

CONTROLS

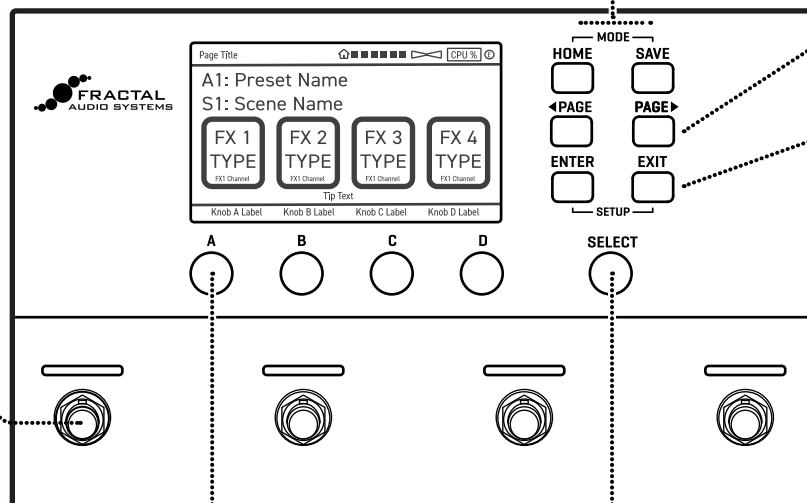
The AM4 has five **MODES**. Press footswitches 1+2 at the same time for **MODE SELECT**.

Depending on the selected mode, the footswitches change **Presets** (green), select **Scenes** (red), toggle **Effects ON/OFF** (blue), access **Tuner/Tap Tempo** (yellow), or select **amp channels** (multicolor). Each mode also has its own **Press-and-hold** functions. See p. 4 for more on footswitches and modes.

Press **HOME** at any time to show the Home page.

Press **SAVE** to save the current preset.
Press **ENTER** 2x to confirm.

Press **HOME+SAVE** at the same time to show **MODE SELECT**. Tap a footswitch to make select a mode (See p. 2)



Turn **ABCD** knobs to adjust settings and values.

Turn **SELECT** to highlight different areas on screen.
On the Home page, turning **SELECT** changes between Preset, Scene, and Effects Mode.

PAGE buttons step left and right through menu pages.



Use **ENTER** and **EXIT** to confirm or cancel various options.

SETUP

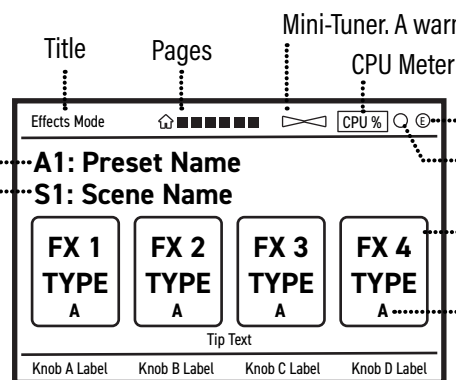
Press **ENTER+EXIT** at the same time to open the **SETUP** menu. Use the **PAGE** buttons to find settings for Audio, Footswitches, Pedals, MIDI, and more. Press **EXIT** to return to where you were.

NOTE: Changes in the Setup menu are stored as you make them with no need to press SAVE. As you make changes, the AM4 will display "SAVING" in the title bar. Do not power the AM4 off while it is saving, or your most recent changes could be lost.

MAIN DISPLAY

The top line shows the **PRESET Name**. The AM4 contains 104 presets, grouped in lettered **BANKS (A-Z)** containing four presets each.

The second line shows the **SCENE Name**. Each preset contains four Scenes. Scenes can switch effects and channels without "tap-dancing"—and more.



Mini-Tuner. A warning also appears here when clipping occurs.

EDITED lights when you have unsaved changes.

TEMPO light

Each preset contains four blocks. You'll find the Amp block, plus Drives, Delay, Reverb, Mod FX, EQs, and more.

Each effect block has four channels, labeled A, B, C, and D, shown as a letter beneath the effect. Each channel can have its own unique settings, so you can switch between different sounds instantly—all within a single preset.

Labels on some pages show knob functions.

Tips help you to navigate the AM4.

