

Royalist®

TRI TUBE PREAMP

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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Please keep this instruction manual for future reference and for the duration of owning this TONE KING preamp. Please carefully read and understand the instructions inside this user's manual before attempting to operate your new amp. This instruction manual includes essential safety information regarding the use and maintenance of the Preamp. Take special care to heed all warning symbols and signs inside this manual and those printed on the Preamp itself.



WARNING!
TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THE PREAMP TO WATER OR MOISTURE. DO NOT OPERATE NEAR ANY WATER SOURCE



WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
The lightning flash with an arrow triangular symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of non-insulated "dangerous voltage" within the products enclosure, and may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock



WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
The exclamation point triangular symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the user manual accompanying this Preamp!

1. Read Instructions – All the safety and operating instructions should be read before this product is operated.
2. Retain Instructions – The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.
3. Heed Warnings – All warnings on the Preamp and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.
4. Follow Instructions – All operating and use instructions should be followed.
5. Water and Moisture – The Preamp should not be used near water – for example, a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, wet basement, or near a swimming pool, and the like.

6. Heat – Preamp should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other Preamp (including Preamps) that produce heat.
7. Power Sources – This product should be operated only from the type of power source indicated on the rating label.
8. Power-Cord Protection
– Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to the cord in correspondence of plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the Preamp.
9. Non-use Periods – The power cord of the Preamp should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
10. Object and Liquid Entry
– Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.
11. Damage Requiring Service
– The Preamp should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:
A. The power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
B. Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the Preamp; or
C. The Preamp has been exposed to rain; or
D. The Preamp does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
E. The Preamp has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.
F. The Preamp needs tube replacement
12. Servicing – The user should not attempt any service to the Preamp beyond that described in the operating instructions.
All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.
13. Ventilation – Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation and to ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating, and these openings must not be blocked or covered.
14. Replacement Parts – When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or have the same characteristics as the original part. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.
15. Safety Check – Upon completion of any service or repairs to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine that the product is in proper operating condition.

***NOTE**: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures: - Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna. - Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver. - Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected. - Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/ TV technician for help.*

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

ROYALIST PREAMP – THREE TUBE HIGH VOLTAGE PREAMP

The Royalist Tube Preamp captures the soul of Tone King's beloved Royalist MKIII amplifier - the company's most authentic take on the golden age of British tone. From the sweet, singing JTM45, through the unmistakable Plexi crunch, to the searing drive of the Super Lead, this high-voltage tri-tube preamp delivers the full spectrum of British rock attitude in a compact, pedalboard-friendly format.

Running on three 12AX7 tubes at proper high voltages, the Royalist Preamp brings the complete touch sensitivity, harmonic bloom, and dynamic punch of the Royalist MKIII amp to your pedalboard. Each of its two independent channels features the amp's **FAT** switch and three-way **1964/1967/1970** voicing selector, faithfully reproducing the gain structure, tone stack, and feel of the original circuits. Whether you're chasing sparkling cleans, punchy crunch, or molten roar, the Royalist Preamp delivers the unmistakable voice of British rock, anywhere, at any volume.

Era Accurate Tone Stacks

The Royalist features two identical channels, each voiced with its own distinct tone stack. The top channel uses a vintage-accurate JTM45 / Bassman / Super Bass inspired EQ. The bottom channel reflects a later-era British Lead tone stack.

While the two channels can be dialed remarkably close, their subtle differences give players two authentic British flavors—one tight and articulate, the other more mid forward.

Three Eras of Iconic British Tone

Each channel of the Royalist Preamp offers its own three-position voicing switch, mirroring the evolution of the British amp sound across decades:

1964 - Smooth top end, lower gain, and a balanced, vintage warmth inspired by early British blues amps.
1967 - Crisp treble response, bold midrange, and the aggressive bite that defined rock's formative years.
1970 - Increased gain and tightness for that unmistakable, high-energy crunch of arena-ready hard rock.

Pair these voicings with each channel's FAT switch option to add body and low-end warmth to single-coil guitars or enhance sustain and punch with humbuckers.

