

# ROCKTRON

TECHNOLOGY FOR GUITARISTS



## Reaction Compressor Instruction Manual



May be covered by one or more of the following: U.S. Patents #4538297, 4647876, 4696044, 4745309, 4881047, 4893099, 5124657, 5263091, 5268527, 5319713, 5333201, 5402498 and 5493617.

Other patents pending. Foreign patents pending.

# Compliance



Your Reaction Compressor™ pedal has been tested and complies with the following Standards and Directives as set forth by the European Union:

**Council Directive(s):** 89/336/EEC Electromagnetic  
Compatibility

**Standard(s):** EN55013, EN50082-1

This means that this product has been designed to meet stringent guidelines on how much RF energy it can emit, and that it should be immune from other sources of interference when properly used. Improper use of this equipment could result in increased RF emissions, which may or may not interfere with other electronic products.

To insure against this possibility, always use good shielded cables for all audio input and output connections. This will help insure compliance with the Directive(s).

For more information about other Rocktron products, please see your local dealer or one of our importers closest to you (listed on the Rocktron website ([www.rocktron.com](http://www.rocktron.com))).

Read all instructions contained in this manual.

Keep these instructions

Heed all warnings

Follow all instructions.

Do not use this apparatus near water.

Clean with dry cloth

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# Precautions

Refer all service to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power supply or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus or if the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally or has been dropped.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SERVICE THIS EQUIPMENT. QUALIFIED PERSONNEL SHOULD SERVICE THIS EQUIPMENT ONLY. DO NOT MAKE ANY INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THIS EQUIPMENT AT ANY TIME OR TAMPER WITH INTERNAL ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AT ANY TIME. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY VOID THE WARRANTY OF THIS EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS CAUSING A SHOCK HAZARD.

## OPERATING TEMPERATURE

Do not expose this unit to excessive heat. This unit is designed to operate between 32 F and 104 F (0 C and 40 C). This unit may not function properly under extreme temperatures.

Do not block any ventilation openings (if applicable). Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

This product is not equipped with a plug or cable. This pedal runs on a 9 Volt Battery, if a 9Volt DC adapter is the used please follow adapter manufacturer's operation instructions. Only used attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

Do not use this product with any case, stand tripod, bracket or table that is not specified by the manufacturer. Insure that the case, stand, tripod, bracket etc. is properly adjusted and setup (follow all instructions). Extra care and caution should be taken to avoid tip over and injury.

Unplug this apparatus during lightening storms or when unused during long periods of time.

# Introduction

Compressors are one of the best tools in a guitar player's tool box, and the Reaction Compressor fulfills all the requirements for outstanding compression. Professional players use a compressor like a secret weapon to get accomplish many things, including adding more sustain to any guitar without adding distortion, defining every note in a chord while letting it ring out, creating in your face solos, and much more.

Rocktron's Reaction Series pedals are built into a rugged metal slim form factor chassis, taking up as little space as possible on your pedalboard. The Reaction Compressor is a TRUE BYPASS pedal: when you turn it off...it is out of your signal path!

Control knobs for the Reaction Compressor include SUSTAIN, which controls the amount of Compression and Release characteristics. ATTACK determines how fast the compression reacts. LEVEL controls the output volume.

Most studio compressors are big and bulky and quite difficult to set. Rocktron comes to the rescue with the Reaction Compressor. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 to get professional results that will improve your live performances.

Here's some tips. Start by setting the ATTACK and LEVEL controls around the 12::00 o'clock position. Turn the SUSTAIN from left to right in small increments while playing until you achieve the texture you are seeking. After you have found your favorite sweet spot,

# Introduction

use the LEVEL control to fine tune your output level. That's it! Sound check is done.

Use the Reaction Compressor as a master SOLO switch to not only define what you play but also to raise the volume! The soundman can worry about something else...you have performance control!

Typically you want to set the output level after compression has been applied so that it is the same as the pedal in True Bypass – this is called “unity gain” (the same level from pedal on to pedal off). You may want to apply compression, and then actually add volume using the LEVEL control. Now you have added more sustain and drive which can be used before an overdrive pedal, or direct into your amplifier.

Compression helps define articulation for any instrument by limiting how loud a note can get. It also makes lower volume notes louder. The end result is a smoother and more even sound, and that is what you hear on professional recordings. It's also what you will hear live! The soundman will thank you!

