Gibson Firebird X
Quickstart Manual

Important: Register Your Firebird X

Registration provides details for joining the Firebird X Visionaries Club, where you can:

- ✗ Participate in the Firebird X forums
- ✗ Maintain a blog
- ✗ Share FBX patches
- ✗ Download free software: FBX Editor, Guitar Rig 4, and Ableton Live
- ✗ Post calendar events
- ✗ Contact support

Additional benefits are planned for the future, so stay tuned.

How to Register

1. Use any internet browser to visit http://www.gibson.com/FirebirdX.
2. Click on the Registration link to submit your warranty information (see the Firebird X Certificate of Authenticity included with your guitar).
3. After registering, you'll receive licenses for the Firebird X software bundle, as well as a username and password to access the Firebird X Visionaries Club site at http://fbx.gibson.com.

Update Your System

The software-based Firebird X system allows for product enhancements. After registering your Firebird X, check the Firebird X Visionaries Club for new patches and system updates. If new system software or firmware is available, install the FBX Editor as described in the downloadable FBX Editor manual, then follow the update procedure.

Required String Gauges

For optimum Robo-Tuner tuning speed and reliability, please use the correct gauge strings.

Firebird X ships with the recommended string gauge set: High E = .010, B = .013, G = .017 (wound), D = .026, A = .036, low E = .046.

- ✗ The heaviest gauge permissible string set is high E = .011, low E = .052
- ✗ The lightest gauge permissible string set is high E = .009, low E = .042.

Important Safety and Warranty Information

We value you as a customer—and want our products to give you an inspiring, and gratifying, experience. So, to insure your safety and protect your investment in Gibson's Firebird X guitar, please read and follow all safety warnings and operating instructions before using this product, and keep all documentation for future reference.

Environmental Factors

Heat and moisture can harm your Gibson Firebird X. Please do not install or operate this guitar near sources of moisture, such as sinks, damp basements, leaky roofs, etc. and never store it near heat sources, such as heaters or radiators. Both you and your Firebird X will be much happier if you store and operate this product under safe conditions.

Power Sources

Use only the power sources included in the Firebird X package. Make sure any power supply cords are not located where they are likely to be safety hazards, such as on the floor where people might walk, or in locations where they may receive pressure from items placed upon or against them. Also, be very careful with any power source connections, such as where the AC adapter connects to the wall outlet. If this is jostled loose, the G-Node USB 2.0 audio interface included with Firebird X may experience extreme power differentials, which can potentially harm you and the product.

Service

Please do not attempt to service Firebird X or any of its accessories yourself—let our expert technicians handle any repairs for you.

Speaking of experts, always send the Firebird X or G-Node USB 2.0 audio interface to the factory for servicing if any of the following occurs:

- ✗ Any foreign object (especially liquid) has gotten inside Firebird X or its accessories
- ✗ Firebird X or its accessories have been exposed to water, dropped, or otherwise damaged
- ✗ A marked change in Firebird X's performance
- ✗ You hear anything rattling around inside if you shake the Firebird X gently

Warranty Protection

It is extremely important to us that you are satisfied with Firebird X. Register it and activate your warranty protection by mailing the warranty card included with Firebird X to Gibson USA, Department W, P.O. Box 100087, Nashville, TN 37210-0087. If you encounter any kind of problem, contact us as soon as possible so we can make things right.

Once you your warranty protection is active, Firebird X's electronic components are warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. Your warranty covers the cost of both labor and materials on any repair deemed necessary by our Customer Service Representative for the warranty period, subject to the limitations below. Please note that our warranty belongs to the original retail purchaser only, and may not be transferred or assigned to subsequent owners.

If Firebird X malfunctions as a result of faulty materials or workmanship, Gibson will determine whether repair or replacement is more appropriate. In case the original materials are no longer available for repair, Gibson reserves the right to use materials regularly utilized at the time of repair.

If we determine that replacing Firebird X best serves your interests, or in the unlikely event that it is destroyed, lost, or damaged beyond repair while in our possession for repairs, we will replace the product. If it is no longer available, it will be replaced with the most similar product whose value does not exceed your original product's purchase price.

Remember—as a necessary condition to the warranty coverage described in this section, you must activate your warranty by mailing the warranty card included with Firebird X to Gibson USA, Department W, P.O. Box 100087, Nashville, TN 37210-0087.

Warranty Limitations

Unfortunately, your product warranty cannot cover :

- ✗ Any product that has been altered or modified in any way, or upon which any serial or registration number has been tampered with or altered in any way.
- ✗ Any product whose warranty card has been altered or contains false information.
- ✗ Any product that has been damaged due to misuse, negligence, accident or improper operation or storage.
- ✗ Any product damaged during shipment. Inspect the package immediately upon receipt, and notify the carrier immediately if there is damage.
- ✗ Any product damaged as a result of extreme temperature, humidity, or the use of an improper power source.
- ✗ Any product not purchased through an authorized dealer, or any product that has had repairs, modifications or alterations made by an unauthorized service technician.

- ✗ Wear and tear based on normal usage.
- ✗ Factory installed electronics after more than one year following the original date of purchase.

