



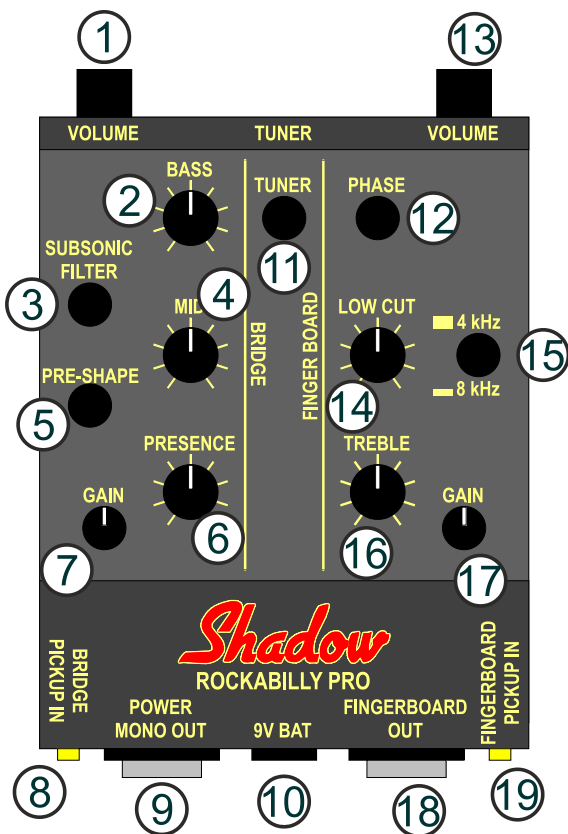
ROCKABILLY PRO RB-PRO

Professional Double Bass
2 Channel Preamp system for



Rockabilly
and for
Jazz, Folk, Rock und Classic

Shadow[®]
technology with performance.



ROCKABILLY PRO / RB-PRO

The RB-PRO was developed in cooperation with the legendary rockabilly double bass player Didi Beck. Didi is well known on the European rockabilly scene and has released several books and DVDs for learning and practicing the art of rockabilly slap bass.

Existing systems of some competitors were good ideas but lacked in sound and quality. Didi wants us to have a perfect system developed in cooperation with his professional playing and our professional sound quality and electronics. Finally we worked out an ultimate system which is unbeatable in sound, quality and adjustment!

Of course you can use this system for other styles like jazz, country, classic, and so on. For this just reduce the amount of fingerboard volume to your own taste.

▪ Pickup Assembling

The RB-PRO is developed for two different pickups. One is for the bridge and a specially designed pickup behind the fingerboard. It reproduces the slap sound, essential for every rockabilly double bass player.

Controls

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ① VOLUME | Adjusts the volume of the bridge pickup |
| ② BASS | Control to increase or decrease the amount of low frequencies |
| ③ SUBSONIC FILTER | Switches the subsonic filter. ON: This is to cut unwanted low frequencies |
| ④ MID | Control to increase or decrease the amount of mid frequencies |
| ⑤ PRE-SHAPE | Switches a pre-defined frequency range on or off |
| ⑥ PRESENCE | Control to increase or decrease the amount of the presence frequencies |
| ⑦ GAIN | Adjusts the gain of the bridge pickup |
| ⑧ BRIDGE PICKUP IN | 2.5mm input for the bridge pickup |
| ⑨ POWER MONO OUT | Mono output jack. Plugging in it switches the unit on |
| ⑩ 9V BAT | 9V DC input jack from the battery pouch below the string holder or a power supply |
| ⑪ TUNER | Switch to activate the internal tuner. If it is on - the unit is muted |
| ⑫ PHASE | Switch to reverse the phase. It reduces feedback either in on or off position |
| ⑬ VOLUME | Adjusts the volume of the fingerboard pickup |
| ⑭ LOW CUT | Control to move the begin of the low frequencies |
| ⑮ 4KHz / 8KHz | Switch to select either 4 kHz or 8kHz base frequencies for the TREBLE control |
| ⑯ TREBLE | Control to increase or decrease the amount of high frequencies |
| ⑰ GAIN | Adjusts the gain of the fingerboard pickup |
| ⑱ FINGERBOARD OUT | Output to the amplifier for the fingerboard channel |
| ⑲ FINGERBOARD PICKUP IN | 2.5mm input for the fingerboard pickup |

Assembly and Connections

▪ Bridge Pickup

Clamp the bridge pickup (*short cable*) between the wing and the bridge foot. We suggest using the position of the lower strings (E, A). For this it might be necessary to rasp it down a little bit to increase the distance. For an optimal clamping and therefore an optimal sound Didi suggests using a reed from a saxophone or any other piece of veneer. The exact assembly of the pickup is the essential part of a good sound. It should not be too loose or too tight. Try it out to find the best sounding result!



