

# bx\_rockergain100

Plugin Manual



Developed by Brainworx Audio and distributed by Plugin Alliance



**BRAINWORX**

**NEMBRINI**  
AUDIO



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The bx\_rockergain100 is modelled after a dual-channel tube versatile head that easily swaps from classic rock and blues tones to modern rock and metal. The amp was born more than ten years ago and was the first high-gain amp from the traditional British manufacturer.

Not only does the plugin nail the heart and soul of the iconic British amp but you'll find the extra features you've come to expect from Brainworx products. A full FX Rack with host syncable lo-fi delay, noise gate, tight and smooth filters, power soak and a power amp bypass feature.

On top of this you find no less than 120 advanced impulse responses created at Brainworx's studio using various boutique cabinets, high end microphones and their Neve VXS console.

### The main applications for this plugin are

- Achieve exceptional-sounding electric guitar tracks at any volume level, without the need for great-sounding rooms or expensive guitar mics.
- Record electric guitars directly into the DAW, and then mix, edit and process without ever leaving the DAW environment
- Re-amp less-than-perfect DI guitar tracks previously recorded in other guitar-amp situations.
- Faithfully emulate highly sought-after electric guitar tones made famous by rock's greatest guitar players.
- Get intense amounts of distortion without the need to maintain a high output volume.



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## Amp

### 1 Power

Activates (On) or bypasses (Off) the entire plugin.

### 2 Input

Reduces the input gain by -15dB in „Low“ setting.

### 3 Channel

Selects channel of the amplifier. This plays a role in how clean or distorted the amp sound will be.

### 4 Master Volume

The Master acts as a volume control for both channels and adjusts the level going into the poweramp stage. This can be used to match the independent channel volumes or to add poweramp distortion to the channels. Output volume can be balanced with the Power Soak to either crank up the poweramp or get a louder and cleaner sound.

## Dirty Channel

### 5 Volume

Adjusts output level of the Dirty channel. This affects the level that hits the poweramp section in conjunction with the Master Volume. By increasing this you can add power tube saturation to the overdriven signal of the Dirty channel and mix the distortion of both sections. Use the Power Soak to compensate for the change in volume.

### 6 Treble

Adjusts the treble of the Dirty channel. The behaviour is highly dependent on the preamp gain, so that extreme settings can yield unexpected results.

### 7 Mid

Adjusts the midrange of the Dirty channel. Like the other EQ controls, the behaviour is highly dependent on the preamp gain, so that extreme settings can yield unexpected results.



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### 1 Bass

Adjusts the bass of the Dirty channel. Like the other EQ controls, the behaviour is highly dependent on the preamp gain, so that extreme settings can yield unexpected results.

### 2 Gain

Adjusts the gain of the Dirty channel. This introduces preamp distortion into the signal. Three distinct changes in gain structure can be noticed roughly at the 9, 12 and 3 o' clock positions (depending on the Input Gain and Pad).

## Clean Channel

### 3 Treble

Adjusts the treble of the Clean channel. In conjunction with the volume control, the whole range of this knob is usable. Boost Treble all the way for sparkly cleans at lower Clean Volume or cut out the treble for a warmer sound with more mids in relation.

### 4 Bass

Adjusts the bass of the Clean channel. In conjunction with the volume control, the whole range of this knob is usable. Boost Bass in addition to treble to scoop the mids or just add body as needed.

### 5 Volume

Adjusts the Volume of the Clean channel. This affects the level that hits the poweramp section as well as the amount of preamp gain. By increasing this you can add tube saturation to your signal. In conjunction with the dedicated Input Gain the Clean channel can get dirty as well. Use the Master Volume to get the amount of poweramp distortion you like and the Power Soak to compensate for pure output volume.





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### FX Rack

#### Noise Gate

##### 1 Closed

When lit, this LED indicates that the Noise Gate is Closed. This means the Threshold setting is higher than the incoming signal and the noise gate dims the output signal of the amplifier by the amount adjusted with the Range control (e.g. 50dB in the picture above).

##### 2 Noise Gate On / Off

On/Off switch. Enable or disable the Noise Gate completely. Switch up ('On') means the Noise Gate is activated.

##### 3 Threshold

Continuous knob, -120db to 0db. The Noise Gate will dim the output signal of the amplifier as soon as the input signal (your guitar signal) falls below a certain level. This level is called Threshold. Adjust the Threshold so the noise of the overdriven amp will be reduced, but make sure you don't cut fading notes or chords.