Gibson makes no other express warranty of any kind. All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose that exceed the specific provisions of the warranty, are expressly and specifically disclaimed and excluded from the warranty. Note, however, that some states and/or countries do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties, so this paragraph may not apply to you. In particular, if you purchased your product outside of the United States, contact your local distributor for the handling and resolution of all warranty issues, as the warranty described here is not always applicable.

And of course, Gibson shall not be liable for any special, indirect, consequential, incidental or other similar damages to you or to any third party, including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits or business, or damages resulting from use or performance of the product, whether in contract or tort, even if Gibson or its authorized representative has been advised of the possibility of such damages, and Gibson shall not be liable for any expenses, claims or suits arising from or relating to any of the foregoing.

To obtain warranty service, please contact Gibson directly:

US (Toll Free)   1-800-4GIBSON
US (Local)   1-615-871-4500
Email - service@gibson.com

Never send a unit in for repair before contacting Gibson. You will be advised of the proper procedure for a quick and efficient repair, as well as provide information on where and how to send your Firebird X.

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Windows® and Windows 7® are registered trademarks of Microsoft, Inc.

Introduction

Congratulations on joining the select group of Firebird X visionaries.

Firebird X combines revolutionary features with Gibson's traditional construction quality and superior sound. It's the most technologically-advanced guitar in the world—yet remains familiar and playable. You don't have to adapt to Firebird X; it adapts to *you*.

- ✗ **Tune your guitar strings automatically**, including alternate tunings, in seconds
- ✗ **GoldTone**™ **pickup technology** for the three mini-humbuckers emulates iconic guitar sounds through switching of purely analog signals, not digital modeling
- ✗ Over **2,000 pickup combinations** are possible, including variations on single-coil, humbucker, series, parallel, in-phase, out-of-phase, and many more
- ✗ Play **stunning acoustic guitar sounds** from the separate piezo pickup—even layer acoustic and electric sounds
- ✗ **Blue Lightning**™ **Pedalboard and Switchboard** floor pedals eliminate cable clutter and allow rapid sound selection
- ✗ The onboard **Pure Analog**™ **upgradeable audio engine** provides anything from subtle tone control to state-of-the-art pedalboard, amp, and cabinet effects
- ✗ Tweak sounds live or in the studio with innovative **onboard control sliders**
- ✗ Customize the **volume knob** for any volume curve, and the **Digital Varitone**™ **tone knob** for virtually any tone control response
- ✗ Send Firebird X outputs—including individual strings—to Mac/Windows recording software, thanks to Gibson's **G-Node**™ **USB 2.0** interface
- ✗ Create your own signature sounds with the intuitive Mac/Windows **FBX Editor**
- ✗ Gain exclusive access to the **Firebird X Visionaries Club** for trading and downloading patches, learning new techniques, sharing experiences with other Firebird X owners, and more

...and those are only the highlights. Welcome!

Preparation

Accessories Checklist

Your Firebird X is a complete system with all needed accessories. After removing the guitar case from the shipping box, take out the Accessory Pack in the bottom of the box. Check that between the Accessory Pack and guitar case pocket, the following are all included.

FIREBIRD X
- LIMITED EDITION -

A	Pedals (2)	H	G-Node Interface™ Antenna	O	Charging Dock Power Supply (2)
B	Pedal Power/ Data Connector	I	G-Node Interface™	P	Charging Dock for Rechargeable Battery (2)
C	Pedal Spacer	J	Stereo Cable	Q	European Adapter (2)
D	Hi-Speed 2.0 USB Cable (3)	K	Power Cord, Pedal Power Supply	R	Case Connector Strap
E	Firebird X Limited Edition Guitar Strap	L	Tailpiece Hex Wrench	S	Shoulder Strap, Accessory Pack
F	Stereo to XLR Cable	M	Truss Rod Wrench	T	Firebird X Guitar Case Shoulder Strap
G	Power Supply, Bluetooth Pedal	N	Rechargeable Lithium Ion Battery (8)		

Notes:

- *✗ All AC adapters are global and work with 100 to 240V, 50/60Hz.*
- *✗ Use only USB 2.0 high-speed cables with Firebird X USB peripherals.*
- *✗ The Certificate of Authenticity is an important part of the Firebird X package—it's your passport to continued support, free patches and software, special offers, and access to the online Firebird X Visionaries Club. File it in a safe place.*

Firebird X's ProX Guitar Case

The ProX case is made from advanced materials, and can survive a fall from a six-story building. Gibson recommends taking guitars on airplanes as carry-on, but many guitar players have checked their Firebird X as baggage using the ProX case.

The Battery

Firebird X must be turned on, with a charged battery, to work. Batteries can lose charge over time, so please check the batteries when you receive Firebird X.

Pull up on the Gear Shift Knob™ to turn on Firebird X. Within five seconds, a green circle should appear momentarily in the middle of the knob to indicate the battery is charged.

If not, open the battery door on the back of the guitar, and remove the battery.

Place the battery in one of the supplied chargers.

The battery charger light will turn green when the battery is charged. Insert the charged battery in the guitar.

Check the charge of the other supplied batteries, and if necessary, charge them to capacity as you explore Firebird X.

