the current tempo of the pedal no matter which method you use to set it.



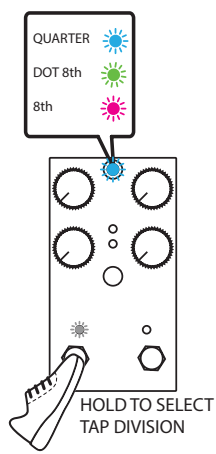
Tap Divisions

History Lesson v3 can lock the tempo to your tapped intervals, or it can "sub-divide" them to faster delay times while still remaining in tempo.

Hold down the left footswitch to cycle between the tap division options:

Quarter note: blue LED
Dotted eighth note: green LED
Eighth note: red LED

The subdivision value is saved in the pedal presets.



Bypass and Trails

Histoy Lesson v3 uses a buffered bypass system with optional "trails." When you press the bypass footswitch, the pedal will set the dry signal volume to unity, and leave the delay volume alone. This allows the delay signal to fade out naturally and not be cut off when the pedal is bypassed.

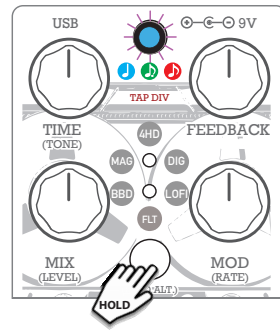
The pedal also features our exclusive AutoTrails feature, which will automatically reduce the delay volume after a set interval. This prevents the delay noise from messing with your nice clean signal when the pedal is bypassed.

To set the AutoTrails length, check out Setting Up Your Pedal on the next page.

Setting Up Your Pedal

Your Neo Series pedal has a few user settings stored in memory. These settings include the function of the MultiJack on the left side of the pedal, LED brightness, and others.

To enter setup, power on the pedal and then hold down the center Select button. Release the button when you see the center LED turn violet.



HOLD TO ENTER SETUP
RELEASE WHEN LED TURNS VIOLET

GREEN = RAMP
CYAN = PRESET
BLUE = TAP

Tap the center Select button to assign the MultiJack function. The upper small LED will change to show this function.

Blue: Expression Pedal Input
Violet: Footswitch Input
Red: MIDI Input

Turn the upper left knob to set the function of the external footswitch, if configured. The upper large LED will change to show this function.

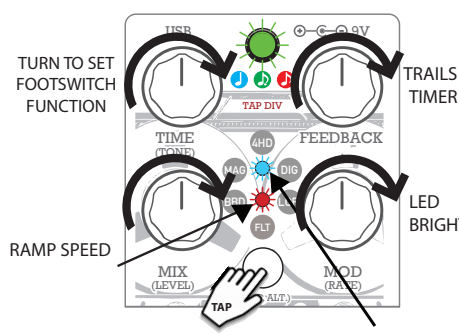
Green: Trigger Ramp
Cyan: Advance One Preset
Blue: Tap tempo

Turn the upper right knob to set the Trails Timer. Higher settings = longer timer.

Turn the lower right knob to set the brightness of the main and lower LEDs.

The lower left knob sets the ramp speed

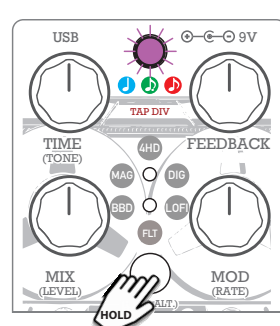
Red: Slow
Violet: Medium
Blue: Fast



TAP TO SELECT MULTIJACK FUNCTION
UPPER PROGRAM LED WILL SHOW
BLUE = EXPRESSION PEDAL
VIOLET = FOOT SWITCH
RED = MIDI

Hold the center Select button to save and exit setup.

If you have changed the function of the MultiJack, we recommend you power the Neo Series pedal off and back on in order to ensure the jack is configured properly.



HOLD TO SAVE AND EXIT

Expression Pedal

History Lesson v3 supports most types of expression pedals for performance control.