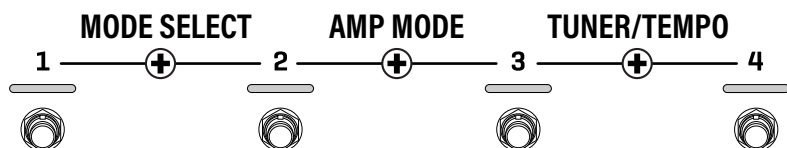
AM4 FOOTSWITCHES & GIG MODE

2

A convenient master footswitch setting called GIG MODE is enabled by default. It allows you to access Presets, Banks, Scenes, Effects, Channels, Tuner/Tempo, and more.

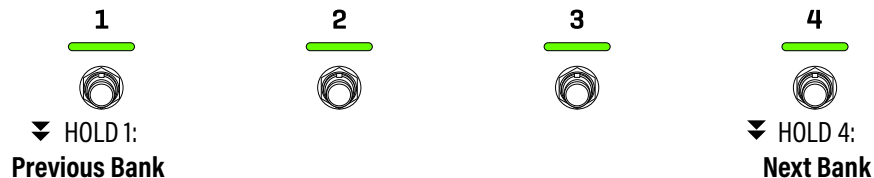
UNIVERSAL SHORTCUTS

Tap these two-switch combos for quick access to essentials.



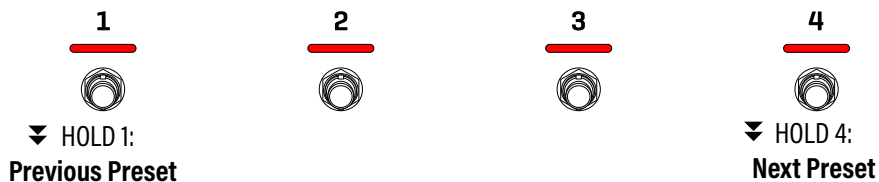
PRESET MODE

Tap to load a Preset from the current Bank.



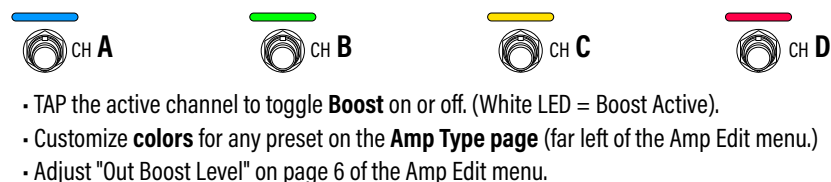
SCENE MODE

▼ TAP any switch to load a Scene from the current Preset.



AMP MODE

▼ TAP any switch to load a Channel in the Amp block



EFFECTS MODE

▼ TAP a switch to bypass or engage the effect. The **Amp** switch toggles Boost instead.



▼ HOLD any switch to show the four **Channels** for that effect.

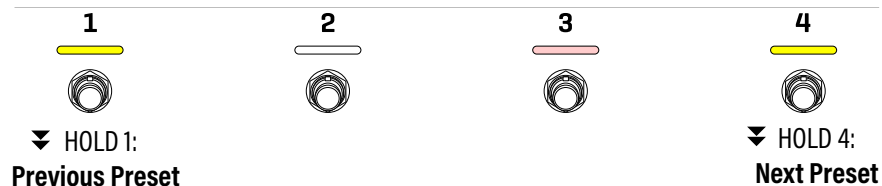


▼ TAP to select a channel and exit.

▼ HOLD to select a channel and stay.

TUNER + TAP TEMPO MODE

▼ TAP Switch 1 for **Tempo**, Switch 3 to toggle **MUTE**, and switch 4 to **Exit** the tuner.



*NOTE: In Gig Mode, most footswitches trigger on release rather than on press because of the press-and-hold and "combo" settings. You can disable Gig Mode or choose custom options under **SETUP > Footswitches > Press and Hold Mode**, but doing so removes access to Gig Mode's special functions.*

NOTE: You can change amp channels by holding the Amp block footswitch in Effects Mode, but this isn't the same as entering Amp Mode (above, right). Amp Mode also gives you easy boost, instant access to amp settings, and persistent channel selection on Tap instead of Hold.