Connecting to Amplification

Firebird X can drive anything from a standard guitar amp to a mixing board's low-impedance input. Separate cables are included to connect Firebird X to either 1/4" phone jacks (balanced or unbalanced) or balanced XLR inputs. *Note: Use only the supplied stereo cable to connect Firebird X to the G-Node interface.*

Firebird X's output is somewhat "hotter" than standard guitars. Start with the amplifier volume at minimum, then turn up to a comfortable listening level.

Note: Firebird X produces no "thump" on power-up or power-down. You may safely turn Firebird X on or off even if your amp is set to high levels.

For a quick audio check, you can plug standard headphones directly into Firebird X's output. However levels will be low, and only in the left earphone.

Firebird X Controls

Please note the control names and locations we'll be using in this Quickstart.
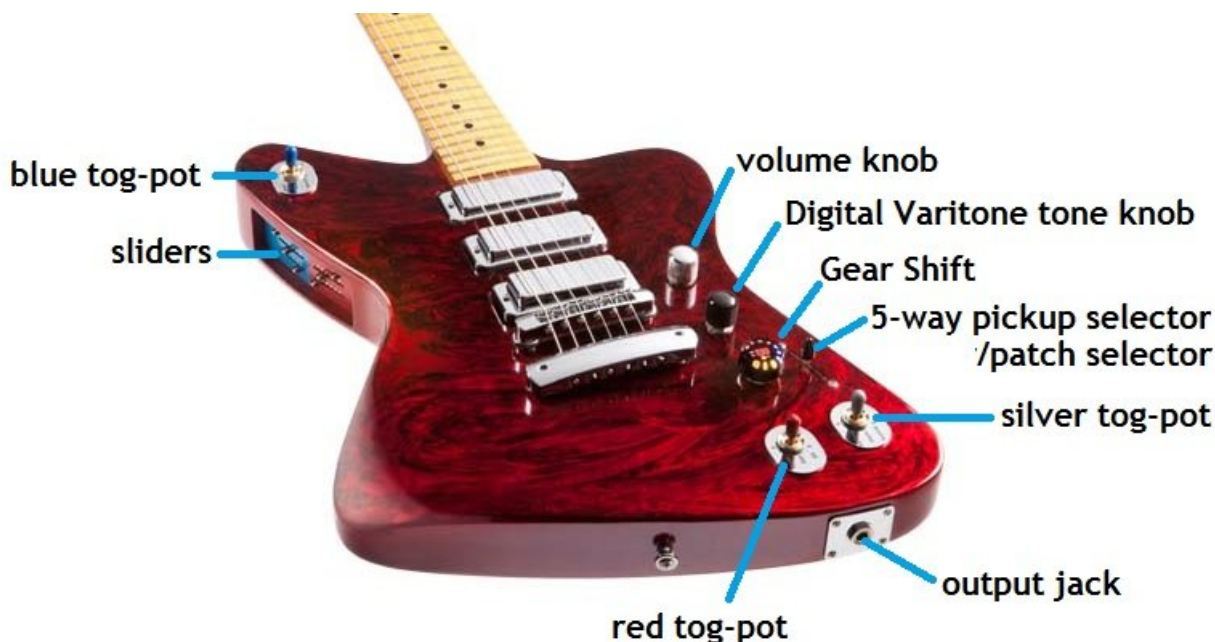
Required String Gauges

For optimum Robo-Tuner tuning speed, please use the correct gauge strings.

Firebird X ships with the recommended string gauge set: High E = .010, B = .013, G = .017 (wound), D = .026, A = .036, low E = .046

- ✗ The heaviest gauge permissible string set is high E = .011, low E = .052
- ✗ The lightest gauge permissible string set is high E = .009, low E = .042

Select Tunings and Sounds

Select Tuning

Note: The "down" tog-pot switch position means pointing at the floor, referenced to holding the guitar in a normal playing position.

1. With the Gear Shift Knob pulled up and the guitar on, push the Silver tog-pot switch to the down (Tuning) position. *Note: This mutes the audio.*
2. Rotate the Gear Shift Knob fully counter-clockwise to select standard tuning. The knob's display shows "1."
3. Strum each string distinctly, as when playing single notes—*not* rapidly, like strumming a chord. The Robo-Tuners will turn as needed, and the red lights around the Gear Shift Knob's edge will turn green as the strings go into tune. Several strums may be necessary; the more you use the tuning function, the faster it tunes.
4. When tuning is finished, Firebird X automatically exits tuning mode, unmutes the audio, and returns to the previous patch. A Gear Shift Knob light flashes green to confirm the guitar is tuned.
5. Return the Silver tog-pot to mid-position.

To experiment with other tunings:

1. Push the Silver tog-pot down to Tuning position.
2. Rotate the Gear Shift Knob to the desired tuning. See the following Tuning chart for a listing (*Gear Shift Center* is the character that appears in the center; the *Gear Shift Symbol* flashes in blue briefly upon selecting a patch.)
3. Strum as described above.
4. Return the Silver tog-pot to the middle position when tuning is done.