▪ Fingerboard Pickup

Attach the fingerboard pickup (long cable) to the back of the fingerboard. Use the double adhesive tape which is provided in the package. A good position is very often 2 to 4 in. (5 to 10 cm) below the joint point of the neck and the fingerboard which means on the upper end of the freely suspended fingerboard. Try to find out the position which fits your taste of slap sound. It is important to attach the cable at several points onto the back of the fingerboard. Otherwise it might be possible that movement of the pickup cable will create unwanted noise!



▪ Mounting the RB-PRO

The RB-PRO is prepared to mount it onto the string holder. For a better support screw the hook provided on the back of the RB-PRO. Place the hook between the A and G string. This prevents the RB-PRO slipping down the string holder. To fasten the RB-PRO use the hook-and-loop tape to fix it onto the string holder. This is different on several double basses due to different constructions so you have to attach it individually.

▪ Connecting the Pickups

Connect the 2.5mm phone plugs to the RB-PRO. The input for the bridge pickup is the jack named ⑧ "BRIDGE PICKUP IN" and the fingerboard pickup on the opposite position named ⑱ "FINGERBOARD PICKUP IN".

▪ Mounting and Connecting the Battery

You should attach the battery pouch under the string holder by using a generous piece of hook-and-loop tape. Pay attention on the length of the cable! Put the 9V DC plug into ⑩ "9V BAT" jack. Now the RB-PRO is ready to use.

▪ Using a 9V DC Power Supply

You can use the RB-PRO with a power supply too. This should be electronically stabilized to prevent hum noise.

Pay attention on the correct polarization. (*2.1mm barrel connector, minus pole = inner contact!*)

Important Note:

To prevent damages to the RB-PRO it is important to use the correct polarity. Voltages higher than 9V may damage the unit!

▪ Connect to an Amplifier or a Mixing Console

The RB-PRO can be connected either to one or two bass amplifiers. Or connect it to a mixing console (*one or two channels*). Plugging into the output ⑨ "POWER MONO-OUT" the unit is switched on.

We suggest removing the plug when the RB-PRO is not in use for a longer time to save the battery life!

If you use one cable only in output ⑨ "POWER MONO-OUT" both channels (*Fingerboard / Bridge pickup*) are audible on this output. If you plug in a second cable to output ⑱ "FINGERBOARD OUT" the channels are split into two separate outputs for fingerboard and bridge channel.

Note: Use MONO (NOT STEREO) cables only - otherwise the unit cannot be switched on!

Adjustments and Operation

▪ Bridge Channel

The sound of the bridge channel can be altered with these controls:

- **GAIN Control ⑦**: Adjusts the basic sensitivity of the bridge pickup. If you notice a distorted sound (clipping) the signal is probably too high. In this case reduce the amount of gain.
- **BASS ②, MID ④, PRESENCE ⑥ Control**: Adjust the 3 frequency ranges. There is normally no need to use extreme settings because you will have already a perfect double bass sound in all 3 mid positions.
- **SUBSONIC FILTER ON/OFF Switch ③**: To prevent ultra low feedback you should switch the filter on. It reduces deep frequencies below 30 Hz. This prevents handling noise caused by moving the instrument during a typical rockabilly live act. (Climbing, running, etc.)
- **PRE-SHAPE On/Off Switch ⑤**: This adds a predefined amount of bass and treble frequencies. This is a perfect predefined rockabilly sound.
- **VOLUME Control ①**: On the front side right to the tuner display you will find the volume control for the bridge pickup. This controls the overall volume of this channel. A good value can be reached by setting it to 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock position.

▪ Fingerboard Channel

This feature is unique on this preamplifier. Depending on the sound of the strings and of course your taste of slap sound you can set several controls to reach the perfect sound:

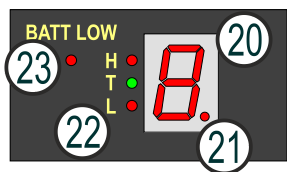
- **GAIN Control ⑰**: This adjusts the basic sensitivity of the fingerboard pickup. Turn to the right for a good and clear signal. If it starts to distort turn the control to the left until the distortion stops.
- **LOW CUT Control ⑭**: This adjusts the amount of low frequencies of the slap sound. Set it up for a loud clap to a soft slap.
- **TREBLE Control ⑱**: This controls the amount of high frequencies of the slap sound.
- **4/8 KHz Selector ⑮**: This switch selects the roll off frequency of the treble control ⑱. In-position = 8 kHz, out-position = 4 kHz.
- **VOLUME Control ⑬**: On the left side of the front you will have the master volume controls for both pickups. Left side: fingerboard pickup and right side: bridge pickup.
Our suggestion: Set both controls to zero. First setup the volume for the bridge pickup, than add the volume for the fingerboard pickup (slap sound)!