Built-In Zero Watt Power Amp — Phase Inverter

The Royalist Preamp includes Tone King's "Zero Watt Power Amp," a genuine phase inverter circuit powered by one of its three 12AX7 tubes. This design captures the Royalist's harmonic depth and dynamic interaction between preamp and power stage — a key ingredient of true British tone that most preamp pedals can't replicate. The result is the full experience of an overdriven Royalist power section, without the ear-splitting volume.

Features

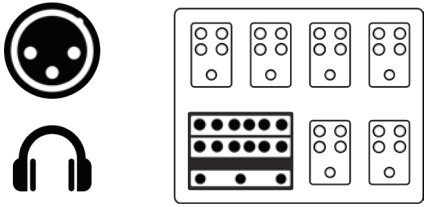
- Two Channel High-Voltage preamp – DI
- 3 x 12AX7 preamp tubes running at proper high voltages
- Built-In zero-watt power amp - phase inverter circuit
- Two Independent channels with:
  - Volume, Bass, Middle and Treble Control
- Three-way 1964/1967/1970 voicing switch per channel
- Era Accurate Tone Stacks:
  - Top channel - Vintage-accurate JTM45 / Bassman / Super Bass inspired EQ.
  - Bottom channel - Reflects a later-era British Lead tone stack.
- Dual built-in Iron Man attenuators
- Reverb control (assignable to each channel)
- Stereo, Series FX loop (bypassable)
- MIDI programmable
- Save up to 128 presets for instant recall via an external MIDI switcher
  - Presets save:
  - Channel selection
  - Master bypass setting
  - IR selection
  - IR bypass setting
  - Effects loop bypass setting
  - Reverb bypass and tails settings
- Onboard Impulse Response (IR) Technology
  - Low-latency Impulse Response cabinet simulation (bypassable)
  - 3-position CAB/IR select switch per channel (programmable via software)
  - 20 Included OwnHammer IRs
- Power amp simulation with software editable HF Comp, Low-Pass and High-Pass filters (per channel)
- Connections:
  - Dual stereo balanced XLR outputs with Ground Lift Switch
  - ¼" Headphone output
  - Effects Send and Stereo Return Jacks
  - MIDI 5-pin standard connector
  - USB-C connector for use with the included SYNERGY EDITOR APP software
  - To Amp In, From Amp Send and From Amp Return Jacks – for adding ROYALIST channels to your amp or preamp
- Included
  - 6' USB Cable
  - Universal 12V Power Supply
- Dimensions: 7.2" (W) x 5.7" (D) x 2.75" (H)

- Weight: 1.9 lbs

PEDAL BOARD AMP - DIRECT OUT
Use the ROYALIST preamp as a portable pedalboard amp replacement, or with headphones at home for practicing.

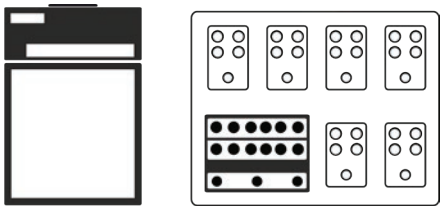
You can also use the integrated DI output to directly connect the ROYALIST PREAMP to your RECORDING interface, monitors or PA system.

The ROYALIST preamp can fully replace your existing amplifier by giving you the exact same HIGH VOLTAGE tube tone without compromise.

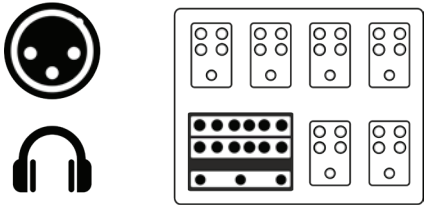


EXTERNAL AMP PREAMP
When you feel the need to hear a 4x12 cabinet's shaking response, connect the ROYALIST preamp's "TO AMP RETURN" to your favorite guitar amplifier's effects loop Return and feel the ROYALIST preamp's capabilities.

You will still be able to use the internal poweramp and IR cabinet simulation for direct recording at the same time!



POWERAMP AND IR CABINET SIMULATOR
Use the ROYALIST preamp solely as an IR Cabinet and amp simulator by simply connecting it to any other PREAMP. See the "CONNECTING ROYALIST PREAMP TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO" section for more information.

