



Bluey | User Manual

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Bluey

Transformer Coupled FET Limiting Amplifier

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Black Lion Audio Bluey F.E.T. limiting amplifier. The “Bluey” is a modified “Blue Stripe” compressor based off of the “golden” unit owned by Chris Lord-Alge. When certain components became unavailable, techs were forced to change the circuit, creating a one of a kind compressor that has been heard on countless hits. This product was designed and engineered by Black Lion Audio in Chicago, IL USA. All units are assembled and tested at our shops in Chicago and New York.

At Black Lion Audio, we believe in putting sound quality first. We strive to offer mind-blowing products at incredible prices. We are committed to continuously innovating in pursuit of the perfect sound. We live and breathe gear and can’t imagine doing anything else. We hope you enjoy this product and share in our passion for all things audio.

Please be sure to follow the safety instructions on the following pages. We want you around to purchase more gear!

ENGINEERING OBJECTIVE

Any audio engineer worth their weight in gear will tell you about the special moments that occur on records by chance. We’re talking about the magic you can’t plan. It must occur organically, being comprised of sheer randomness or even flat out mistakes. For instance, the spontaneous banter from a vocalist in between takes that adds character to a track, or a radical new audio effect discovered through a simple routing mistake.

The same good fortune sometimes shines upon a piece in the vintage gear world. Through decades of maintenance and repair, some units, like wine, get better with time. The scarcity of original parts leads technicians to diverge from the original design, creating an improved, one-of-a-kind, modified unit.

Armed with an impeccable ear, decades of experience, and an abundance of coveted gear, legendary mix engineer, Chris Lord-Alge, was able to recognize one of his four 1176 Blue Stripe units as firmly sitting in this distinctive category. The particular unit, dubbed “Bluey,” has a special “mojo” to it that shines on vocal tracks like no other.

Chris desired more channels of this golden unit, and reached out to the guys who know modifications best – the team at Black Lion Audio! Intrigued by Chris’ praise of the unit, head design engineer, Jesus Ortiz, boarded a plane from Chicago to LA to discover what gave this Blue Stripe its edge. He found a series of mods done to the unit over the years to keep it working that miraculously cumulated in a uniquely beast-like 1176! BLA analyzed the unit with pain-staking detail, and has, in conjunction with Chris Lorde-Alge, recreated the monster, now known as the new Black Lion Audio “Bluey!”

QUICK START GUIDE

On your sound system, mute your monitors and then using balanced XLR cables, connect your Bluey to your mixing bus or patch bay. If you are using two Blueys in parallel (or stereo), connect the RCA's between the two units.

Set all controls to full counter-clockwise position, and all pushbuttons deselected or in the off position. Set the COMP ON button to the off position, bypassing the unit, and apply power.

Unmute the monitors, and verify that signal is passing to and from the unit.

Set the INPUT, OUTPUT, ATTACK and RELEASE controls to about 12 o'clock, set COMP MIX to full clockwise, select RATIO 4, and press the ON pushbutton. Increase the INPUT until the meter is deflecting a few dB. Again, verify signal is passing through the unit.

Your Bluey is now ready for use!

SPECIFICATIONS

Attack:

Continuously variable 20uS to 800uS

Release:

Continuously variable 50mS to 1200mS

Ratio:

Pushbutton selected 4:1, 8:1, 12:1, 20:1 and any combination

Voltage:

115VAC, 230VAC rear panel switchable

AC Mains Input:

IEC320-C14 standard plug.

Fuse:

50Hz uses F2AL both are 20mmx5mm

Dimensions:

438mm (19") x 88mm (2U) x 250mm D

Product Weight:

8kg

PACKAGE CONTENTS

- Bluey
- IEC cable

LIMITED 3 YEAR WARRANTY

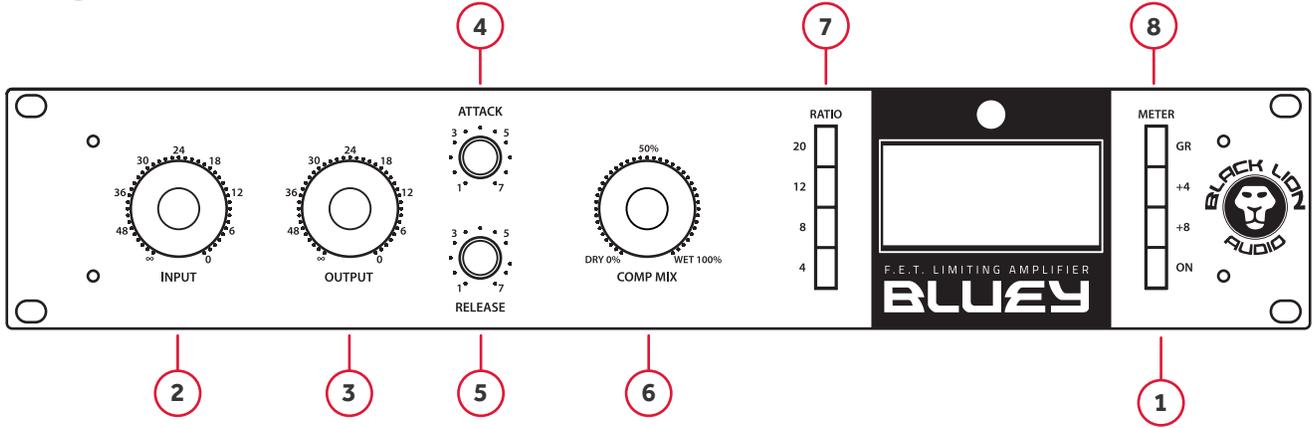
Black Lion Audio's Bluey is warranted by Black Lion Audio to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the period of THREE (3) YEARS to the original purchaser. In the event of such defects, the product will be repaired without charge or, at our option, replaced with a new one if delivered to Black Lion Audio prepaid, together with a copy of the sales slip or other proof of purchase date. The warranty excludes problems due to normal wear, abuse, shipping damage or failure to use the product in accordance with the specifications.