AM4 SETTING UP

TYPICAL SETUP (DIRECT/FRFR)

The most popular and flexible way to enjoy the AM4 is by connecting it to a full-range system—such as an FRFR guitar speaker, powered PA speaker, studio monitors, or directly into a mixer or recording interface. Except for special templates, all factory presets are designed to sound their best with this type of setup.

IMPORTANT! Use only the provided 9V 1.5A adapter, or direct equivalent with your AM4. Using an incorrect adapter may cause lockups, crashes, noise, or loss of audio or data.

1. Connect your guitar to the **Input** jack of the AM4.
2. Connect the **Out L/Mono** jack of the AM4 to your powered speaker, mixer, or interface.
 - For a balanced connection, use a balanced cable with a TRS (Tip-Ring-Sleeve) plug.
 - You can also use a standard (unbalanced) guitar cable.
 - For Stereo, connect a second cable from the **Out R** jack of the AM4 to your right speaker.
3. Power on your speakers and then raise the AM4 **Level** knob to the desired setting.
4. This setup also works great with headphones connected directly to the AM4.

SPLIT MODE [for Simultaneous FRFR + Guitar Cab]

Split Mode allows you to connect both an **FRFR** system and a traditional guitar **speaker cabinet** at the same time. In this mode, the left output of the AM4 includes cab simulation, while the right output does not. Both outputs operate in summed mono. To enable this option, set **SETUP > Audio > Output Mode** to "SPLIT."

MONO vs. STEREO

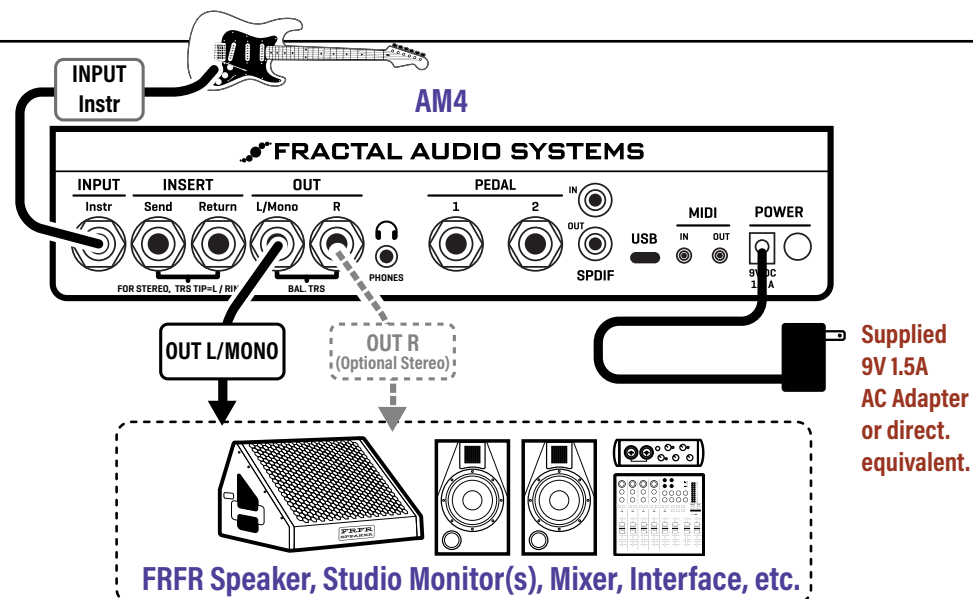
The AM4 defaults to STEREO under **SETUP > Audio > Output Mode**. Connecting only the left output works fine for a mono rig, but additional options are available if you want to force special processing for mono.

Select MUTE if you want the AM4 to handle USB audio only—useful when monitoring a DAW or guitar app.

INPUT LEVELS

The AM4 is factory-set for typical guitars with hot pickups. If the signal is too hot, the **IN CLIP** indicator will appear. To prevent clipping, set **SETUP > Audio > Input Pad** just high enough so clipping does not occur when you play loud, big, open chords.

Note: When necessary, the AM4 automatically increases the Input Pad. When this happens, you'll see "Auto" next to its value (e.g., 12 dB Auto). This change is temporary, and the AM4 will return to your last manual setting after a power cycle.