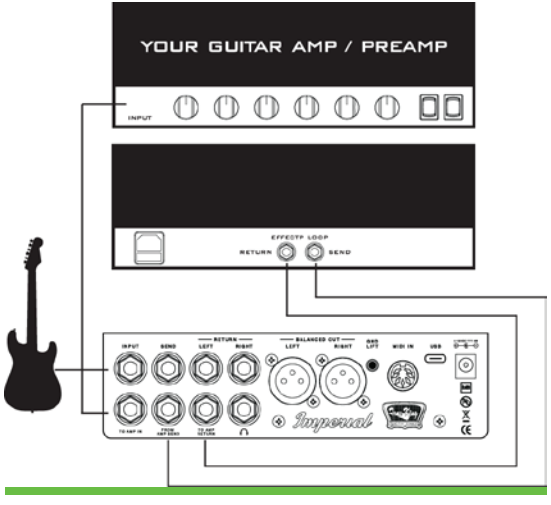


CONNECTING THE ROYALIST PREAMP TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO
The ROYALIST preamp can be used to ADD channels to your existing head or combo. You will need three high-quality, shielded instrument cables in addition to your guitar cable. Follow these simple steps:

1) Connect your guitar to the INPUT of the ROYALIST preamp
2) Connect an instrument cable from "TO AMP IN" on the ROYALIST preamp to the INPUT of your amp.
3) Connect an instrument cable from "FROM AMP FX SEND" to the FX LOOP SEND of your amp.
4) Connect an instrument cable from "TO AMP FX RETURN" to the FX LOOP RETURN of your amp.

5)The BYPASS switch allows you to toggle between the channels on your ROYALIST preamp or in BYPASS mode, bypasses the ROYALIST preamp channels and engages your amplifier's channel(s). In BYPASS mode, your amp will operate as normal. The Reverb effects of the ROYALIST can still operate on your amp channels if you wish. You have just magically added two new channels to your amp!

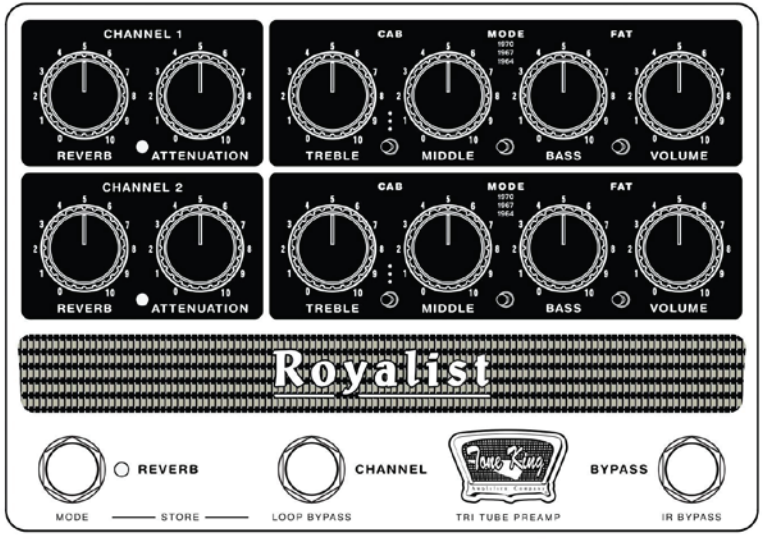
6)Use the EFFECTS loop of the ROYALIST (SEND and STEREO RETURN) now becomes the EFFECTS LOOP of your entire system. Use LEFT RETURN when connecting in MONO.



IMPORTANT - if placing the ROYALIST preamp on top of a head cabinet or combo, you MUST place the ROYALIST preamp on the opposite side of your amp's main transformer (usually the input side). Placing the ROYALIST preamp over the mains transformer may cause noise to enter the signal chain.