All parts and labor are covered under this Limited Warranty. However, if it is determined by Black Lion Audio that the device was damaged or made defective through abuse, we reserve the right to charge the customer for the cost of the repair.

Black Lion Audio shall not be liable for damages based upon inconvenience, loss of use of the product, loss of time, interrupted operation or commercial loss or any other damages, whether incidental, consequential or otherwise. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights, which will vary from state to state.

This warranty is not transferable.

FRONT



- 1. POWER:** On/off switch
- 2. INPUT CONTROL POT:** Sets the threshold and controls the level at which the compressor starts compressing
- 3. OUTPUT CONTROL POT:** Applies makeup gained to compressed signal to compensate for signal lost during compression
- 4. ATTACK CONTROL POT:** Controls the amount of time it takes for the unit to react to an incoming signal
- 5. RELEASE CONTROL POT:** Controls the speed at which the compressor releases the compressed signal
- 6. COMP MIX:** Allows the user to end the dry uncompressed signal with the wet compressed signal to allow more natural sounding compression
- 7. RATIO:** Controls the amount of compression applied (Yes, it does all-buttons-in-mode)
- 8. METER:** Selector switches GR meters the amount of gain reduction applied:
 - +4 meters output level at 0 with +4dB output
 - +8 meters output level at 0 with +8dB output

BACK



- 9. POWER IEC INPUT**
- 10. VOLTAGE SELECTOR:** Set to correct voltage in country used in
- 11. BALANCED XLR OUTPUT**
- 12. RCA STEREO LINK:** Use standard 2-conductor RCA cable for stereo linking
- 13. BALANCED XLR INPUT**

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or third prong is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Use only attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer
12. Use only with a cart, stand, tripod, bracket or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. This apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing, and no object filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on the apparatus.
16. Not that this apparatus is not completely disconnected from the AC mains service when the power switch is in the OFF position.
17. The mains plug or an appliance coupler is used as the disconnect device, so the disconnect device shall remain readily operable.
18. Any changes or modifications not expressly approved in this manual could void your authority to operate this apparatus.
19. Exposure to extremely high noise levels may cause permanent hearing loss. Individuals vary considerable in susceptibility to noise-induced hearing loss, but nearly everyone will lose some hearing if exposed to sufficiently intense noise for a period of time. Be sensible.

WARNINGS

IMPORTANT !

Be sure to select the proper operating voltage (and install the correct fuse) on the rear panel before plugging in the power cord. Improper selection can result in damage to the unit that will not be covered under the warranty.



**AVIS: RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQ!
NE PAS OUVRIR.
DO NOT EXPOSE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.
NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE.
REFER SERVICING TO AUTHORIZED
PERSONEL.**



The lightning flash with an arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

DISCLAIMER

The Black Lion Audio Bluey complies with all applicable / RoHS/ WEEE European Union directives.

Do not attempt to service this unit yourself, as it will void your warranty. Please check your unit carefully upon receipt and return to place of purchase immediately if there are any problems with the product. After that, the standard Black Lion Audio 3 YEAR warranty will apply to defects in materials and workmanship.

(U.S.A.) Should your Black Lion Audio product require service, please contact the Black Lion Audio Service Department. **+1 845 642 3697**-or-contact us on our customer service site: **www.blacklionaudio.com/contact**

You must obtain an RA # (Return Authorization number) from us before shipping a unit back to us. This RA # must be clearly written on the outside of the box.

Please safely pack the units...It is best to use the original packing materials. Black Lion Audio cannot be responsible for any damages incurred in shipping to us due to poor packaging. PLEASE PACK CAREFULLY and FULLY INSURE THE SHIPMENT.

(INTERNATIONAL) For service or warranty assistance, please contact the Black Lion Audio distributor in your country through the dealer from whom you purchased this product.

NOTICE

This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation and operating instructions for the Black Lion Audio Bluey Compressor.

The information contained in this manual is subject to change without notice. Black Lion Audio makes no warranties of any kind with regard to this manual, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Black Lion Audio shall not be liable for errors contained herein or direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages in connection with the furnishing, performance, or use of this material.

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