Gear Shift Center	Gear Shift Symbol	Tuning
1	flat symbol	Standard
2	arrow	Dropped D
3	e	Eb
4	B	DADGAD
5	G	Open G
6	D	Open E
7	A	Low D
8	E	Open A
9	C	Open Ab
A	pin	Open G
B	peg	DblDrop D

Select Sound Banks

Firebird X has 11 banks (1-9, A, and B) you select with the Gear Shift Knob. Each bank has five patches (1-5) you select with the 5-way Pickup Selector/Patch Selector. You can freely save, load, and edit patches with the included FBX Editor software. For example, Firebird X could have 55 basic pickup patches, 55 patches with effects, some patches with effects and some without, etc. To select a Bank:

1. Set the Silver tog-pot to the middle position.
2. Rotate the Gear Shift Knob to select a Bank. The knob's color-coded readout shows the Bank number or letter. Banks are:

Yellow Banks (pickups only)
1 = Firebird X, 2 = single-coil , 3 = humbucker, 4 = piezo (acoustic Bank)

Blue Banks (single effects)
5 = modulation, 6 = delay, 7 = reverb

Red Banks (multieffects)
8 = distortion, 9 = distortion leads, A and B = multieffects sounds

Select Patches within a Bank

The 5-way Pickup Selector/Patch Selector selects patches within a Bank. Position 1 is closest to the neck, position 5 is closest to the bridge. The following chart lists the factory patch set.

Bank #	Bank Name	Knife Switch Position				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Global	Hum	SC Neck+Mid	Hum	SC Mid+Bridge	Hum
1	Firebird X	FBX Neck	335 Neck+Mid	FBX Mid	Country B+N	FBX Bridge
2	Single	SC Neck	SC Neck+Mid	SC Mid	SC Mid+Bridge	SC Bridge
3	Humbucker	LPS Neck	Country Neck	LPS Neck+Bridge	Country Bridge	LPS Bridge
4	Acoustic	Piezo J200	Piezo 12-string	Piezo Small Body	Piezo Resonator	Piezo J45
5	Modulation	Chorus	Tremolo	Phaser	Vibrato	Flanger
6	Echo	Analog Delay	Reverse Delay	Digital Delay	Chorus Delay	Looper
7	Reverb	Ducking Cosmic	Hall Bright	Plate Damped	Spring	Taj Mahal
8	Distortion	Hi-Gain 80's	60's	Royal OD	70's	90's Metal
9	Lead	Octaver	Dist Chor Delay	Stadium Solo	Rock Chorus	Metal Chorus
A	FX1	Blues	Ziggy	Bo	Clean Chorus	Country Lead
B	FX2	Old Jazz	Reggae	Rockabilly	Southern Solo	Surfer

Change Pickups within Patches

Patches load with a specific pickup configuration, but you can change pickups after selecting a patch. (This doesn't apply to Banks 1-3, as the Pickup Selector/Patch Selector switch is already dedicated to pickup selection.)

1. After selecting a Bank and Patch, move the Silver tog-pot to the up position.
2. The Pickup Selector/Patch Selector switch now selects Firebird X's five default pickup options. The Gear Shift Knob's center shows the pickup combination (Pickup Selector/Patch Selector switch position 1 = neck, 2 = neck+middle, 3 = middle, 4 = middle+bridge, 5 = bridge).
3. This pickup setting remains until you choose a different patch.

Mix in the Piezo Pickup Sound

The Piezo pickup produces an acoustic guitar timbre. To mix this into any patch, rotate the Silver tog-pot clockwise for more piezo signal, and counter-clockwise for less.

Alter Volume and Tone

The silver volume knob controls volume, and the black Digital Varitone knob controls tone. The volume taper and Digital Varitone response are both customizable with the FBX Editor software.

Patch Play Mode and Edit Mode

Firebird X has two playing modes.

Patch Play Mode is Firebird X's default mode. It provides "foolproof" playing on stage by locking out the sliders and most blue and red tog-pot functions—even if you hit them accidentally, your sound won't change. All controls work normally except:

   ✗   Changing the red and blue tog-pot switch position has no effect.
   ✗   Rotating the blue tog-pot clockwise in any patch adds a preset reverb effect. Rotating the tog-pot counter-clockwise reduces the reverb effect; fully counter-clockwise returns to the original patch sound.
   ✗   Rotating the red tog-pot clockwise in any patch increases the balance of a global distortion effect to the dry sound. Rotating the tog-pot counter-clockwise reduces the distortion blend; fully counter-clockwise removes the distortion *Note: In patches that include distortion, the red tog-pot controls the existing distortion.*

Edit Mode "unlocks" the sliders and all red and blue tog-pot functionality so you can tweak the effects. This essentially places high-quality stomp boxes inside your guitar, with instant access to their controls via the sliders and tog-pots; the floor pedal readouts indicate the current settings.

The Digital Varitone tone control is also a momentary pushbutton. To enter Edit Mode, push down twice on the Digital Varitone knob within one second (like how you would double-click on a mouse button). The knob will produce a click sound each time you push it. All colors on the Gear Shift Knob turn violet to indicate that Firebird X is in Edit Mode.