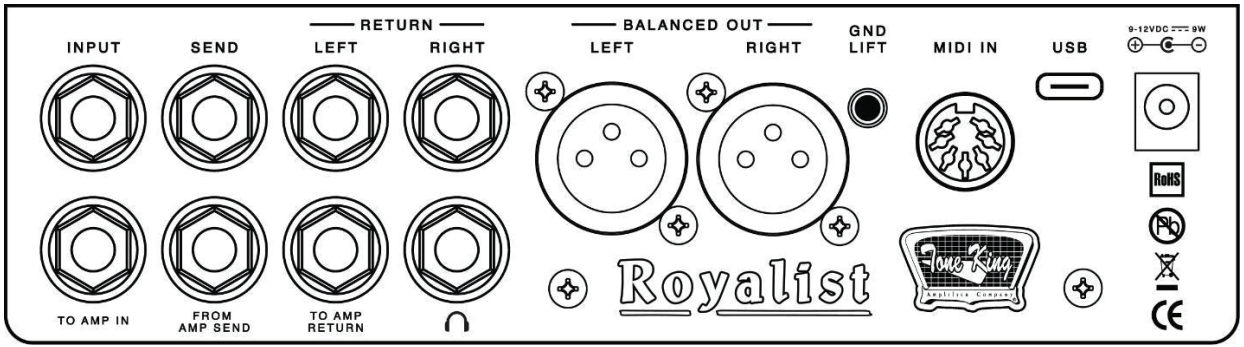
There are some special requirements and/or caveats when using the ROYALIST preamp to add channels to your amp. The loop on your amp MUST be a 100% series loop. The ROYALIST preamp will not work with a parallel loop. If in doubt, consult the manufacturer of your amp to determine this. One known issue is with the Mesa Dual and Triple Rectifier, Road King and Roadster amps that prevents the ROYALIST preamp from working properly in the loop. By design, the Boogie loops on these models always have a small amount of dry signal mixed in with the loop which will wreak havoc with many rack effects as well as the ROYALIST preamp. There may be other amps that we are not aware of with loops that are not compatible.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



- **REVERB:** Mix control for Reverb.

REAR PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



- **MAIN CONTROLS:**
  - **CAB SWITCH:** 3-Way Cabinet/IR Preset Selector.
  - **MODE 1964 /1967 / 1970** Controls the preamp Era voicings.
  - **FAT:** allows more low-end frequencies in the first preamp gain stage
  - **TREBLE:** Controls the amount of high frequencies.
  - **MIDDLE:** Controls the amount of mid frequencies.
  - **BASS:** Controls the amount of low frequencies.
  - **VOLUME:** Controls the volume of the channel.

- **REVERB FOOTSWITCH:** Short press: Turn REVERB on or off, Long press: Turn REVERB TAILS on or off.

- **CHANNEL FOOTSWITCH:** Short press: Changes from Channel 1 to Channel 2, Long press: LOOP BYPASS.

- **IR BYPASS FOOTSWITCH:** Short press: TRUE BYPASS the preamp IRs. Long press: IR BYPASS. This can be used to "ADD" channels to your amp (see the "CONNECTING THE ROYALIST PREAMP TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO" section of this manual).

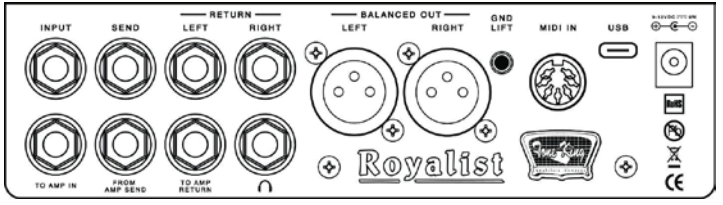
- **STORE:**
  MIDI STORE: Simultaneously long press REVERB and CHANNEL buttons to STORE the current preset on active MIDI preset number, including CHANNEL, REVERB, LOOP BYPASS and IR/CAB.

  STORE RIGHT ON THE PEDAL: Select your CHANNEL and if you want the REVERB, IR and LOOP to be ON or OFF for that channel and then STORE by long pressing the REVERB and

CHANNEL buttons simultaneously. Do this for both channels. Your desired settings will now be stored on the CHANNEL 1 or CHANNEL 2 channels.

The poweramp settings including HF COMP, HIGHPASS and LOWPASS can be stored per channel via the included SYNERGY EDITOR APP (powered by a SYNERGY).