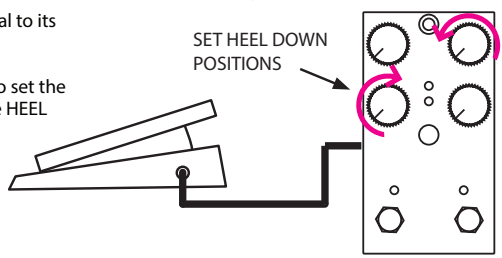
We recommend the Roland EV-5 and Moog EP-3, but just about any expression pedal that uses a TRS cable should work. The supported expression wiring is **SLEEVE = 0V, RING = 3.3V, TIP = 0-3.3V.**

Before connecting your expression pedal, make sure that you have set up the MultiJack to read expression! The instructions are covered in the **Setting Up Your Pedal** section on page 6.

Connect your expression pedal to the MultiJack with a TRS cable. Engage the pedal and sweep the pedal - you should see the upper LED change colors and the sound should change.

Set the expression pedal to its HEEL DOWN position.

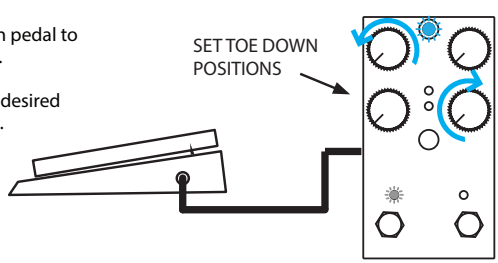
Turn the pedal knobs to set the sound you want for the HEEL DOWN position.



Next, set the expression pedal to its TOE DOWN position.

Move the knobs to the desired settings for TOE DOWN.

That's it!



All of the knobs on the pedal can be controlled with the expression pedal except the mode selection.

Once you have set the sounds you like, don't forget to save your preset! Changes you make to a preset are lost if you power off the pedal or load another preset without saving!

Neo Footswitch

History Lesson v3 also supports our Neo Footswitch for preset Select or warp functions.

To use the Neo Footswitch, you'll need to configure the pedal to use its MultiJack for footswitch input. Consult the instructions on page 6, Setting Up Your Pedal.

Connect the Neo Footswitch to your History Lesson v3 using the provided TRS cable.

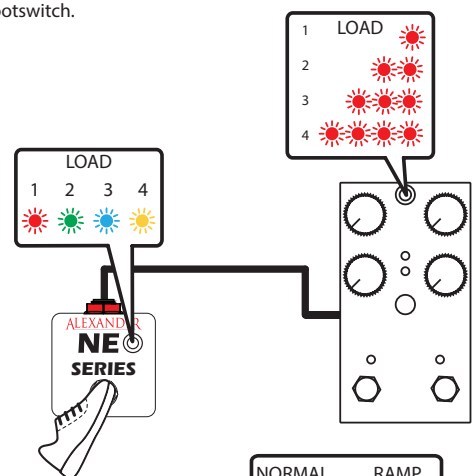
If you have configured the pedal correctly, you should see the LED on the Neo Footswitch light up and change as you tap the footswitch.

PRESET:

Tap the Neo Footswitch to advance one preset. The presets will load in sequence, 1, 2, 3, 4.

The LED on the Neo Footswitch will change to indicate the current preset:
RED = 1, GREEN = 2, BLUE = 3, YELLOW = 4.

Hold the Neo Footswitch to go back one preset.

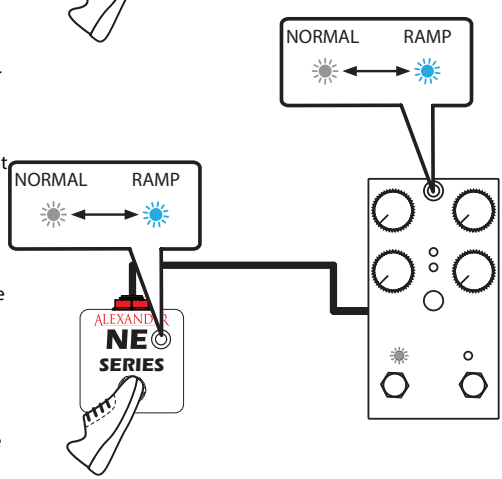


RAMP:

Tap the Neo Footswitch to trigger the RAMP effect.

The LED on the Neo Footswitch will change to indicate the current RAMP state.

You can also fire the ramp for a moment, by holding the Neo Footswitch down. The ramp will fade back down when you release the Neo Footswitch.



TAP TEMPO (not shown):

Tap the Neo Footswitch to set the delay tempo, LFO or sequencer rate, or trigger the bounce / step function.

The Neo Footswitch will work the same as the built-in tap switch in this configuration.

