



# PIGTRONIX

## Bob Weir's Real Deal User's Guide



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PIGTRONIX®

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# 1. Welcome to The Real Deal

Thank you for entering the realm of Pigtronix. Bob Weir's Real Deal pedal is an acoustic preamp. This pedal is capable of re-structuring the sonic characteristics of an acoustic guitar, producing a rich sound for any scenario.

The Real Deal pedal has two primary input channels, one for a microphone, and another for a guitar's piezoelectric pickup. The microphone channel goes through a high pass filter, and the pickup through a low pass filter. These filters then meet at the same crossover frequency effectively giving you all the high end of the microphone and all the low end of the pickup. Each channel has a volume control before each filter, as well as full control over their relative phase and crossover frequency. The internal +48V Phantom Power allows for the use of both dynamic and condenser microphones, however the Real Deal can be used without a microphone as well. With the DUAL SOURCE mode turned off, the Real Deal can be used with just a single pickup, splitting the input signal to both channels. Bob Weir's Real Deal effectively provides full dynamic and harmonic control over your acoustic guitar, with or without a microphone.

In keeping with Pigtronix tradition, the controls on the Real Deal have been tuned to provide the cleanest acoustic tone and an adept range of musical possibilities. The Real Deal is based off a studio technique that Bob Weir commonly used to mic acoustic guitar and is an idea that he came to us with. In a collaboration between Bob Weir and Pigtronix we are happy to bring you Bob Weir's Real Deal Acoustic Preamp.

We hope that the Real Deal will provide you with years of creative satisfaction.

Pigtronix

## 1.1 Safety Precautions

The safety precautions listed below are intended to ensure your safety whenever you use the Real Deal.

**NEVER OPEN THE CASE** - Never try to separate the two pieces of the chassis from one another and/or modify the equipment. Opening this device will effectively void the warranty.

**STOP USE IN CASE OF PROBLEM** - Stop using the equipment if ever you should notice smoke or a strange odor coming from it. Contact [Koltai@pigtronix.com](mailto:Koltai@pigtronix.com) for service.

**AVOID HIGH TEMPERATURES & HEAT BUILD UP** - Never cover the power supply with cloth or other objects. Built up heat creates a danger of equipment deformation and fire. Do not expose the Real Deal to direct sunlight, heating devices, or other extreme temperatures.

**USE SPECIFIED POWER ADAPTER ONLY** - Be sure to use only the 18-Volt DC 300mA Adapter that came with your Pigtronix Real Deal.

**DO NOT EXPOSE TO WATER/BEER** - To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose your Real Deal to rain or moisture. If water gets inside the unit, turn off the power.

## Thank You

The Real Deal represents a decade of continuous R&D involving some of the top minds in the audio industry. Pigtronix would like to formally thank the following individuals for their help in creating the Real Deal Acoustic Preamp: Thomas Elliott, Nick Cote, Howard Davis, Steve Turnidge, David Buchter, Fischer Mao, Michael McGinn, AJ Santella, Matt Maher, Liz Norris, and Bob Weir.

—David Koltai

## 2. Anatomy and Functions

### 2.1 The Interface

#### Jacks



1. **DC 18V** - Use only the 18-Volt, 300mA, negative tip power supply that came with your Pigtronix Real Deal. Using the wrong power supply is likely to result in a damaged pedal.
2. **OUTPUT** - Effect output. Plug in your amp, mixer, or DI box here.
3. **INPUT (TS/TRS)** - Audio input, plug in your instrument here. The INPUT jack on the REAL DEAL is capable of accepting TS

mono inputs as well as TRS Dual Source inputs which carry separate audio signals on the TIP and RING with a shared Ground on the SLEEVE. The TIP of the INPUT jack goes to the PICKUP channel while the RING of the INPUT jack goes to the MICROPHONE channel.

**Note:** *Put the DUAL SOURCE switch in the DOWN position when using a TRS input with separate audio signals on the TIP and RING.*

4. **EXT MIC (TRS)** - This jack is a dedicated TRS input for a balanced microphone connection.