REAR PANEL CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



- **INPUT:** This is the ROYALIST preamp Guitar Input Jack. Plug your guitar or the output of your pedal board here (just as you would with your amplifier).

MASTER EFFECTS LOOP:

- **SEND JACK:** This is your system's master effects loop SEND - this is where you plug the INPUT of your Effect(s).
- **STEREO RETURN JACKS:** This is where you plug the OUTPUT of your Effect(s). Use the LEFT jack when operating in MONO. Use a high-quality shielded guitar cable.

You can turn the LOOP ON or OFF using the LOOP BYPASS switch.

- **BALANCED OUTPUTS:** XLR outputs used to send your ROYALIST preamp tone straight to the mixing board or active cabinet. These outputs will have your IR and POWER AMP sim. The IR can be bypassed.
- **GND LIFT:** This switch enables or disables the ground connection on the BALANCED OUT to eliminate possible ground loops.
- **TO AMP IN, FROM AMP SEND and TO AMP RETURN -** please visit the "CONNECTING THE ROYALIST PREAMP TO YOUR HEAD OR COMBO" section of this manual.
- **TO AMP IN**: Instrument true bypass output. Connect this to the input of an external preamp or guitar amplifier to expand your channels. This will only be active in BYPASS mode.
- **FROM AMP SEND**: Connect to the OUTPUT of an external preamp, or to the SEND of an external guitar amplifier to expand your channels. This will only be active in BYPASS mode.

- **TO AMP RETURN**: Connect to the RETURN of an external guitar amplifier to expand your channels. TO AMP RETURN is always active regardless of BYPASS mode.

  You can also use this jack as an input of your guitar poweramp to simultaneously use the ROYALIST preamp as DI/Record Interface and poweramp for monitoring.

- **HEADPHONES:** Headphones connector. Always make sure to lower the master volume before wearing the headphones and slowly increase the volume to the desired level to avoid too much SPL on your ear.

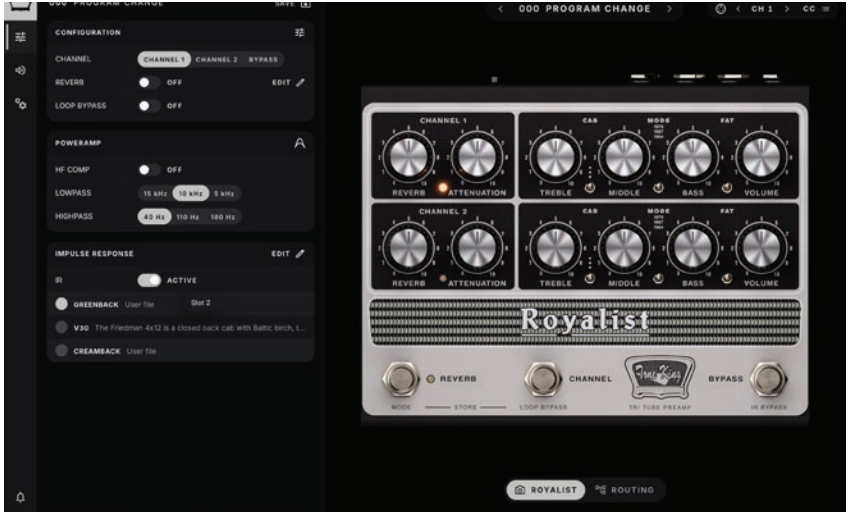
  NOTE: *When using the ROYALIST PREAMP with just a guitar and headphones, using a regular non-earthed power supply like the one supplied, there will be no connection to your house earth and your guitar will likely pick up more noise (HUM) depending on your environment. For a noise free experience, please connect the SEND, RETURN, BALANCED OUT or USB to an earthed device such as an amp, audio interface, monitor or an effects pedal. Consider using an earthed power supply if this will be your primary use case.*

- **MIDI-IN:** Midi connector to control ROYALIST preamp with an external midi device (Default channel is OMNI)
- **USB:** USB Connector for software update and ROYALIST preamp remote programming
- **DC INPUT:** DC Input power connector, use 9V to 12V adapter with >= 9W power available.

SYNERGY EDITOR APP - Deep Control, Modern Flexibility

Please visit www.toneking.com to download the SYNERGY EDITOR APP.

