

THE RORY GALLAGHER HAWK[®] BOOSTER



BY **FLYNN** AMPS

EXPLOSIVE POWER AND SUSTAIN
SPARKLING HIGHS AND ULTRA WIDE DYNAMICS
RECREATED FROM RORY'S ACTUAL 70'S BOOSTER

ONE UNIQUE GUITARIST
ONE UNIQUE PEDAL

Rory Gallagher 1948-1995



**‘How does it feel to be the greatest guitarist in the world? I don’t know, go ask Rory Gallagher.’
—Jimi Hendrix**

‘Rory’s death really upset me. I heard about it just before we went on stage, and it put a damper on the evening. I can’t say I knew him that well, but I remember meeting him in our offices once, and we spent an hour talking. He was such a nice guy and a great player.’ —Jimmy Page

‘So these couple of kids come up, who’s me and my mate, and say ‘How do you get your sound Mr. Gallagher?’ and he sits and tells us. So I owe Rory Gallagher my sound. ‘ —Brian May

‘Rory’s death is a tragic loss of a great musician and a very good friend.’ —Van Morrison

‘The man who got me back into the blues.’ —Eric Clapton

‘A beautiful man and an amazing guitar player. He was a very sensitive man and a great musician.’ —The Edge (U2)

‘It was all about him playing the guitar, it got into your soul.’—Cameron Crowe (Writer/Film Director)

‘In the 70s he built himself a reputation as a live performer of tremendous vitality. He was even headhunted to join The Rolling Stones.’—Niall Stokes (Editor, Hot Press)

‘One of the things that was crucial for me I got from Rory Gallagher, which was the idea of, like, being a guitar player for life and living it.’ —Johnny Marr (The Smiths)

‘An uncompromisingly serious musician.’ —The Times, 16 June 1995.

Rory's Hawk

In march 2008 we flew down to London on a mission to try and recreate Rory Gallagher's favourite booster, the 'Hawk®'. With help from Rory's brother (and band tour manager) Donal Gallagher, Tom O'Driscoll (band roadie) and Daniel Gallagher (Donal's musician son) we took Rory's Hawk apart, meticulously photographed and carefully measured every component. It was from these sketches and photographs that the Rory Gallagher signature Hawk booster was born.



Powered internally by two 9V batteries the original Hawk featured bass, middle and treble faders, a treble boost switch, a power on/off switch and a volume boost switch.

Designed as a multi-purpose device, the Hawk was intended to be used with guitars, keyboards, vocals and mixing desks. The 18V power supply meant that the Hawk was capable of massive output levels and Rory discovered that it could overdrive the input of any valve amp he used it with. Rich harmonics, wide dynamics, smooth sustain and a biting edge are all controlled from the guitar volume control. Rory used his primarily with his Tweed Fender amps but it can drive most valve amps into classic Rory tones. The Hawk was a 'set and forget' device that would normally be left on all the time and for guitar use it would be used last in the effect chain driving the amp hard.

From around 1973 onwards you can hear Rory use the Hawk almost exclusively, both live and in the studio. It's a clear yet highly driven guitar tone that is precise, natural and completely unique to Rory's music.

Flynn Amps Hawk

The Flynn Amps Rory Gallagher Hawk booster is a faithful recreation of Rory's and is built to the exact component specifications of the original. We took the liberty of providing a variable volume control which goes between the two preset output levels that were switchable on the original. Other modern features we added were a true-bypass footswitch, 18V DC socket and led indicator.

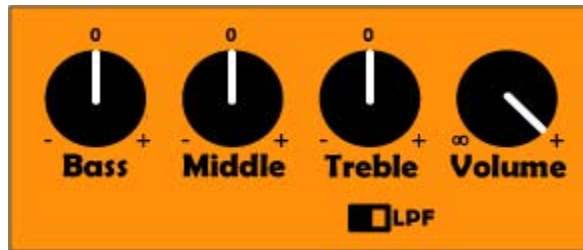


Powered internally by two 9V batteries just like the original Hawk and featuring bass, middle and treble rotary controls plus a treble boost switch (LPF) the Flynn Amps Hawk packs all the tone and drive from Rory's 1973 original booster.

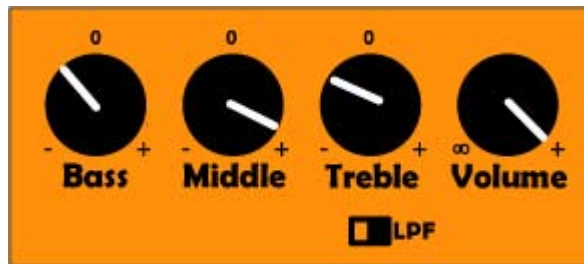


Boosting

Rory Gallagher used the Hawk as an overdrive/booster effect. That is to say he boosted the input to the amp so much that the amp compressed and distorted. The key advantage in boosting your guitar signal in this way is increased dynamic expression between the guitar and the amp and even more of that harmonically rich valve amp tone. A soft touch gives a clean sound and a heavy touch will drive the amp hard into distortion. To get the best from using the Hawk as an overdrive/booster it should be used last in line of your effects chain and should have the output level set high.