STEREO INSERTS

The onboard stereo inserts let you add external effects without giving up use of the AM4's **balanced outputs**. The analog insert point comes after all AM4 processing. For mono, use standard patch cables. For stereo, use "Y" cables (TRS where Tip = L, Ring = R). Note: The insert is not switchable and will only be heard at the balanced TRS analog outputs of the AM4.

OUTPUT LEVELS

INTERNAL LEVELS are determined by the combined amp, effect, and level settings within your presets. The Internal Levels Meter, found on the **Main Levels** page (and repeated in the Amp Edit menu), shows a white line at 0 dB—the sweet spot where levels are strong but still have headroom. It's wise to check levels under different scenarios, such as when Boost or other loud effects or channels are used. It's fine to push past 0dB, but don't hit the ceiling. Higher internal levels also make it easier to clip the analog outputs (see below).

ANALOG LEVELS are controlled by the top-panel **OUT LEVEL** knob, which sets the volume of the analog outputs and headphones. Use it to set your preferred listening level, but avoid overdriving the output stage. The Analog Levels meter on the Main Levels page shows how close you are to clipping, and an **OUT CLIP** warning will appear in the title bar across all pages when clipping occurs. If this happens, lower the knob or reduce levels inside your presets.

AM4 BASIC EDITING

SELECT OR CHANGE WHICH BLOCKS ARE IN A PRESET

- Change to **Effects Mode** and turn **SELECT** to the desired location.
- Turn **A,B,C,** or **D** to change the block type (Amp, Drive, etc.)
- Press **ENTER** to confirm.
- You can move an existing block within a preset by holding **ENTER** and turning **SELECT**.
- AM4-Edit (see p. 8) allows you to copy/paste blocks between presets or save them to your computer's "Block Library" for future use.

EDIT SETTINGS FOR ANY BLOCK

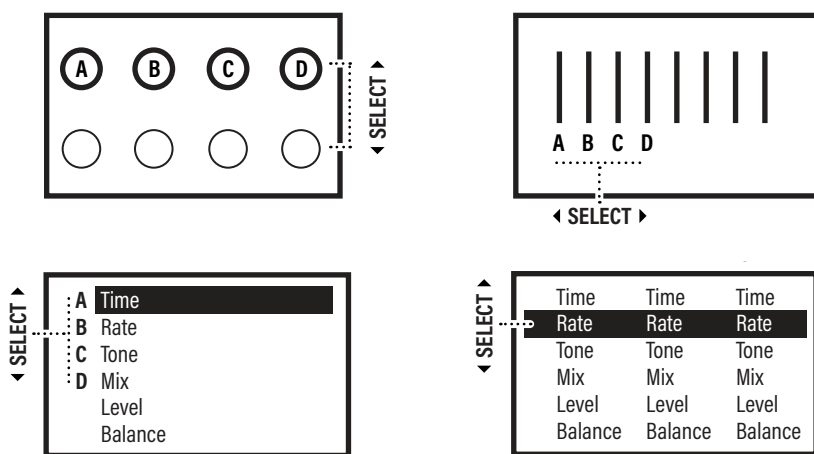
- Change to **Effects Mode**, turn **SELECT** to the desired effect, and press **ENTER**.
- Use the knobs and buttons to make changes (see EFFECT EDIT PAGES below).

SAVING CHANGES

- Press **SAVE**. Use **ABCD** and **SELECT** to choose a location and edit names. Press **ENTER** to confirm.

EDITING ON DIFFERENT PAGE TYPES

- The AM4 uses a variety of page layouts to let you edit blocks (see below). Use the **A, B, C, D** knobs to adjust parameters. The **SELECT** knob moves between rows or other areas on a page.



Use the Page buttons to navigate left and right through menu pages. 🏠 □ □ □ □ □ □

FAQ

4

FAQ: Block Type vs. Effect Type?

Effects on the AM4 are organized into **Blocks** like Amp, Drive, Reverb, and so on. Each Block includes a Type Picker for selecting a sub-type such as "Deluxe Tweed," "Face Fuzz," or "Spring, Small." The Type picker appears automatically the first time you edit a new effect. To change the Type later, simply edit the effect and page left to the Type picker page.