Edit with the Blue Tog-Pot

The tog-pot's switch chooses the effect category to edit: Modulation, Echo, or Reverb, as labeled on the switchplate.

For these effect categories, the tog-pot's shaft is a wet/dry balance control. Turning the shaft clockwise increases the proportion of wet (processed) signal, counter-clockwise gives more dry sound.

The blue sliders edit the selected effect parameters shown on the label to the left of the blue sliders. For example, with the tog-pot set to Reverb, the sliders control reverb Type, Feedback (Decay), and Damping.

Note: A slider will not have any effect until it passes through the existing parameter value. If a slider does not appear to be working, move it back and forth over its full travel. Also, when editing Reverb and Echo parameters, there may be a slight delay

between moving a slider and hearing a change.

Note: The Pedalboard and Switchboard provide visual indications of the slider settings, effect types, and more. For now, just play with the sliders to get an idea of what's possible; you'll find that editing is easy and unambiguous when the pedals are set up, as described starting on page 17.

After you edit an effect, you can move the tog-pot switch to another effect and edit that. All edits are retained, so if for example you switch the tog-pot to Modulation and dial in a chorus sound, you can then change the tog-pot to Reverb and add some reverb, then change the tog-pot again to Echo and introduce delay.

Edit with the Red Tog-Pot

The red tog-pot works similarly to the blue tog-pot, but edits the Compressor/Gate, Distortion, and EQ effects (again, as labeled on the switchplate). The red sliders edit the selected effect parameters shown on the label to the right of the red sliders.

Exit Edit Mode, Save, and Restore Patches

After tweaking the effects, you can exit Edit Mode and do one of the following.

Save your edits. Push once on the Digital Varitone knob, move the knife switch, or rotate the Gear Shift Knob. The Gear Shift Knob shows S-A-V-E-D to indicate your new sound is saved. This sound will remain as edited even if you change patches and return to it later.

Restore the original patch sound. You can restore an edited patch to its original patch settings at any time, whether in Edit Mode or Patch Play Mode, by pushing three times on the Digital Varitone knob. The Gear Shift Knob will show R-E-S-T-O-R-E-D as it restores the original patch settings.

Familiarize Yourself with the Effects

To become familiar with the effects, consider choosing a patch from banks 1-3 (dry electric guitar sounds) as the various processors' effects will be obvious. The sliders control the parameters shown in the following chart, and cover a wide range of possible sounds.

Slider Position (top = closest to FBX top)	Effect Type		
	Mod	**Echo**	**Reverb**
Top Slider	Type	Type	Type
Middle Slider	Rate	Feedback	Feedback
Bottom Slider	Depth	Time	Damping
	Compression	**Distortion**	**EQ**
Top Slider	Sustain	Type	5.5kHz
Middle Slider	Comp Threshold	Bite	1.3kHz
Bottom Slider	Noise Gate Threshold	Drive	200Hz

With the Modulation, Echo, Reverb, and Distortion tog-pot positions, the Type slider chooses the different effect types shown in the following chart.

Note: Type Slider position 1 is closest to the headstock; moving the slider closer to the bridge selects higher numbers.

Effect Block/Tog-Pot Position	< < toward headstock Type Slider Position toward bridge > >						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Mod	Chorus	Tremolo	Phaser	Vibrato	Flanger		
Echo	Digital Delay	Analog Delay	Tape Delay	Chorus Delay	Ducking Delay	Reverse Delay	Looper
Reverb	Hall Bright	Ducking Cosmic	Plate Damped	Spring	Taj Mahal		
Distortion	80's High-Gain	60's	Royal OD	70's	90's Metal		

Strum Tempo Option

Firebird X allows using a Switchboard footswitch to set the delay time (called "tap tempo"). However, you can also set the delay time with Firebird X's Strum Tempo option.

1. Select any patch with a Delay effect enabled.
2. Toggle the Silver tog-pot *rapidly* between Tuning (down position) and Piezo (center position).
3. T appears in the center of the Gear Shift Knob.
4. Mute the strings with your left hand and strike the strings four times with your right hand. The onboard computer will look for four big peaks, and use them to calculate the delay time.
5. Play Firebird X and determine that the delay time is correct. If not, repeat steps 1-4 and make you you strike the strings with sufficient force to create strong peaks.

Blue Lightning™ Pedalboard and Switchboard Pedals

Firebird X's Pedalboard and Switchboard provide exceptional, fluid control over Firebird X, both live and in the studio.

- ✗ The Pedalboard provides two main functions: Visual display of the guitar status, and pedal functions.
- ✗ The Switchboard is dedicated primarily to selecting and editing sounds, as well as providing sophisticated Echoplex™ Looper functions.

The Pedalboard and Switchboard (as well as Firebird X itself) are Bluetooth devices that communicate wirelessly and can operate from batteries or the supplied AC adapter. They can operate a minimum of 30 feet (10 meters) from Firebird X to a maximum of 100 feet.

These devices need to recognize each other—a process called "pairing"—which is done at the factory. If for any reason they are not paired, or you need to re-pair, see page 25.