**Note:** *When the PHANTOM switch is in the DOWN position, +48V Phantom Power is supplied to the EXT MIC jack. The audio from the EXT MIC jack is always sent to the MICROPHONE channel.*

**Note:** *Put the DUAL SOURCE switch in the DOWN position when using the EXT MIC input.*

## Knobs and Switches



5. **ENGAGE** - This footswitch turns the filter section of the Real Deal on and off. When the engage light is turned off, the high and low pass filters are bypassed. In bypass, the preamp stages and summing stages remain active, allowing both the INPUT (TS / TRS) and EXT MIC inputs to be combined with no tonal coloration.

**Note:** *When the filters are bypassed, the Crossover knob will have no effect.*

**Note:** *When the filters are bypassed, the output volume of the REAL DEAL will increase. Use the VOLUME knob to compensate as necessary.*

6. **VOLUME** This knob sets the master output level of the pedal.
7. **PICKUP** This knob controls the gain of the pickup channel before the low pass filter.
8. **CROSSOVER** This knob controls the frequency at which the high pass and low pass filters overlap. This knob is calibrated such that the crossover frequency can be set anywhere between 300Hz - 3kHz.
9. **MICROPHONE** This knob controls the gain of the microphone channel before the high pass filter
10. **DUAL SOURCE** This toggle determines whether the signal on the TIP or the RING of the INPUT jack is sent to the microphone channel. When in the down position, DUAL SOURCE MODE is ON. The audio on the RING of the INPUT jack, as well as the signal from the EXT MIC input, are sent to the MICROPHONE preamp channel. In DUAL SOURCE MODE, the audio on the TIP of the input jack is sent to the PICKUP preamp channel.

The DUAL SOURCE mode is intended for a variety of pickup and microphone configurations:

- Active or passive on-board guitar electronics that provide separate audio signals on the TIP and the RING of a TRS connection should be plugged into the INPUT jack with a TRS cable.



- DUAL SOURCE mode is also intended for use with a standard (TS) instrument cable feeding the INPUT jack along with an external MICROPHONE feeding the EXT MIC jack.
- Using DUAL SOURCE mode, it is also possible to combine both a TRS input carrying two audio sources with a third audio signal feeding the EXT MIC jack.
- When in the up position, the DUAL SOURCE function is turned OFF and the INPUT jack expects a TS input. This is called SINGLE SOURCE MODE.

**Note:** *In SINGLE SOURCE MODE the audio on the TIP of the INPUT jack is sent to both the PICKUP and MICROPHONE channels.*

11. **PHASE** This toggle determines the phase of the mixed microphone channel. When in the down (IN PHASE) position, the microphone channel is in phase with the pickup channel. When in the up position, the microphone channel is out of phase with the pickup channel. Regardless of what mode the pedal is set to, whatever signal is sent through the microphone channel is effected by the PHASE toggle.
12. **PHANTOM** This toggle determines whether the internal +48V Phantom Power is applied to the EXT MIC jack. This is for use with any microphone that requires +48V Phantom power to operate. When in the down position, PHANTOM is ON. When in the up position, PHANTOM is OFF.

**Note:** *Many small form-factor condenser microphones require external power that is lower than 48V. Please consult the documentation for any given microphone to determine the proper power solution to safely use the microphone with industry standard +48V phantom power.*

## 3. Getting Started

### 3.1 Basic Hook Up

1. Unpack your Real Deal and place it on a flat, stable surface.
2. **Make sure you are using the 18-Volt DC (negative center) power supply that came with your Pigtronix Real Deal.**
3. Plug the power cord into the 18VDC jack on the back of the Real Deal and then plug the power adapter into an electrical socket.

The Real Deal is now powered up. To turn the device off, unplug it from the wall or turn off the power going to the 18VDC supply.

**We recommend that you do not leave your Real Deal powered up for long periods of time when it is not in use.**

### 3.2 Guided Tour

The following steps will guide you through the sonic palette of the Real Deal and show you how to access the range of tones that it has to offer.

#### Single Source Mode

This mode is used for instruments which have a single, mono output. In this mode, your signal is split to both the high pass and low pass filters, each with their own gain knob.

1. Plug your instrument into the INPUT jack, and plug your amplifier into the OUTPUT jack.

2. Set the volume knob fully counter-clockwise. Turn the PICKUP and MICROPHONE knobs to noon.
3. Set the DUAL SOURCE switch to the UP position (SINGLE SOURCE).
4. Set the PHASE switch to the DOWN position (IN PHASE).
5. Set the PHANTOM switch to the UP position (OFF).
6. Slowly turn up the VOLUME knob until you have a good volume on your amplifier. Press the foot switch to engage the filter.
7. Adjust the PICKUP knob to increase or decrease the gain of the low pass filter, and the MICROPHONE knob to increase or decrease the gain of the high pass filter.
8. Sweep the CROSSOVER knob to change the point where the high pass and low pass filters meet.
9. Experiment with the PHASE switch position to find the best sound.
10. Adjust the VOLUME control as needed.

