

BARGE CONCEPTS

~ Tools for the Discerning Musician ~

Thank you for purchasing a Barge Concepts RC-3 Compressor! We strive to build the best stompboxes possible - versatile, innovative tools, built from high quality components, all offered at an affordable price. This manual is intended to serve as a basic setup and usage guide for your RC-3. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please let us know. We hope you enjoy your pedal and thank you for supporting Barge Concepts!

Visit us the web at www.bargeconcepts.com



RC-3 Hardware and Controls:

JACKS:

INPUT - 1/4" Switchcraft Jack, mounted on the North end of the enclosure. Receives the signal from the output of your instrument or the output of any effects you are running before the RC-3.

OUTPUT - 1/4" Switchcraft Jack, mounted on the North end of the enclosure. Feeds the output of your RC-3 to your amplifier or any effects you are running after the pedal.

POWER - 2.1mm DC power jack, negative center pin, mounted on the North end of the enclosure. Supply voltages with operating range of 9-18V are supported.

SWITCHES & LEDs:

BYPASS - Master on/off switch, true bypass.

LED - Bi-color LED (Red/Blue). When the LED is Blue, the compressor is active and in your signal path. The Red LED color indicates the unit is in bypass and not in your signal path.

ROTARY CONTROLS:

VOLUME - A standard volume control for the output of the RC-3. This can be set to match your bypass volume, or increase the volume to use the RC-3 as a boost when the pedal is active.

DECAY SPEED - A detented potentiometer that varies the decay time of the compression filter. This control is often referred to as "Attack" on other compressors, *but it really is decay*. Setting the knob to "12 o'clock" matches the decay setting of the original Ross/Dynacomp design. The speed of the decay is faster(shorter decay time) as the control is turned clockwise, slower (long decay time) when turned counter-clockwise.

SUSTAIN - A gain control for the CA3080E opamp. Controls the duration of sustained output by adjusting the gain of opamp.

FAQs

Q. Where should I place the RC in my effects chain? A. The short answer - put it where ever YOU think it sounds or works best. Historically, the convention had been to place a compressor early in your signal chain - before any gain devices, but possibly after a wah. In recent years, it has become popular to place a compressor after gain sources, but before delay/chorus/etc. Here on the Barge, we usually run our RC's after our fuzz and dirt boxes, but before boosts, delays, or modulation effects...

Example: Instrument > BB-Jr > BP-1 > RC Compressor > DB-2 boost > delay/reverb/more boost/etc > amp.

Q. What about the "bass mod"? A. The bass modification was designed to correct what we see as a flaw in the original Ross design. The Ross and it's popular clones can cause a loss of low frequencies when driving a low impedance device. The "Bass Mod" switch (installed on the circuit board) changes the value of one of the output capacitors to prevent this impedance mismatch. The end result is no change to the general performance and tonality of the compression filter on the RC, but the ability to now handle low frequencies down to 30Hz with little to no signal loss. Our advice is to try it both ways and see which mode you prefer. Regardless of our electrical reasons for including the switch, what sounds best is really up to the end user. Depending on your gear, one position may be preferable to you than the other, and that's what matters most. You're not going to damage the RC or any of your other gear due to the position of the switch - so our advice is always to experiment, and have fun deciding what's right for you.

Q. Is there a warranty? What about a return policy? A. All Barge Concepts products come with a 7 day return policy and a lifetime, transferable warranty. If your Barge Concepts pedal isn't right for you, for any reason, let us know within 7 days - return it to us in its original condition and we'll refund your purchase price. Also, all of our products are backed by a lifetime transferable warranty. If, in the course of normal operating conditions, your Barge Concepts pedal fails, we will repair or replace the unit - even if you're not the original owner!

We hope you enjoy your Barge Concepts product. If you have any questions, please drop us an email at info@bargeconcepts.com. Also, be sure to sign up for our mailing list to be kept up-to-date on new product news and special offers - mailinglist@bargeconcepts.com. Thank you for supporting Barge Concepts!

~ The Barge Crew ~