▪ Controls for both channels

- **PHASE Selector ⑫**: It is possible to switch the actual phase by 180°. In several cases this will prevent feedback. This depends on the amount of overall volume, the position between your double bass and the amplifier and of the ambience where you play.

The RB-PRO includes a high quality electronic chromatic tuner to tune your strings. The display and the leds are on the front between the volume controls. Also there is the low battery indicator.

Functions (Display)



②①	DISPLAY	shows the notes: A, B, C... G
②①	DECIMAL POINT	indicates the halftones: #
②②	H, T, L, LEDS	shows if you are tuning sharp or flat
②③	BATT LOW LED	lights up, if the battery needs to replace soon.

▪ Tuner

To tune your instrument switch on the tuner ①①. This mutes both output channels. The display ②① shows the nearest correct note. The tuner needs a connected bridge pickup to work!

- The dot ②① in the display indicates if it is a halftone # or b.
- If the red H-LED ②② lights up: The played note is too high.
- If the red L-LED ②② lights up: The played note is too low.
- If the note is correct, only the green T-LED ②② lights up.

Note: In some circumstances other electrical devices may emit hum-noise. This can be displayed by the tuner. In 50Hz networks it will show a "G", together with the H-LED ②②! In 60Hz networks appropriate a "B" together with the ②② L-LED. This is normal and not a mistake or a malfunction of the unit!

▪ Auto OFF

To prevent the battery life the tuner switches itself off after approx. 90 seconds, if there is no change in tones or if no tone is played. To indicate this state the L-LED ②② starts to flash. To end this state just switches the tuner off.

▪ Battery Check

The voltage of the battery is always checked when the unit is on.

- **BATT. LOW LED ②③:** If the LED goes on it is time to exchange the battery for a new fresh battery.
- You still can play for a while without limits – this depends on the quality of your battery.
- For good sound results we recommend using alkali manganese Batteries. With this kind of battery the battery life can be up to 150 hours.
- If you don't intend to use the unit for a longer period, we strongly recommend removing the battery from its holder or pouch. This prevents damages due to leaked battery acid.
- Empty batteries must be disposed according to the rules in your country.

Big thanks to Didi Beck <http://www.didibeck.de> for his engagement and help to realize this project.

Technical Information

Subject to change without notice!



- Bridge Pickup SH951 (cable length: 45cm) with 2.5mm plug
- Fingerboard Pickup SH2500 (cable length: 90cm) with 2.5mm plug
- Bridge Pickup Sound Control
 - Gain range +7dB
 - Frequency Response 20 - 20.000 Hz (3dB)
 - Subsonic 12dB/Oct @ 50Hz
 - Bass +/- 8dB @ 135Hz
 - Mid +/- 9dB @ 900Hz
 - Presence +/-10dB @ 9kHz
- Fingerboard Pickup Sound Control
 - Gain Range +8dB
 - Low Cut 400Hz - 6kHz
 - Treble 4kHz +/- 8dB @ 4kHz
 - Treble 8kHz +/- 8dB @ 8kHz
- Input Impedance: for passive piezo systems
- Output Impedance: 3.6kOhm each output
- Battery: 9V Alkali Manganese. E.g.: 6LR61 or AM-6
- Battery Life: ca. 150h - depends on battery and typically use
- Tuner Precision: +/- 5ct.
- WEEE-Reg.-No.: DE 42527131

Additional Information: <http://www.shadow-electronics.com>

Battery Disposal

- Please dispose used batteries as required by law in your country
- The disposal in household garbage is specifically forbidden by the battery directive

WEEE

Information on Disposal for Users of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment

- This symbol on the product means that used electrical and electronic products should not be mixed with general household waste. For proper treatment, recovery and recycling, please take this product to designated collection points where it will be accepted free of charge.
- Alternatively, in some countries you may be able to return your products to your local retailer upon purchase of an equivalent new product.
- Disposing of this product correctly will help save valuable resources and prevent any potential negative effects on human health and the environment, which could otherwise arise from inappropriate waste handling.
- Please contact your local authority for further details of your nearest designated collection point.
- Penalties may be applicable for incorrect disposal of this waste, in accordance with your national legislation.



Information on Disposal in other Countries outside the European Union

- This symbol is only valid in the European Union. If you wish to discard this product please contact your local authorities or dealer and ask for the correct method of disposal.

Subject to change without prior notice!

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