FAQ: What is a Preset?

A preset is a saved setup. It remembers your amp, cab, effects, and other settings—so you can get the exact sound you want just by recalling it. Some players may use only a single preset. Others might create one preset for every gig, every guitar, or even parts of a song. Every preset also contains extra settings. Press **HOME** and use the **PAGE** buttons to find the Noise Gate, Levels, EQ, and more.

FAQ: What is a Scene?

A Scene is a snapshot of your preset at a specific moment. It remembers which effects are ON or OFF, and which channels or settings each block is using. You can use Scenes to instantly switch between different sounds within a preset.

FAQ: What is a Channel?

A channel is one of four separate sets of settings inside each block. Each channel — **A,B,C,** or **D** — can have its own completely different settings and sound—even a different model.

EXAMPLE 1, DRIVE: A) T808 Overdrive B) Super Fuzz C) DS-1 Distortion D) FAS Boost

EXAMPLE 2, AMP: A) Double Verb B) AC-20 C) Plexi 50W D) 5153 100W Red

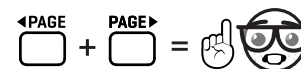
You can change the channel on the Type page while editing any block. In Effects Mode, you can hold any footswitch to show the corresponding channel picker. In Amp Mode, the four footswitches are dedicated to the four amp channels. Scenes can also change any channel.

Gear Nerd? Check out Expert Edit

The AM4 was designed to be easy to use, with streamlined controls similar to those found on traditional amps and pedals. At the same time, Fractal Audio is known for its exceptional depth and flexibility, allowing creative players and tone enthusiasts to dive deep into sound design and creative explorations.

If this sounds like you, then **Expert Edit** may be of interest. This special mode reveals expanded options for editing amps, effects, modifiers, and even the noise gate. Open Expert Edit while in **Effects Mode** or **Amp Mode** by pressing **PAGE LEFT** and **PAGE RIGHT** at the same time.

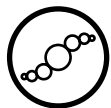
Press **EXIT** at any time to leave Expert Edit.



You can find more FAQs, tips, and user discussions about the AM4 on the Fractal Audio forum: <https://forum.fractalaudio.com>

AM4 AMP MODELS

5



GREAT TONE, SIMPLIFIED

The AM4 uses the same amp modeling technology as Fractal Audio's flagship **Axe-Fx** processor, delivering authentic tube amp sound, feel, and response — now in a compact format, perfect for pedalboards and beyond. A new, streamlined interface makes it easier than ever to get started quickly and dial in great tones.



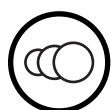
HUNDREDS OF MODELS

The AM4 gives you access to hundreds of amps—each a meticulous recreation of the original. Unlike static captures or profiles, we model every circuit and control in detail, delivering not just authentic tone and feel, but also interactive controls that allow you to fully adjust the model just like the real amp.



FOUR AMP CHANNELS

With channels, the AM4 amp block is like four amps in one! Each channel can be saved however you want and accessed with a tap. You might set A as a sparkly clean "Double Verb," B as an edgy "AC-20," C as a dimed "Plexi," and D as a soaring "USA JP IIC+." Each channel includes its own amp, cab, EQ, and boost settings.



GAIN STAGING 101

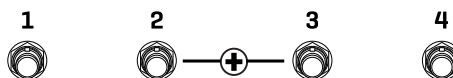
Whether you're new to modeling or a seasoned pro, understanding the Fractal Audio approach to gain staging is essential. Every amp model includes the same gain controls as the real amp—such as Gain, Master, Overdrive, etc—but you'll also find a Level control. This sets the amp's output volume without affecting tone or feel, and it must be adjusted properly to ensure correct output Levels.



GET TO KNOW AMP MODE

You can edit the amp right in **Effects Mode** like any other block, but **Amp Mode** gives you direct access to four amp channel switches with Boost—plus essential "front panel" controls that stay parked on screen with no menu diving, just like a real amp or pedal. The current channel and amp type appear across the top of most pages.

Press switches 2+3 together to enter or exit Amp Mode.