Powering the Pedalboard and Switchboard

The pedals can use a common power supply by connecting the two using the Pedal Power/Data Connector (called "Bone" for short—see the illustration), or be powered individually. The bone is stored in a slot on the bottom of the Pedalboard; its magnets are strong, so you may need to use a screwdriver to pry the bone out of its slot.


Here are the power options.

- ✗ When linked, both pedals can work from a single battery inserted in either pedal (the battery door is located on the rear of each pedal).
- ✗ Each can be AC-powered individually.
- ✗ Each can be battery-powered individually.
- ✗ When linked, using the supplied AC adapter with one pedal powers both pedals.

The last two options are preferred.

Both pedals have a standard 9V battery connector located in the battery compartment, and a separate cavity that fits a 9V battery. If a 9V battery is connected, it will work as a backup power source if the standard rechargeable battery discharges below its shutdown voltage; switchover to the 9V battery occurs automatically. However, switching on the pedal with *only* a 9V battery is not supported.

Setting Up the Pedals for Firebird X

1. Remove the Pedal Power/Data Connector, which carries power from the Pedalboard to the Switchboard, from the bottom of the Pedalboard. (The magnets are strong, and you may need to use a screwdriver to pry out the Pedal Power/Data Connector.)
2. Link the underside of the Pedalboard and Switchboard using the Pedal Power/Data Connector.
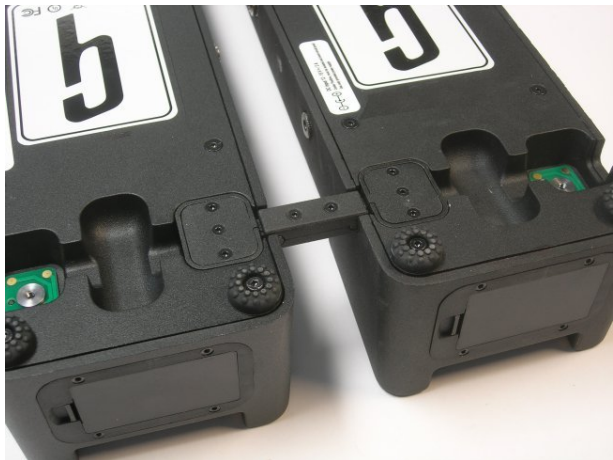
3. Place them on the floor (typically Pedalboard to the left, Switchboard to the right but you can reverse the order).

4. Plug the supplied AC adapter plug into the matching jack on the left side of the Pedalboard or Switchboard.

5. Raise the Bluetooth antennas on each pedal.

6. Turn on Firebird X by lifting up on the Gear Shift Knob.

7. Push down on the Pedalboard pedal until you hear a click, and hold it down until the display lights. The display will initially show Guitar Link Down and Bone (Pedal Power/Data Connector) Link Down, but then will change to Guitar Up, and the display will show Receiving Config. This confirms Firebird X and the Pedalboard are paired. After receiving the configuration, the display will go to its default.

8. Press on the Switchboard's Upper Left footswitch. The Pedalboard display will turn on and show Bone Link Up. The confirms that all devices are communicating.

Note: If you turn off Firebird X (e.g., to save battery power or change batteries) this will stop communications to the pedals. However, turning Firebird X back on will re-establish the link automatically after several seconds.

Pedalboard Function Selection

Choose the pedal function by pressing on the appropriate Pedalboard footswitches.

- ✗ **Volume:** Upper Left footswitch
- ✗ **WahWah:** Upper Right footswitch
- ✗ **Octaver:** Middle and Upper Right footswitch simultaneously
- ✗ **Rotary Speaker:** Middle and Upper Left footswitch simultaneously

After selecting the function, push down on the pedal until it clicks to toggle between effect enabled or bypassed.

Pedalboard Display

When you rotate the Gear Shift Knob to change Banks or the Pickup Selector/Patch Selector switch to change patches, the display shows the Bank and Patch in large type for about two seconds, then reverts to the default display. The default shows the following (numbers in the descriptions are keyed to the display image).
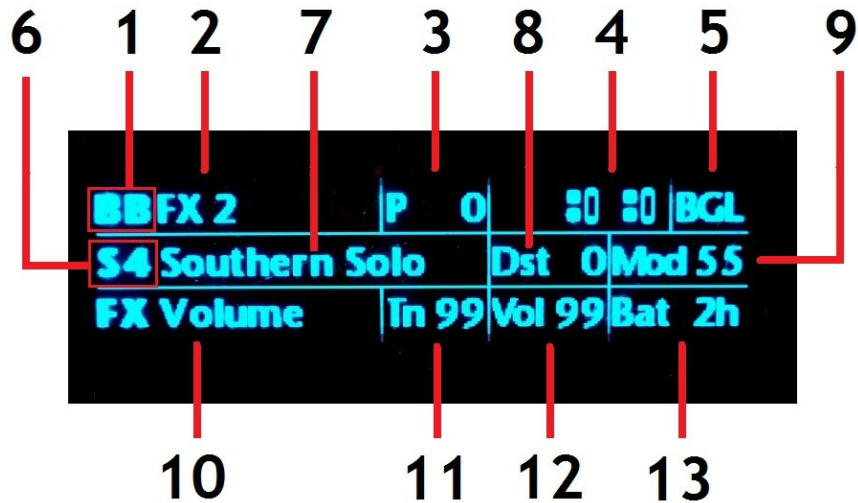
Top Line

(1) Bank number
(2) Bank name
(3) Silver tog-pot piezo level (00-99)
(4) Pickup configuration
(5) BGL if Bluetooth (B), Guitar Link (G), and Bone Link (L) are active. If any of these are inactive, the corresponding letter will be dimmed.