The included SYNERGY EDITOR APP software unlocks deep editing capabilities for digital parameters. Save and recall up to 128 presets via MIDI, assign IRs per channel, fine-tune HF and LP filters, and configure reverb, or FX loop assignments — all in one intuitive interface.



Savable Parameters

- Channel switching and bypass states
- Easily load your own IRs and manage your IR library
- IR bypass and power amp simulation options
- HF Comp and Low-Pass filters
- Access all 20 included OwnHammer IRs
- Assign any of your IRs to the pedal's six available slots (three per channel)
- Reverb, reverb tails, and effects loop bypass routing
- Save these settings to up to 128 presets for instant recall via MIDI

INCLUDED IR'S

The Royalist Preamp Pedal features Tone King's low-latency IR and power amp simulation engine, offering direct output to FOH, recording interfaces, or headphones with stunning realism. Preloaded with a curated selection of OwnHammer IRs listed below, each channel includes a 3-way IR selector for instant tonal changes.

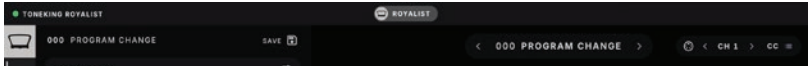
- **OH 412 Pinstripe H25** Celestion G12H-25's from 1967 captured in a pinstripe 1982B 4x12 cabinet by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57, Telefunken MD421, and Royer 121 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.
- **OH 112 Imperial TK1660** Tone King 1660 captured in a Tone King Imperial 1x12 combo by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57, Neumann U87, and Royer 121 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.
- **OH 412 M75BB** 16-ohm, 1777 cone Celestion "black back" G12M-75's from 1975 captured in a 412 cabinet by Kevin Rowe of OwnHammer using Shure SM57 and Sennheiser MD421 microphones through mid-late 1970's API 312 preamps.

There are 20 included IRs to choose from in the included SYNERGY EDITOR APP which are easy to swap in and out of the pedal's six available slots. You can also disengage the onboard IR loader entirely to use the preamp with an external IR loader or powered cabinet.

FIRMWARE UPDATES
The ROYALIST preamp Editor Software automatically checks for device firmware updates when using an internet connection.

Important: DO NOT DISCONNECT OR POWER DOWN ROYALIST PREAMP DURING A FIRMWARE UPDATE to avoid damage to your unit.

SYNERGY EDITOR APP TOP PANEL CONTROLS



- CONNECTED Green Light indicates connection status of the Royalist Preamp. Connected device name is displayed in the center.
- PROGRAM CHANGE selector lets you navigate through all the 128 storable MIDI PROGRAM CHANGES available (0-127) and it's relative settings. This will actively interact with the connected Royalist Preamp and switch presets on the device as well.
- SAVE button will store all the changes made to all presets inside the unit. MAKE SURE TO STORE ANY CHANGE before powering down the Royalist Preamp.
- MIDI CHANNEL selector will program the MIDI INPUT channel the Imperial will use. Default is OMNI mode (Royalist Preamp will listen to all channels).
- CC Reference selector will display a list of MIDI CC commands for the Royalist Preamp.

SYNERGY EDITOR APP QUICKSTART

The Synergy Editor App allows you to configure your Royalist Preamp from an intuitive software interface. Connect your Royalist Preamp via USB to use the Synergy Editor App.

Presets
Edit the pedal settings / save your presets (this screen).

Impulse Responses
Drag and drop presets from the Synergy Editor App Preset library. Up to 3 IRs per channel. Edit EQ and Phase settings and use the visual editor to customise the EQ. Supported formats are WAV 44.1K to 96K for user installed IRs.

Global Settings
Edit Global settings for your device.

Notifications
View latest updates from the Tone King family.

Version Information
Synergy Editor App version and Firmware version.

Configuration Panel
Adjust Reverb & Loop Bypass settings for each channel.

Poweramp Panel
Adjust HF Compensation and High and Low pass filtering for each channel.



IR Selection
View and select one of 3 pre-loaded IRs for the selected channel.

Device View
View the status of the indicator lights for the connected device.



www.ToneKing.com