##### 4 Range

Continuous knob, 0db to 100db. The output level of your amplifier will be reduced or muted when the input signal is lower than the Threshold setting. You may dim the output level only by a few decibels (dB), or completely mute the output in pauses by setting the Range to its maximum.

#### Amp Filters

##### 5 Tight Filter

Discrete 3 steps: "Pre", "Post" and "Off". With the Tight filter you can cut Low frequencies of either the DI guitar signal (Pre) or the processed amp output (Post).

- **Pre:** If your pickups produce an unintentional rumbling bass sound you can filter the low end before the DI sound even hits the amplifier.
- **Post:** If you want to cut some of the low end of your amplifier setting (maybe even only temporary) you can use this studio quality high pass filter to reduce the bass.
- **Off:** When set to Off the Tight filter is in bypass mode.



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### 1 Tight Frequency

With the Tight filter you can cut Low frequencies of either the DI guitar signal (Pre) or the processed amp output (Post).

### 2 Smooth Frequency

With the Smooth filter you can cut high frequencies of either the DI guitar signal (Pre) or the processed amp output (Post).

### 3 Smooth Filter

Discrete 3 steps: "Pre", "Post" and "Off". With the Smooth filter you can cut HIGH frequencies of either the DI guitar signal (Pre) or the processed amp output (Post).

- **Pre:** If your pickups catch a lot of hiss or noise you can filter the high end before the DI sound even hits the amplifier.
- **Post:** If you want to cut some of the high end of your amplifier setting (maybe even only temporary) you can use this studio quality low pass filter.
- **Off:** When set to Off the Smooth filter is in bypass mode.

### Delay

We closely modelled a vintage delay stomp box to capture the true essence of retro delay effects. Limited frequency bandwidth and ever decreasing high frequencies on repeats add authenticity to the sound. We also included more contemporary features like a mix parameter & DAW controlled bpm / tempo sync. We realise you will use your favourite selection of external effects, such as Chorus, Flangers, Reverbs and even other Delays to achieve your signature guitar tone but an instantly accessible delay is extremely useful when surfing and creating patches. For example, testing a new lead patch without hearing at least a touch of delay wouldn't sound realistic for many players, so we added this effect for your convenience; plus we love vintage style echo!

### 4 Delay On/Off

Use this parameter to activate or deactivate the delay and all of its parameters with this switch.

- **Switch up:** Delay is activated.
- **Switch down:** Delay is bypassed / off.



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### 1 Tap\*

Use this parameter with your mouse to click with the groove of the song and the delay will adjust to your tapping automatically. This is a nice and easy way to set delays to musically pleasing times, especially if there is no fixed tempo in the song.

### 2 Time

Alternatively you may just dial in a delay time based on milliseconds using the Time knob. Use this parameter to adjust the delay time between 15ms and 1000ms.

### 3 x2\*

Use this button to redouble the current Delay time.

### 4 1/2\*

Use this button to half the current Delay time.

### x2 & 1/2 Buttons

Both buttons can be pressed repeatedly as long as the maximum delay time of 1000ms is not exceeded.

### 5 Host BPM

Click on the BPM number in the GUI and a pull-down menu opens up. Now you can select musical values like half notes, quarters, triplets, etc. All values will be based upon the tempo that is being displayed in the BPM window. The tempo will be synced with the tempo of your audio session automatically.

### 6 Mix

Use this parameter to control the amount of dry (unprocessed) vs. wet (processed) signal. The Mix parameter blend in as much delay signal with the dry amplifier sound as desired. For unobtrusive delays we recommend settings around 10%, heavier effect sounds may require settings of 50% or more.

### 7 Feedback

This controls the number of repeats. While a setting of 99% will result in an almost infinite delay loop, a typical setting for a rock lead sound may be around 25%.

\* Note: Custom control, not automatable



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### 1 Lo-Fi

Use this parameter to add creative destruction to your delay signal. With the Lo-Fi knob you control the amount of internal distortion, the resampling quality, etc. The higher you go the worse the quality gets from a pure technical stand point... but the more interesting it may sound for many guitar sounds and styles.

## Recording Chain

### Brainworx Advanced IR Technology

Simply select a speaker and a complete studio setup by browsing through the Recording Chains pull-down menu.

In the past two decades Brainworx owner Dirk Ulrich has produced and recorded with members of Dream Theater, Toto, Michael Jackson and with many more famous and infamous acts. The Brainworx Studio in Germany is equipped with one of only nine NEVE VXS 72 consoles ever made, and it also hosts some of the best outboard EQs and mic pre-amps available.