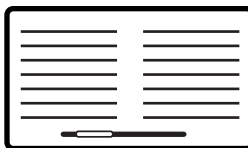
BUILT-IN BOOST

The amp includes a built-in boost—no need for an extra drive, EQ, or other block. To toggle the boost on or off, tap the Amp footswitch in **Effects Mode**, or tap the footswitch for the current channel in **Amp Mode**. The **Out Boost Level** for each channel in every preset can be customized on the second-to-last page of the Amp menu.

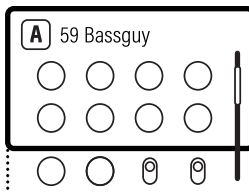
Entering Amp mode opens the Amp's Basic Controls page.

Page Left or Right for additional pages of settings including the Amp Type, Cab, GEQ, tools, and more:

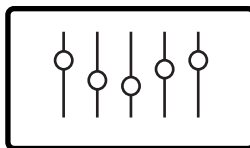
1. Amp Type Picker



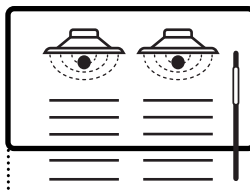
2. Amp Basics



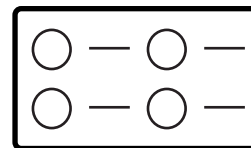
3. Amp GEQ



4. Cab Basics



5. Cab Extras



6. Levels + Boost



7. Reset Tool



IMPORTANT: For amps with more than eight basic controls, turn SELECT to access the third row.



ABOUT DYNACABS

Using a DynaCab makes it easy to dial in cab tones using a classic technique. You can position a virtual mic on a virtual speaker and hear the results in real time—just like adjusting a mic on a real cab with traditional analog gear.



IMPULSE RESPONSES (IRs)

You can load your own **impulse responses** (IRs) into the AM4 as **User Cabs**, including files from Fractal Audio, third-party libraries, or your own custom captures.

Install IRs using **AM4-Edit** (p.8). For more information, see the Owner's Manual or scan the QR code (left) for video help.



CAB PRE-LOADING

When the AM4 is powered on, DynaCabs load in the background. During this time, the message '**Loading Cabs...**' appears in the upper-left corner of the display. You may notice brief slowdowns while they finish loading—this is normal and temporary. For best results, wait until the DynaCabs have loaded.

DIALING IN DYNACABS

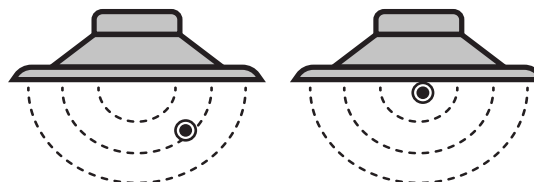
1. Change to **Amp Mode** by pressing footswitches 2+3 at the same time.
2. Turn to the **Cab** page of the amp using the Page buttons. 
3. Turn **SELECT** counterclockwise to highlight the **Position** and **Distance** parameters at the top of the page. Adjust the controls to change the mic's placement — shown on-screen as a dot.
 - **Mic Position** (A and C): Slides the mic left or right across the speaker. Tone changes with placement—the center is brighter, the edge is darker.
 - **Mic Distance** (B and D): Moves the mic closer or farther from the speaker. Closer = more proximity effect for a sound that's bigger, bassier, and more focused.
4. To try a different cab or mic, turn **SELECT** clockwise to highlight the **Cab** or **Mic** options.
 - Each cab and mic option offers a distinct sound.
5. The AM4 supports up to **two DynaCabs** at once. For example, you might place both a **Dynamic** mic and a **Ribbon** mic on the same type of speaker. Use the **Blend** control at the bottom of the page to adjust relative levels.



KEY DIFFERENCES

If you're coming to the AM4 from another Fractal Audio product, here are some things to note:

- The **CPU limit** is 85% (vs. 80% on other units) and varies dynamically during playback.
- On AM4, the Amp and Cab are **combined** into a single block.
 - For special scenarios, there are parameters to enable or disable the Amp or Cab "**Section**" as if they were separate blocks.
- AM4 includes DynaCabs and space for 256 User Cabs, but no "Legacy" cabs. (Many of these are available in our **Cab Packs**.)
- Cab, amp, and effect **settings** from Axe-Fx III/FM9/FM3 can be matched by hand. However, presets cannot be shared directly.
- AM4 and VP4 share many common blocks. Editor **Block Library** entries for these devices are cross-compatible.
- Since block "real estate" is so valuable, the AM4 allows you to assign a global expression pedal to scale the volume at the output of the amp under **Setup > MIDI/Remote > Amp Block Out Volume**.