You can also use any momentary normally-open (NO) footswitch in place of the Neo Footswitch, but you won't get the super-cool LED stuff.

MIDI Configuration

All Neo Series pedals support full control using MIDI. In order to use your History Lesson v3 with a MIDI controller, you'll need to follow these instructions to configure its MultiJack and set up the MIDI channel.

First, you'll need a way to connect your MIDI controller to the MultiJack.

If you're using a Disaster Area Designs controller, you should be able to use one of its MultiJacks to send MIDI. We recommend the qCONNECT controller, since it's made to interface with multiple 1/4" MIDI devices. Consult your MIDI controller's manual for details on how to configure its output.

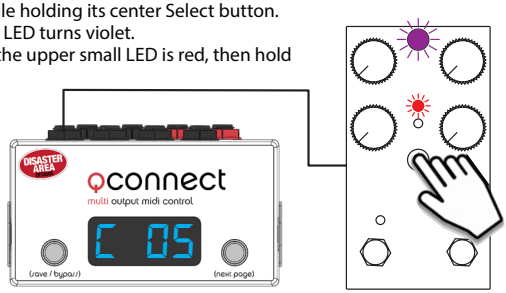
If you are using another type of MIDI controller, you'll need an interface box or adapter cable.

We support the following interfaces and cables:

Alexander Neo Link
Disaster Area Designs MIDI Box
Disaster Area Designs MIDI Box 4
Disaster Area Designs MIDI Box One
Alexander Neo MIDI Cable
Empress MIDI Box (1 or 2)
Chase Bliss Audio MIDI Box
Disaster Area Designs MJ-QQ and 5P-TRS PRO

Next, connect your Neo Series pedal to your MIDI controller or interface box using a standard 1/4" cable or adapter cable. Make sure that your controller is powered on.

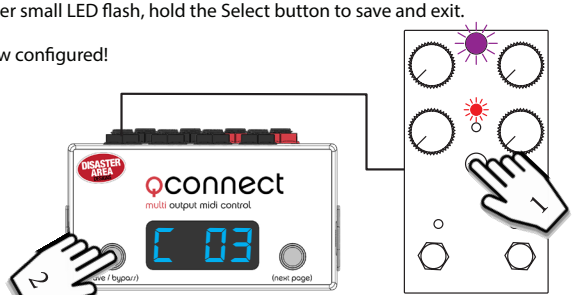
Power on the Neo Series pedal while holding its center Select button.
Release the button when the main LED turns violet.
Tap the center Select button until the upper small LED is red, then hold Select to save.



Power the Neo Series pedal off and back on, again holding the center Select button until the upper LED turns violet.

Send a program change message from your controller on the MIDI channel you would like to use. When you see the upper small LED flash, hold the Select button to save and exit.

Your Neo Series pedal is now configured!



MIDI Commands

All of the functions of your Neo Series pedal may be controlled with MIDI messages.

The following commands are accepted by History Lesson v3:

MIDI Program Change: Load Presets 0-15
- 0-3 are the Red bank, also accessible by holding the Bypass / Preset footswitch
- 4-7 are the Green bank
- 8-11 are the Blue bank
- 12-15 are the White bank

MIDI Continuous Controller 97: Ramp
- Send any value to trigger the ramp

MIDI Continuous Controller 100: Expression Pedal
- Value 0 = Heel down, Value 127 = Toe down

MIDI Continuous Controller 102: Bypass
- Value 0-63 = Bypass, Value 64-127 = Engage

MIDI Continuous Controller 50-57: Pedal Knobs
- Value 0 = CCW, Value 127 = CW

CC 50 = Mod	CC 54 = Mod Rate
CC 51 = Time	CC 55 = Tone
CC 52 = Repeat	
CC 53 = Mix	CC 57 = Level

MIDI Continuous Controller 59: Mode Select

0: MAG	3: LOFI
1: BBD	4: 4HD
2: DIG	5: FLT

MIDI Beat Clock: History Lesson v3 will sync to MIDI Beat Clock over USB or MultiJack.

Specifications

Input Impedance:	1M ohm
Output Impedance:	560 ohm
Power Supply:	9V DC, 80mA or greater, center negative
Bypass:	Buffered analog bypass
Dry Signal	Analog
DSP:	24-bit + 32-bit controller
Sampling Frequency:	32kHz wet, analog dry

We recommend the use of an isolated power supply with your Neo Series pedal.