Using this impressive setup Dirk has produced a huge variety of customized 'Recording Chains' for the bx\_rockergain100 amplifier, which you can apply to your Plugin amp settings. Imagine a selection of 120 perfectly mic'd and EQ-ed cabinets that you can select and use instantly with a single mouse click!

We carefully placed up to 12 microphones on each cabinet used. These mics were then fed to individual channels on the vintage Neve VXS console. This configuration gave us fine control over the mix of the various microphones used and the ability to apply Neve filters and EQs. The final mix was routed to Pro Tools for recording.

An innovative new approach was also used to capture various pre-amps and EQ chains. A parallel chain was created that was split to three different hardware preamps and EQs. These parallel chains were also routed to their own discrete channels on the Neve VXS console and then sent to Pro Tools for capture. This routing allowed us to record each chain individually or blend them for interesting combinations.





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Many amp simulations give you some captured impulses of a selection of cabinets and microphones, then they leave it up to you to EQ and further process these incomplete setups by mixing different microphone setups, adjusting phase and EQ, and so on. But this really is not an easy job; it takes years of experience to get it right.

Now all you have to do is select the Recording Chain that sounds best for your amp channel and setting, adjust the Tone Stack and Gain and you're good to go. Recallable, reliable, flexible and fast.

And if for any reason you should not like any of the Recording Chains the Plugin offers, you may use the RC Off feature. Use then your own mic'd cabinet or external IR software. This setting will also give you the sound of a tube amp wired straight into a console, which also may be a nice effects sound.

### 1 + / - Switches (Plus / Minus)

Browse through the Recording Chains by either using the pull-down menu of the Recording Chain text box (see above) or just click through the settings using the '+' and '-' symbols.

### 2 Auto & Bar selection

If you are trying to find the best sounding Recording Chain for your song it can be a hassle to have to play a few chords, grab the mouse to select the next Recording Chain, play a few notes again, grabbing the mouse again, etc.

For this reason the bx\_rockergain100 offers you Auto mode: Just select a pattern (1 Bar, 2 Bars or 4 Bars) and the plugin will activate the available Recording Chains automation, following the actual tempo setting of your DAW. You can now play uninterrupted and simply listen to the sound of the various Recording Chains as the plugin switches through all of them every single bar, every two bars or every four bars, depending on your setting. As soon as you hear the speaker setup you like best just stop Auto mode by clicking the AUTO button again and manually select the desired Recording Chain. Afterwards just fine-tweak the Tone Section and Gain and there you are.

### 3 RC Info

The RC Info feature showing you exactly what kind of setup was used to produce the Recording Chain you selected.



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### 1 RC Off

This button lets you bypass the entire Recording Chain section. Use then your own mic'd cabinet or external IR loader.

### 2 Input Gain

If you want to drive the input of the Rockergain preamp harder or softer you may adjust the input gain to your liking. Some single coil pickups from older or vintage guitars may deliver low level output that can be compensated with the Input Gain.

The opposite goes for a lot of heavy metal style humbuckers. If you have recorded the DI signal too hot or if you are using other plugins before entering the Rockergain amp plugin you may want to dim the input signal.

With most standard guitars you can and should leave the Input Gain at 0 (zero) though.

### 3 Bypass Pre Amp

Bypass the pre amp section.

With the Bypass Pre switch you can switch off the Rockergain preamp completely, which may be wanted if you record your own hardware (tube or solid state) guitar pre- amp with the bx\_rockergain100. In this case you may still use the internal Power Amp and speaker / Recording Chains simulation and will be able to achieve amazing results recording your guitar sounds without using an external Power Amp and speaker.

Switch up: Preamp is bypassed (off), Switch down: Preamp is active (on).

### 4 Bypass Power Amp

If you want to use only the distortion of the Rockergain preamp you may switch the power amp simulation off. This may sound cool if you use the bx\_rockergain100 plugin to distort other signals than a guitar. For a realistic guitar recording we recommend leaving the power amp on, as it is an integral part of the overall sound of the amp.



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### 1 Power Soak

Controls the output volume.

In the Hardware world power soaks are being used to reduce the volume of a guitar power amp. This way you can crank up a (tube) guitar power amp to drive it until it starts clipping, and still record at a volume which will protect your hearing and keep the neighbors friendly. A clipping tube power amp adds distortion and harmonics to the guitar amp signal and is something most guitar players love. A fully cranked up tube guitar amp tamed in volume with a power soak will sound different than the same amp with the master volume turned down.

We have modeled the behavior of the Rockergain tube power amp, so you may experiment with different settings of the Master of the amp and the internal Power Soak. We recommend a setting of roughly -10dB for most scenarios.