Middle Line

(6) Patch number
(7) Patch name
(8) Distortion Amount (00-99, Patch Play mode only)
(9) Reverb Amount (00-99, Patch Play mode only)

Bottom Line

(10) Pedal effect (name is dim if bypassed, bright if enabled)
(11) Tone setting (00-99)
(12) Volume setting (00-99)
(13) Estimated remaining guitar battery life in hours

Switchboard Function Selection

Note: Place the mylar overlay over the top of the Switchboard to familiarize yourself with the functions.

Select Bank: This is equivalent to the Gear Shift Bank select function. A single press on the button labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 selects that Bank. A fast double-click on a footswitch selects the alternate Bank shown on the overlay, as well as mute: 7, 8, 9, A, B, and Mute.

Select Patch/Tap Tempo: The Upper Left footswitch toggles between Bank and Patch/Tap Tempo select mode. In Patch select mode, footswitches 1-5 select the like-numbered patches. Footswitch 6 selects Tap Tempo for any delay effects in a patch. Tap the footswitch four times; the time between taps sets the delay time.

Select Pickup: This is equivalent to the Pickup Selector function (e.g., when the Silver tog-pot is in the up position). Press the Upper Middle and Left footswitches simultaneously to select this mode. Footswitches 1-5 correspond to the five pickup selector positions. Footswitch 6 is inactive.

Select Tuning: This is equivalent to the Gear Shift Tuning select function. Press the Upper Middle and Right footswitches simultaneously to select this mode. A single press on the button labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 selects the equivalent tuning. A fast double-click on a footswitch selects the other tuning shown on the overlay (7, 8, 9, A, and B). The 6--Mute button always selects standard tuning.

Select Effect Bypass: The Upper Right footswitch toggles between selecting the Echoplex Looper and selecting an Effect bypass function. In effect bypass mode, each footswitch enables or disables a particular effect in the effects chain if the effect is present in the patch or preset: 1 = Modulation, 2 = Compression, 3 = Delay, 4 = Distortion, 5 = Reverb, 6 = EQ.

Note: The section on using the Switchboard with the Echoplex Looper starts on page 23.

Switchboard Display

The default display shows the following.

Note: The effects chain settings change only when Firebird X is in Edit mode, not Patch Play mode.
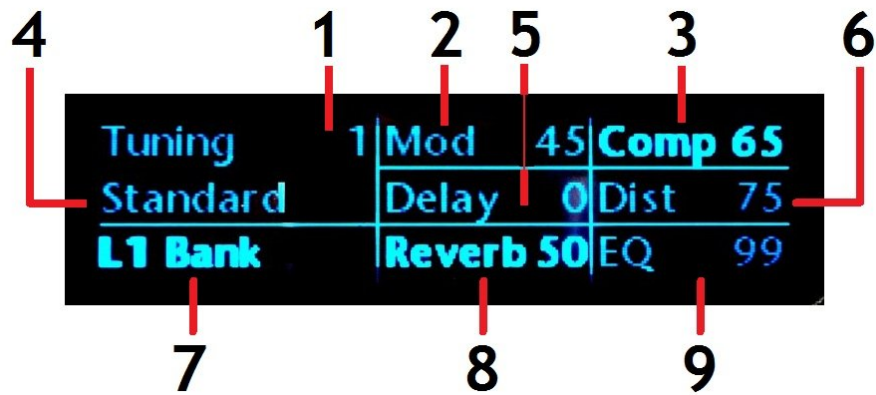
Top Line

(1) Tuning number
(2) Modulation wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the blue tog-pot when switched to the Mod position
(3) Compressor wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the red tog-pot when switched to the Comp position

Middle Line

(4) Tuning name
(5) Delay wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the blue tog-pot when switched to the Echo position
(6) Distortion wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the red tog-pot when switched to the Dist position

Bottom Line

(7) Current selected function (Tuning, Bank, Patch, Echoplex Looper, Pickup, Effect)
(8) Reverb wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the blue tog-pot when switched to the Reverb position
(9) EQ wet/dry mix (00-99) as selected by the red tog-pot when switched to the EQ position

Turn Off the Pedalboard or Switchboard

1. To turn off the Pedalboard or Switchboard, press and hold the Upper Middle footswitch until the display shows **Shutdown?**
2. Press the Upper Right footswitch to shut down, or the Upper Left footswitch to cancel.

You can also simply disconnect the AC adapter.

The Echoplex™ Looper

The Echoplex Looper provides independent recording and playback on three tracks, as well as overdubbing (sound on sound recording) on two of the tracks.

