



• NASHVILLE <sup>TN</sup> USA •

# The FreaQ

## Double Stage Booster

### User Manual



Thank you for purchasing The FreaQ Double Stage Booster.

The **Thorn The FreaQ – Double Stage Booster** is a highly flexible booster pedal designed to provide an extra punch and tonal control for your guitar. With its intuitive controls – **Damping**, **Gain**, **Boost**, and **Freq** – this pedal allows you to dial in everything from subtle boosts to powerful, stage-ready tones. The **Freq** control lets you fine-tune a targeted frequency range of additional boost or cut, offering even more tonal versatility.

The **Thorn The FreaQ – Double Stage Booster** is a must-have tool for guitarists who want to push their sound to new levels, whether boosting volume, adding tonal clarity, or fine-tuning the frequency response.

#### Controls

- 1 – 1/4" (6.35 mm) mono output:** Use an instrument / patch cable to connect to your next pedal or the input of the amplifier.
- 2 – 9-18 VDC power supply jack:** Connect a regular pedal power supply unit with a 5.5 x 2.1 mm barrel plug, center negative. Battery operation is not possible. Do not connect more than 18 V!
- 3 – 1/4" (6.35 mm) mono input:** Use an instrument cable to connect your guitar or the previous pedal in your effects chain.
- 4 – DAMPING control:** The Damping control is a variable filter that reduces the low frequency content before the signal enters the boost circuit. Allowing all of the low frequency content to be processed can make the bottom end sound loose and flabby. Reducing (damping) the low frequency content at the input will keep the bottom end tight and responsive. In general, higher DRIVE settings sound better with increased DAMPING (i.e. less low frequency in put into the circuits). Lower DRIVE settings with less DAMPING give a more open low end character. There is no damping at the lowest setting (7 o'clock).

7 o'clock position: „minimum damping = maximum bass“

5 o'clock position: „maximum damping = tight bass“

- 5 – GAIN control:** This control works in conjunction with the FREQ control below to determine the sound for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. Once the second stage is activated (FREQ footswitch), GAIN settings below 12 o'clock cut the selected frequency range and GAIN settings above 12 o'clock will boost the selected frequency range.

This allows you to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage either as a bass booster or as a treble booster with any possible sounds in between.

- 6 – BOOST control:** This adjusts the signal level sent to the out-put jack.

Higher BOOST settings can drive the preamp stage of a tube amplifier into overdrive.

This will only boost the incoming signal. The lowest setting (7 o'clock) therefore does not reduce the input signal, but maintains the input signal level at unity gain.


You can use this setting to manipulate the frequency content of your signal with the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage without actually boosting the signal level.

- 7 – FREQ control:** Determines the frequency to be boosted or cut when the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage is engaged. This works in conjunction with the GAIN control. Select a frequency with the FREQ control and use the GAIN control to boost or cut that frequency range.
- 8 – BOOST footswitch & LED:** This footswitch activates the 1<sup>st</sup> boost stage where only the BOOST and DAMPING controls affect the sound. The 1<sup>st</sup> boost stage is active when the LED above the switch is lit. The pedal is switched in True Bypass when the LED is off.
- 9 – FREQ footswitch & LED:** This footswitch activates the 2<sup>nd</sup> boost stage which uses the GAIN and FREQ controls in addition to the other controls.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage is active when the LED above the switch is lit.


For the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage to be active, the 1<sup>st</sup> stage must first be activated. If the BOOST footswitch is off, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage is also off, even if the FREQ LED is still lit. In this case, turning on the 1<sup>st</sup> stage will at the same time activate the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.

## Specifications

- Input: 1/4" (6.35 mm) mono (TS) jack, impedance = 470 k $\Omega$   
Output: 1/4" (6.35 mm) mono (TS) jack, impedance = 2.2 k $\Omega$
- Power supply: 9-18 VDC, 5.5 x 2.1 mm barrel plug, center negative   
Battery operation is not possible.  
Do not connect more than 18 V!  
Current draw: max. 30 mA
- Dimensions: 3.70" x 4.72" x 1.50" (94 x 120 x 38 mm)
- Weight: 0.82 lbs (370 g)

## Safety precautions

### Power Requirements

Please only use a power supply adapter approved by the manufacturer (9-18 VDC and center negative polarity). 

Only use power supplies that have been approved by the relevant authorities and that meet UL, CSA, VDE or CCC standards. Unplug the power adapter when not in use or during thunderstorms.

We recommend pedal-specific, transformer-isolated wallwart power supplies or multiple isolated-output supplies. Pedals will make extra noise if there is ripple or unclean power. Switching-type power supplies, daisy chains and non-pedal specific power supplies do not filter dirty power as well and will let unwanted noise through. DO NOT RUN AT HIGHER VOLTAGES!

### Storage and handling

- Do not use excessive force to operate the control elements of the pedal.
- Do not drop the pedal, and avoid placing the pedal in locations where it may be subject to shock or vibrations.
- Do not modify the pedal without authorization.
- Do not place the pedal in locations exposed to direct sunlight or excessively high or low temperatures.
- Do not place the pedal in wet locations or places with high humidity.
- Do not place the pedal in excessively dusty or dirty locations.

### Cleaning

Clean only with a soft, dry cloth. If necessary, lightly moisten the cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, cleaning alcohol, paint thinners, wax, solvents, cleaning fluids, or chemical-impregnated wiping cloths.

### Connections

Always disconnect the power supply from the pedal and any other equipment before connecting or disconnecting signal cables. Also make sure to disconnect all connection cables and the power supply before moving the pedal.

### Warranty

This device has a limited warranty of 2 years to the original owner.

Should you encounter any issues, please visit [www.thorn-soundlabs.com/warranty](http://www.thorn-soundlabs.com/warranty)



### RECYCLING

This product carries the selective sorting symbol for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). This means that this product must be treated in accordance with European Directive 2012/19/EU in order to be recycled or dismantled to minimize its impact on the environment.

The user has the option of returning the product to a competent recycling organization or to the retailer when purchasing new electrical or electronic equipment.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.