### Cabinets we used for the Recording Chains

#### American 4x12

##### Mesa Boogie Rectifier® 4fb 280W 4x12 Vintage 30

The STANDARD Rectifier® 4x12 is the “oversized” 4x12, providing thundering low-end punch and resonance which is perfectly tuned with the smooth, tailored midrange and articulate, clear high-end. This is the most popular 4x12 cabinet and an icon in heavy music.

#### Diezel 4x12

##### Front loader cabinet Celestion G12K-100 loaded

The Diezel-412FK is a front loaded 4x12” cabinet loaded with 4 x G12K-100 Celestion speakers. This cabinet is constructed of 18mm African Okume wood.

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### English 4x12

#### **Marshall 1960TV Lead 100W 4x12 Greenback G12M-25**

The 1960TV is loaded with Celestion® G12M-25 Greenback speakers, which are more forgiving than the 75 Watt Celestions used in the 1960A™; the 25 Watt Greenbacks have a warmer, more saturated sound. This 100 Watt mono cabinet is 65mm taller than a 1960A and 1960B™, which results in a lower mid-range resonant response.

To re-create the classic looks and tones of yesteryear, Marshall offers the 1960TV cabinet. The 1960TV houses four Marshall/Celestion designed re-issue 25-watt Greenback speakers and is finished with the mid-to late-'60s style EC fret cloth and the smoother levant covering. The Marshall 1960TV stands an impressive 4 inches taller than a standard 4 x 12" - hence the ,TV' in its name which is an acronym for ,Tall, Vintage'.

### Orange 2x12

#### **Orange PPC 212 closed-back 120W - 2x12" Celestion Vintage 30 speakers**

The 120W Orange Amplifiers PPC212-C guitar speaker cabinet is crafted using 13-ply highdensity 18mm birch plywood throughout like every Power Projection Cabinet (PPC). Orange speaker enclosures, like Orange

amplifiers, are built to last with manufacturing techniques that assure extremely rugged construction. Orange's unique ,skid' design feet help to acoustically couple these cabinets to the stage to provide a tighter bass response and full range definition. All Orange Amplifiers' speaker enclosures are equipped with Celestion Vintage 30 speakers and are equipped with comfortable flush cabinet handles. The Celestion Vintage 30 Speaker recreates the sound of the original Celestion Blue with new cone and coil assembly. Improved performance: rated at 60W capability, handles extra heat generated by higher power equipment. The Vintage 30 handles massive overdrive tones with ease. It's a classic 2x12 loudspeaker.

### Orange Cream & Blue

#### **Orange brainworx custom mounted cabinet – 2x12" Celestion G12M-65 Creamback 8 Ohm Celestion G12M-65 (Right Side) / 2x12" Celestion Alnico Blue Bulldogs (Left Side)**



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### The G12M Creamback

is perhaps the definitive vintage Celestion ceramic magnet guitar speaker. Developed in the mid-sixties, it was quickly adopted by players like Hendrix, Clapton, Beck and Page, who typified the louder and more aggressive blues rock playing styles that came to characterize that era. The G12M-65 Creamback produces the familiar woody G12M tone, but handles greater power making it ideally suited for today's amps, when a vintage tone is desired. The increased power handling brings with it low end grunt complementing the warm and vocal mid range, crunchy upper-mids and sweet, refined highs.

### Celestion Blue Bulldog Alnico 12" 15W 8 Ohm

Made In England Originally developed in the 1950s from a successful Celestion radio speaker, the CT3757, the Alnico Blue is the worlds first dedicated guitar loudspeaker. Its use in early Marshall and Vox amplifiers helped to define the sound of 60s British popular music and it remains today one of the most desirable guitar loudspeakers in the business. Alnico refers to the composition of its magnet material, an alloy of Aluminium, Nickel and Cobalt, and when combined with an overloaded tube amplifier, the Blue distorts easily, with its unique response smoothing the sound into gloriously creamy overtones rich in quality and sustain. The Blue also benefits from an exceptional dynamic range, making it a highly expressive speaker. Load a Celestion Blue into a single 12" or 2 x 12" vintage combo and the sweet and bright tones lend it ideally to a range of playing styles including jazz, blues, country and indie. This speaker is famously used by players including George Harrison, Brian May and The Edge.





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### Top Toolbar

#### 1 Undo / Redo

You can undo and redo changes you made to the controls of the bx\_rockergain100 plugin at any time. The Undo / Redo will work for as many as 32 steps. This makes experimenting and tweaking knobs easy. If you don't like what you did... just undo it.