### **Dual Source Mode (TRS)**

This mode can accommodate a guitar with two output signals, on a TRS cable. Typically, this would be a piezo or magnetic pickup on the TIP, and a microphone on the RING of the TRS output. In this case, the TIP signal will be affected by the low pass filter only, while the RING signal will be affected by the high pass filter.

1. Plug your instrument into the INPUT jack, using a TRS cable, and plug your amplifier into the OUTPUT jack.
2. Set the volume knob fully counter-clockwise. Turn the PICKUP and MICROPHONE knobs to noon.
3. Set the DUAL SOURCE switch to the DOWN position (DUAL SOURCE).

4. Set the PHASE switch to the DOWN position (IN PHASE).
5. Set the PHANTOM switch to the UP position (OFF).
6. Turn up the VOLUME knob until you have a good volume on your amplifier. Press the foot switch to engage the filter.
7. Adjust the PICKUP knob to increase or decrease the gain of the low pass filter, and the MICROPHONE knob to increase or decrease the gain of the high pass filter.
8. Sweep the CROSSOVER knob to change the point where the high pass and low pass filters meet.
9. Experiment with the PHASE switch position to find the best sound.

### **Dual Source Mode (External Mic with Phantom Power)**

This mode can accommodate a guitar with a pickup (magnetic or piezo) at the INPUT, and a microphone on the EXT MIC (TRS) input. In this case, as above, the pickup will be affected by the low pass filter only, while the microphone will be affected by the high pass filter. In addition, the EXT MIC input can provide 48v phantom power. Since the EXT MIC input and the RING of the TRS input are in parallel, up to three signals may be utilized.

1. Plug the piezo output of your instrument into the INPUT jack, using a TS cable, and plug the microphone output of your instrument into the EXT MIC input.
2. Plug your amplifier into the OUTPUT jack.
3. Set the volume knob fully counter-clockwise. Turn the PICKUP and MICROPHONE knobs to noon.
4. Set the DUAL SOURCE switch to the DOWN position (DUAL SOURCE).
5. If your microphone requires phantom power, set the PHANTOM switch to the DOWN (ON) position.

**Note:** *The Real Deal provides 48VDC @ 20mA. Be sure the device you are attempting to power is designed for industry standard +48VDC*

6. Set the PHASE switch to the DOWN position (IN PHASE).
7. Turn up the VOLUME knob until you have a good volume on your amplifier. Press the foot switch to engage the filter.
8. Adjust the PICKUP knob to increase or decrease the gain of the low pass filter, and the MICROPHONE knob to increase or decrease the gain of the high pass filter.
9. Sweep the CROSSOVER knob to change the point where the high pass and low pass filters meet.
10. Experiment with the PHASE switch position to find the best sound.

## 4. Pigtronix Limited Warranty

Your Pigtronix effect pedal comes with a 1-year limited warranty on parts and workmanship. During the warranty period we will repair or replace, at our option, defective parts or pedals free of charge, and return them to the owner. Warranty service does not include damaged, modified, or misused pedals and such pedals will be subject to a standard repair charge.

**What you must do:** First, contact us directly via email and describe the problem to us. If the problem cannot be resolved we will have you send the pedal directly to us for servicing.

**How to contact us for warranty service:**

Email: [tech@pigtronix.com](mailto:tech@pigtronix.com)  
Phone: 631-331-PIGS (7447)

**Warranty Limitations:** This warranty does not cover defects resulting from improper or unreasonable use, accident, unauthorized tampering or modifications; and, warranty shall be considered void if the Real Deal chassis has been opened. Please consult the instructions and warnings in this manual for proper use. Warranty is only valid if your Real Deal has been properly registered within 30 days of original purchase date, and upon warranty registration, will be valid for 12 months from original purchase.

To validate your 1-year, limited warranty, please register your Real Deal, **within 30 days of purchase**, on the web at:

[www.pigtronix.com/warranty](http://www.pigtronix.com/warranty)