WALRUS AUDIO DFX-1

Percussion Processing Unit



- Item:
- EAN Number: 810424037595
- Packaging Dimensions: 31.2 x 28.9 x 11.5 cm
- Weight: 2.59 kg
- Images | Translations | User Manual

Need to know for retailers

- The DFX-1 is a multi-effect percussion processor designed with Aaron Sterling to add color, punch, and space to any acoustic or electronic drum setup. — bridging the gap between live performance and studio sound.
- Inspired by the idea of the “fun mic,” it puts expressive drum processing — once handled by engineers, plug-ins, or complex pedalboards — directly in the drummer’s hands for faster, cleaner, and more intuitive control.
- Built around three main effect engines — Compression, Delay, and Reverb — each with two distinctive flavors, the DFX-1 moves effortlessly between vintage character and modern clarity, with additional Saturation, Gating, EQ, and flexible routing for deeper tone shaping.
- Designed as a true one-stop shop for drummers, percussionists, and beatmakers: connect any mic or line-level source — perfect for acoustic kits, e-drums, and studio or post-production setups — without the need for an external mic preamp or mic-to-line-converters.
- Features a high-performance mic preamp with +48V phantom power, a customizable FX loop, full MIDI integration, and three trigger pads playable with sticks or fingers for real-time control on stage or in the studio.



“The DFX-1 is designed for drummers, percussionists, and beatmakers who want to take matters into their own hands when it comes to effects. It allows a microphone to go straight into a world filled with gain, compression, delay, reverb, saturation, and EQ — without an external mic pre, without a mic-to-line level converter, and without extra cables. A true one-stop shop!” -Aaron Sterling

Product Features

- Multi-effect percussion processor designed in collaboration with Aaron Sterling.
- Adds musical character and punch to any acoustic drum or percussion source.
- Gives drummers direct control of the classic “fun mic” sound in one fast, intuitive unit.
- Opens a new world of sonic creativity and hands-on studio power at your drum set.
- Compression, Delay, Reverb, Saturation, Gating, and EQ with OLED display and intuitive controls.
- Use anywhere on your kit with any mic — or route outboard for processing in post.
- High-performance mic preamp with +48 V Phantom Power for condenser microphones.
- Versatile input section handles mic, line, or instrument signals for e.g. E-drums or studio use.
- Built-in FX loop, MIDI connectivity, and presets for flexible integration.
- Three main effect engines: Compression, Delay, and Reverb, each with two distinctive flavors.
- Two types of Compression: FET and VCA.
    - FET Comp – Classic 1176-style compression with fast attack for punchy, gritty dynamics.
    - VCA Comp – API 2500-style compression delivering smooth glue and added punch.
- Two types of Delay: Modern and Vintage.
    - Modern – Clear, precise digital repeats with defined attack and clarity.
    - Vintage – Warm, analog-style echoes with natural degradation and tape character.
- Two types of Reverb: Spring and Plate.
    - Spring – Splashy reflections with vintage spring-tank tone.
    - Plate – Smooth, wide diffusion for polished studio ambience.
- Saturation adds tube-like clipping with rich harmonic depth; Noise Gate removes background noise.
- Tilt EQ and parametric bands provide precise, musical tone shaping.
- Switchable effect order changes interaction between compression, delay, and reverb.
- FX Loop lets you insert pedals or outboard gear with editable position.
- Three trigger pads (drumstick or finger) for Bypass, Preset Cycle, and Tap Tempo control.
- Store up to 128 presets, adjust Tap Tempo divisions, and manage via MIDI or USB-C.
- Balanced XLR & ¼" outputs ensure clean connections to mixers or interfaces.
- Powered by 9 V DC (500 mA min) | Size 26.2 × 23.2 × 9.7 cm | Weight 1.7 kg (unit only).
- Developed on the Walrus MDSP platform for premium DSP performance with analog feel.



Description

The DFX-1 is a multi-effect processing unit designed in collaboration with Aaron Sterling to add musical character and punch to any acoustic drum or percussion source. Craft everything from subtle to in-your-face drum sounds with studio-grade VCA & FET compression, two flavors each of Delay and Reverb, plus Saturation, Gating, an FX loop with customizable routing, and a flexible EQ. Use the DFX-1 anywhere on your kit with any microphone, whether it's a squashed, spacious room mic, a tight, gated snare, or even routed outboard for processing in post. With a high-performance microphone preamp with phantom power, an effects loop to connect external outboard equipment, MIDI connectivity, and presets, a whole new world of sonic creativity becomes available right at your drum set.

The DFX-1 is built around three main effect engines - Compression, Delay, and Reverb, each with two distinctive flavors so you can move smoothly between vintage character and modern clarity. Use the Saturation and Tilt-style EQ controls for further tone shaping. Additionally, the FX loop can incorporate pedals or outboard gear, and route effects in different orders for radically different results.

Compression (VCA / FET)

- VCA: Models the API 2500's signature VCA compression for added punch and to smoothly "glue" the mix together.
- FET: Emulates the classic 1176 FET compressor with fast attack and release for punchy, gritty dynamics.

Delay (Vintage / Modern)

- Vintage: Warm, analog/tape-inspired repeats with natural degradation.
- Modern: Provides a tasteful digital delay with clearer repeats.

Reverb (Spring / Plate)

- Spring: Captures the splashy character of classic spring tanks with lively, wobbly reflections.
- Plate (Modern): Emulates a plate reverb for smooth, diffused reflections for a polished studio sheen.

An integrated noise gate eliminates unwanted background noise from your signal. Set the threshold, hold time, and release time via the OLED display.

The three pads make it quick and easy to operate the DFX-1 in a live setting by quickly tapping them with a stick or your finger.

- Pad A (Bypass): Toggle Bypass (LED Off = Bypassed, LED On = Enabled).
- Pad B (Preset Cycle): Cycles through presets in groups of 3, based on your selection in the preset menu. Up to 128 presets can be accessed through the preset menu and via MIDI. Presets can also be copied/pasted into different slots through the preset menu.
- Pad C (Tap Tempo): Tap to set the Delay BPM. Tap divisions can be adjusted via the Delay menu to Quarter, Quarter Triplet, Eighth, Sixteenth, and Dotted Eighth notes.

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DFX-1
PERCUSSION PROCESSING UNIT
GAIN
THRESHOLD
ATTACK
RELEASE
DELAY MIX
FEEDBACK
TIME
REVERB MIX
DECAY
TONE
VOLUME
EQ
SATURATION
VCA
FET
MODERN
VINTAGE
SPRING
PLATE
FORWARD
REVERSE
A
B
C


+48V
LINE -
INST -
PAD
WALRUSAUDIO
XLR-1/4" IN
XLR OUT
OUT
SEND
RETURN
MIDI IN
MIDI THRU
USB C
9VDC, 500mA