#### 2 Settings (A/B/C/D)

The bx\_rockergain100 amp plugin offers four internal settings (A/B/C/D) which will be stored with every preset. So, one preset can contain up to four amp and effects settings.

You may use similar amp settings with more or less delay, different delay times, etc., to quickly switch between different sounds, or you can switch from clean to crunch to lead within one setup / preset.

The Settings can be automated in your DAW. This way it's possible to switch from a dry rhythm sound to a lead sound with tons of delay, for example.

#### 3 Copy / Paste

To set up variations of similar sounds you don't have to dial in all the parameters several times. Let's say you like your setting A and want to use the same sound, just without delay, as setting B.

- Simply press Copy while you are in setting A.
- Switch to setting B by pressing 'B' in the settings section.
- Press Paste, now setting B is identical to setting A.
- Bypass the Delay.

Now you can switch between A & B and play the same sound with or without delay.

#### 4 FX Rack

Toggle between FX Rack and Standard view.

#### 5 About

Information about the development of the plugin.



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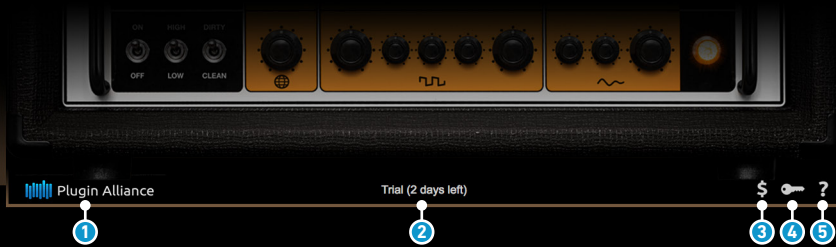


### 1 UI Scaling

Adapt the graphical user interface to the size and resolution of your screen. The plugin will check if the user interface will fit your screen before enlarging it. So if you accidentally chose a zoom factor which is too big for your current settings, the plugin will automatically stay at the maximum possible zoom factor.

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### Bottom Toolbar

#### 1 PA Logo

Clicking the Plugin Alliance logo takes you to the Plugin Alliance website via your web browser, that's if your computer is online.

#### 2 License Type

The toolbar displays information about the type of license you're running: Trial licenses will be displayed along with the number of days until expiration; there is no note for full licenses as these are unlimited.

#### 3 \$ (Icon)

If you are using a demo / trial version of our products, you can always click this icon to open a browser that redirects you to the respective product page in the Plugin Alliance store. This is where you can easily purchase a product without having to look it up on our website.

#### 4 Key (Icon)

Clicking on the key icon brings up the activation dialog, allowing you to manually reauthorize a device in the event of a license upgrade or addition. You can also use this feature to activate additional computers or USB ash drives.

#### 5 ? (Icon)

Clicking the ? icon opens up a context menu that links to the product manual PDF, as well as other helpful links, e.g. to check for product updates online. You must have a PDF reader installed on your computer to be able to read the manual.

### System Requirements & FAQ (Links)

#### For latest System Requirements & Supported Platforms

<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/systemrequirements.html>

#### Particular details for your product

<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/products.html>

#### Installation, Activation, Authorisation and FAQ's

<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/support.html>





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### Factory Presets

We have made a lot of presets for the bx\_rockergain100 amp plugin, many of them have been made to work perfectly with classic guitars like Strats, Teles or Paulas. All of the factory presets offer A/B/C/D variations, do try them out!

This effectively quadruples the factory sounds you can browse through, and many similar amp settings sound quite different with different Filter or Delay settings.

These presets are only intended to give you an easy start and to demo some of the tones you can get out of the bx\_rockergain100 amp plugin.

### Creating your own Sounds & Presets

When you start to create your own sounds the most important elements to adjust are the Drive, Recording Chains and the Tone Stack.

(Bass, Middle, Treble, Presence, etc.)

- Set the controls of the Tone Stack to the center position ('12-o-clock').
- Play through as many Recording Chains as you like and pick the one that sounds closest to what you are looking for before altering the knobs.
- Once you found the Recording Chain you like best for your sound, start tweaking the Tone Stack and Drive to fine tune your amp settings.
- Add Delay or activate the Filters, the Noise Gate, etc. for variations of your sounds.
- Have fun!

Experiment, be creative. We are confident that the different tone selections of the amp and the huge selection of Recording Chains will offer you many possible combinations that will sound great on a big variety of musical styles and genres.

Combine the bx\_rockergain100 amps with other plugins (dynamics, effects, room simulation), and you will be able to create countless world-class production-ready guitar sounds in the box. Enjoy.



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