Activate the Echoplex Looper

1. Verify that Firebird X, Pedalboard, and Switchboard are turned on and connected.
2. Press the Upper Right footswitch. If the display shows Looper, proceed to the next step. If it shows Effect, press the Upper Right footswitch again.
3. Verify that the display's lower left shows L6 Looper.

The looper has three tracks. Track 1 is the master track. Recording on Track 1 sets the loop length for all three tracks. You must record on Track 1 before recording on Tracks 2 or 3.

Note: Recording on Track 1 deletes any previous recordings on any tracks.
Note: Make sure the included mylar overlay is on the Switchboard, as we will refer to the switches by those numbers.

Record on Track 1

1. To start recording, double-click footswitch **1--7**. Recording starts immediately.
2. To stop recording *and* start playing the loop you recorded, press footswitch **1--7**. *Note: the maximum loop length is 20 seconds; after 20 seconds the loop will stop recording and automatically start playing.*
3. To stop playing or recording on Track 1, press footswitch **4--A**. To stop all tracks from playing, double-click footswitch **4--A**.

Record on Tracks 2 and 3

After recording on Track 1, you can now record on Tracks 2 and 3.

1. If Track 1 isn't playing, press footswitch **1--7**. Then, double-click footswitch **2--8**. Track 2 will start recording the next time the Track 1 loop returns to the beginning.
2. Track 2 will stop recording at the end of the loop, or if you press on footswitch **5--B**. The track will automatically start playing the next time the Track 1 loop returns to the beginning.
3. Recording on Track 3 works just like recording on Track 2, except the start footswitch is now **3--9** and the stop footswitch is **6--Mute**.

Note: You can stop and start each Track independently through their respective track buttons.

Overdub on Tracks 2 and 3

You can record new sounds into what you've already recorded onto Tracks 2 or 3; this mixes the new sounds with the previously-recorded ones ("sound-on-sound" recording).

1. To overdub, start playing the loop.
2. To overdub on Track 2, double-click footswitch **5--B**.
3. To overdub on Track 3, double-click footswitch **6--Mute**.
4. When you initiate overdubbing on either Track 2 or 3, recording begins immediately and stops when the loop ends. To stop overdubbing on a track at any time, press the corresponding track's Play or Stop footswitch.

Note: You can do unlimited overdubs.

Switchboard Echoplex Looper Footswitch Summary

Footswitch 1--7
Press once: Play Track 1
Double-click: Record Track 1 and delete Tracks 2 and 3

Footswitch 4--A
Press once: Stop Track 1
Double-click: Stop all tracks

Footswitch 2--8
Press once: Play Track 2
Double-click: Record Track 2

Footswitch 5--B
Press once: Stop Track 2
Double-click: Overdub Track 2

Footswitch 3--9
Press once: Play Track 3
Double-click: Record Track 3

Footswitch 6--Mute
Press once: Stop Track 3
Double-click: Overdub Track 3

Pairing Bluetooth Devices

You generally won't need to pair your Firebird X system Bluetooth devices. However, if you switch guitars or replace some system component, re-pairing may be necessary.

1. Set up the Pedalboard and Switchboard as described previously in steps 1-5 of **Setting Up the Pedals for Firebird X** on pages 18 and 19 (linked, AC power connected, and antennas up). However, they should not be powered-on.
2. Turn on the Firebird X by pulling up on the Gear Shift Knob.
3. Set the Silver tog-pot upward to the PU/Prog setting and *within one second,* push down on the Digital Varitone tone knob until the Gear Shift Knob lights turn red.
4. Turn the Gear Shift Knob to the B position (i.e., the B LED on the outer rim is lit). The inside of the Gear Shift Knob will cycle through the four characters of the guitar's Bluetooth ID (e.g., 09P3). Note this ID.
5. Power-up the Pedalboard by pressing down on the pedal until it clicks, and holding the pedal down until the display lights.
6. Power-up the Switchboard by pressing on the Upper Left footswitch.
7. Simultaneously press and hold the Pedalboard's Upper Left and Upper Right footswitches for at least three seconds.
8. A menu appears, with `1. Bluetooth` highlighted. Press the Upper Middle footswitch button to select this option.

9. Press the Upper Right footswitch to start the Bluetooth scanning process.
10. When scanning ends, another menu appears. The third option will say `3. Firebird [your guitar's Bluetooth ID]`. Click on the Upper Left footswitch twice to scroll down and highlight the third option. Once it's highlighted, press on the Upper Middle footswitch to select it.
11. Pairing begins. When the Pedalboard finishes `Receiving config...`, pairing is complete.
12. Return the Firebird X Silver tog-pot to its center position.

Deleting a Pairing

To pair to a different Firebird X, first "unpair," then re-pair to the new Bluetooth ID.

1. Follow steps 1-8 for pairing.
2. Press the Pedalboard's Upper Right footswitch to Delete the pairing entry.
3. The display indicates pairing is being deleted.
4. To pair with the new Bluetooth ID, follow steps 8-12 for pairing.

G-Node™ USB 2.0 Interface and FBX Editor Software

The latest software and documentation for these components is available from the Firebird X Visionaries Club web site. Please register as described previously on page 2, and download the software and documentation.