NOTE: Using two cabs increases CPU usage. To turn one cab off, set it to MUTE.

To reduce CPU load, lower the IR Length setting for each.

AMP TYPE & CAB TYPE LINKING

Selecting a new type resets the Amp — including Cab settings — to defaults, and also selects matching or closely related DynaCabs.

Switching between different models of the *same* amp (e.g. **Recto Orange > Recto Red**) does NOT reset the Cab.

To keep all Cab settings when changing amp types, hold **ENTER** while turning **SELECT**, then release **ENTER** to apply the change.

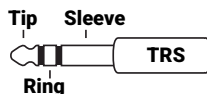
In AM4-Edit (p.8), hold **SHIFT** while selecting a new amp to achieve the same result.

CONNECT PEDALS & SWITCHES

The AM4 has two jacks for expression pedals or switches. When you first connect a pedal or switch it needs to be configured:

SET UP AN EXPRESSION PEDAL

- Expression pedals should have a linear taper and max resistance in the range of 10–100kΩ. The Fractal Audio EV series pedals are ideal.
- Connect pedals using a **TRS-to-TRS** cable. Guitar patch cables will not work!
- To configure a pedal, open **SETUP > Pedals**
- For the desired pedal (#1 or #2), set **Pedal Type** to "EXPRESSION"
- Select the **Calibrate** line, press **ENTER**, and follow the prompts.



SET UP A SWITCH

Instead of a pedal, you can connect a **switch** to a Pedal jack. You must configure the jack by opening **SETUP > Pedal** and changing **Pedal Type** to either "Switch" option. Choose "**Virtual Toggle**" to simulate a latching switch while using momentary hardware. Choose "**Follow Hardware**" for actual latching switches, or if you want momentary action from a momentary pedal. Switches do NOT require calibration.

USING PEDALS TO CONTROL SOUND

Modifiers provide an easy way to use a connected pedal or switch to control sound settings like the sweep of a Wah or Whammy, the rate of a Rotary, the mix of a Delay or Reverb, or hundreds of other options.

To set up a modifier, look for the **Modifier symbol** while editing any effect. It appears as a small yellow circle in the center of a knob, or near a dropdown or menu parameter.



Select the desired knob/control and press **ENTER** to open the modifier screen.

Choose a **Source**, such as "PEDAL 1" to assign it. You can set the range and more. Press **EXIT** when you're finished, and don't forget to save the preset.

See your Owner's Manual for more on Modifiers and for additional ways to assign pedals or switches using the **SETUP > MIDI Remote** menu.

CPU

7

As you add blocks or use settings that are more demanding, the CPU level will increase. A meter in the upper right shows the current CPU level. The normal limit is about 85%– a bit higher than on other products, but since the amp does not run on a dedicated core the meter is also more dynamic or "bouncy" while you play. If the limit is exceeded, the AM4 will show a warning and you'll need to reduce CPU usage. See your Owner's Manual for more on CPU.

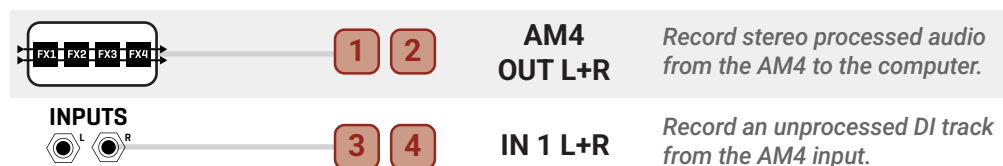
USB

The AM4 can connect over USB to a Mac or PC. This offers capabilities including audio recording, playback, re-amping, the use of **AM4-Edit** with Fractal-Bot, and direct MIDI integration with a DAW.