The footswitch on the Reaction Compressor controls On/Off status as shown by the LED indicator. Reaction stomp boxes run on a 9V Alkaline battery, or may also be powered by Rocktron's DC OnTap Universal Power Supply adaptor.

# Descriptions



## Descriptions continued.....

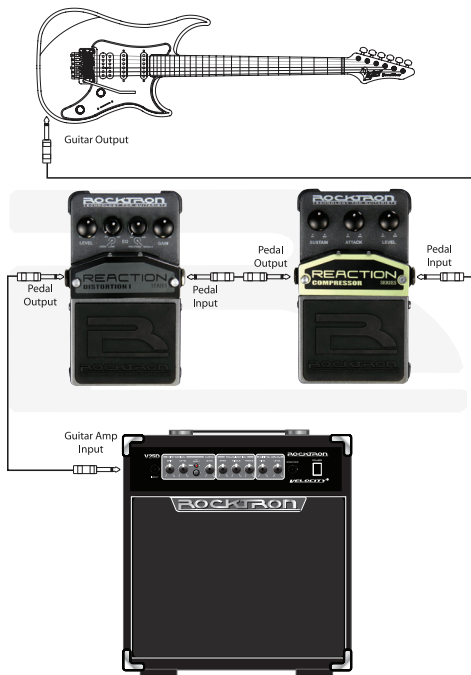
- 1 SUSTAIN Control - This control determines the amount of dynamic range limiting.
- 2 ATTACK Control - This control determines amount of delay before compression occurs. Turning the knob to the right produces a faster attack and to the left a slower attack.
- 3 9VDC Input - This input jack provides 9VDC power to the pedal from the Rocktron DC OnTap 9V power supply (sold seperately).
- 4 LEVEL Control - This control determines the controls the amount of effect added to the output.
- 5 ON/OFF Leds - These LEDs shows if the pedal is on or off. When the LED is lit the pedal is on. When the LED is not lit the pedal is off.
- 6 BATTERY COMPARTMENT and COVER - The 9V battery can be found in this compartment.
- 7 INPUT Jack - Using a standard 1/4" guitar cable, plug your guitar into this jack.

## Descriptions continued.....


- 8 THUMB SCREWS for Battery Compartment.  
Unscrew these thumb screws to access the battery compartment.
  
- 9 FOOTSWITCH - Use this switch to turn on or off the pedal. The On/Off Led will show you if the pedal is on or off.
  
- 10 OUTPUT Jack - Using a standard 1/4" guitar cable you can plug in another pedal from this jack or plug directly into your amplifier.



# Typical Connection



# Specifications

Maximum Input	3dBu
Maximum Output	7dBu
Input Impedance	2.2M $\Omega$
Output Impedance	10K $\Omega$
Current Consumption	45mA
Power Requirements	9V Alkaline Battery or Rocktron DC OnTap Universal Power Supply (sold separately). Negative Tip
	<p>DC 9V</p> 
Dimensions	125mm x 78mm 61mm 5" x 3.25" x 2.5"
Weight	0.7kg 1.5lbs

## How to change the battery:

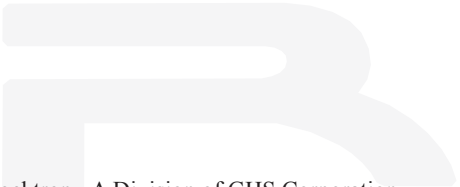
To change the battery, remove the thumb screws on the top of the pedal and remove the battery compartment cover. Remove the old battery and replace it with a new 9V Alkaline battery. Replace battery in the same area as the old battery was located. Place the battery compartment cover on the pedal and re-insert the thumb screws.

*Save yourself tons of money in batteries by using the Rocktron DC OnTap Universal Power Supply to power this pedal (sold seperately). The Rocktron DC OnTap provides a constant flow of power to the pedal, unlike a battery that will degrade over time. The Rocktron DC OnTap Univeral Power Supply can also power up to 20 pedals and can be used with both 110V and 220V power sources.*

*Check, [www.rocktron.com](http://www.rocktron.com) for more information on the DC OnTap and where to purchase.*

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Rocktron - A Division of GHS Corporation  
2813 Wilber Ave  
Battle Creek MI 49037  
USA

[www.rocktron.com](http://www.rocktron.com)  
[info@rocktron.com](mailto:info@rocktron.com)  
tel: 1-269-968-3351