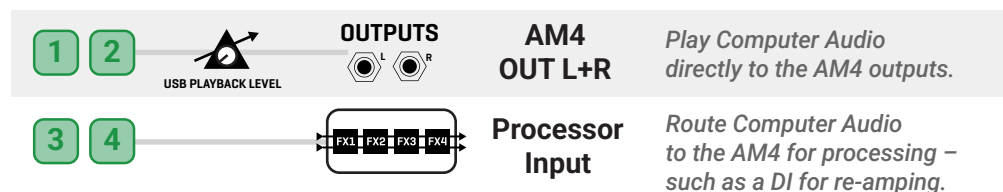
USB ports and capabilities are detailed briefly below.

NOTE: Windows requires a driver, available at <https://www.fractalaudio.com/am4-downloads>

USB INPUTS (PLAYBACK)



USB OUTPUTS (PLAYBACK)



Hum with USB Connected?

Computers can easily create a ground loop with connected devices. To address this, consider a USB Audio Ground Loop Eliminator (Type C > C) between the AM4 and the computer, or an audio isolation transformer between the AM4 and your speakers. Changing your computer between AC power and battery may also affect hum.

AM4 MORE

In addition to the four blocks you insert to build a preset, the AM4 also offers several additional features. From the Home screen, press the PAGE buttons to move right and explore these options. The title bar at the top always shows your current location. See your Owner's Manual for more on these features.

Input Gate

The input **Noise Gate** reduces noise when you're not playing. Increase **Threshold** to close the gate on louder background noise. Setting it too high may gate your playing.

*Note: Some gate types rely on a global setting. For Europe, Australia and other regions with 50 Hz AC power, change **SETUP > Global Options > AC Line Frequency** to 50 Hz.*

Main Levels

This page lets you adjust the overall level of the current Preset, as well as trim each Scene in it. Since the **Amp Level** knob is key to overall levels, it appears here for convenience. See **OUTPUT LEVELS** on p. 3, or your **Owner's Manual** for more.

Preset EQ

This 10-band EQ can be set independently for every preset—a powerful tone tool. If you apply large boosts, you may need to reduce the overall preset level to prevent clipping.

Preset Mix/Routing

This page centralizes control of every effect in the preset, letting you adjust Mix, Level, Bypass, Channel, and more. It also provides access to Routing, Kill Dry, and Bypass Mode, making it easy to view and manage everything in one place.

Tools

Use the **Tools** page to RESET any channel of any effect in the current preset to its default settings—useful for a fresh start or during troubleshooting.

AMP RESET: All settings to default values. **AMP SOFT RESET:** Everything except basic amp tone & gain. Note that the Amp Reset tool can also be found on the last page of the amp menu for convenience.

Scene MIDI

Configure up to four MIDI messages per scene, sent automatically when the scene is selected.

Controllers

Press **ENTER** on the **Controllers** page to open its dedicated menu. Here you'll find tools like the **Envelope Follower**, **ADSR**, **LFO**, and **Sequencer**, which can be assigned as modifiers—much like an expression pedal (p. 7)—to shape sounds in real time. The Controllers menu also provides access to the **Tempo** page and a **Modifiers** overview. All Controller settings are stored within the preset and can be saved with it.

MANUAL & DOWNLOADS

8



For complete setup, operation, and troubleshooting details, refer to the AM4 Owner's Manual. It offers step-by-step instructions, advanced feature guides, and performance tips to help you get the most from your AM4.

The AM4 Downloads Page also provides the Windows USB driver, firmware updates, factory presets, and other useful files.

<https://www.fractalaudio.com/am4-downloads>

AM4-EDIT



AM4-Edit is the companion editor and librarian application for Mac and Windows, giving you a powerful interface to adjust every aspect of the AM4. It also includes a built-in version of **Fractal-Bot**, giving you essential tools to back up and restore presets, install user cabs, update firmware, and more.

<https://www.fractalaudio.com/am4-edit>

SUPPORT



Fractal Audio provides dedicated support via email. If you need assistance with the AM4, please visit the support portal:

<https://support.fractalaudio.com>.

You'll also find a wealth of knowledge and peer-to-peer assistance on the official Fractal Audio Forum, where members share tips and help each other around the clock. <https://forum.fractalaudio.com>

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