When using a vintage amp that has a dark sounding 'normal' channel the LPF switch can be used to provide a crisp treble boosted tone that gives your guitar a beautiful sharp tone. This setting gives a tone very close to Rory's classic mid 70's tone when used with a vintage amp.

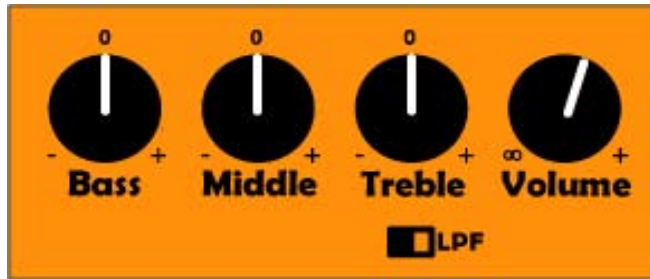


Rory stated in interviews that he never took the gain of his amp past halfway when boosting the input as it only added distortion without any extra tone benefit. It's all a matter of taste of course so play about with the controls and see what's available.

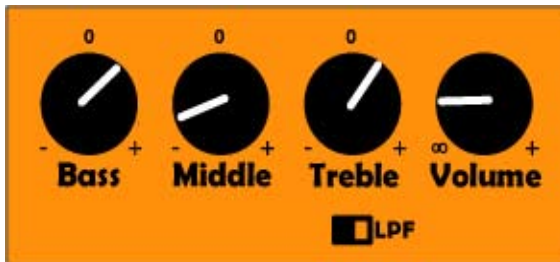
EQ/Solo Boost

Although Rory Gallagher used the Hawk mainly as an overdrive/booster effect you can use the Hawk for many other functions.

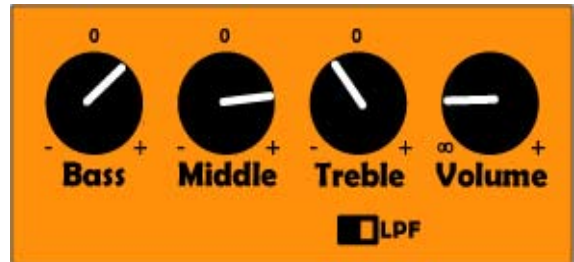
For an EQ/solo boost insert the Hawk in your amps effect send/ return loop and the Hawk give will give your signal a boost without distorting your pre-amp section. Use the volume control carefully here as the Hawk has a massive output capability that could seriously test your amp!



You can also use the Hawk just as an EQ boost without changing volume at all. Try some of the suggestions below and see what a flexible unit the Hawk can be.



Scooped mid EQ boost.



Mid boosted tone.



Bright boosted solo.

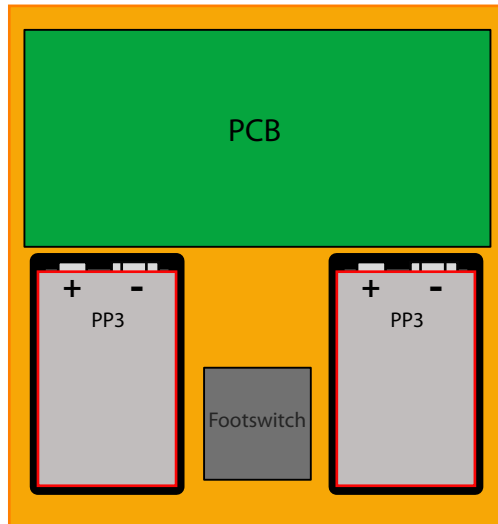
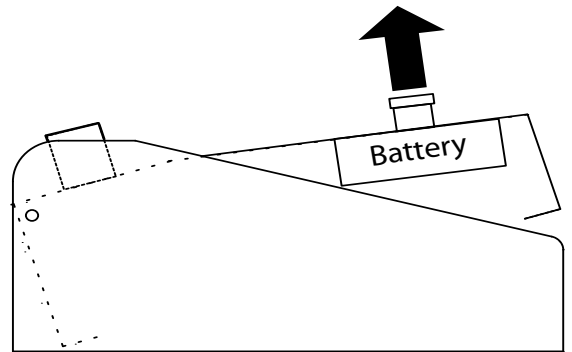
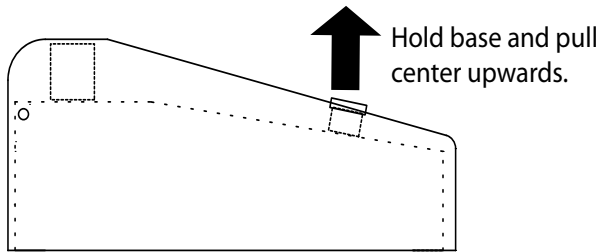


Thick lead boost.

Battery Replacement/PSU

The original Hawk was powered internally by two PP3 (9V) batteries and had no other external power sockets. We've kept the full twin PP3 power but also added provision for an external DC power supply. We recommend using a well regulated PSU to keep noise levels down as unregulated PSU's will have large amounts of ripple present on the DC voltage which will be heard on the output.

To replace the batteries first disconnect all leads and connections to the Hawk. Then hold the base firmly and pull the center of the unit upwards. The batteries should be replaced as indicated below. It should be noted that the battery will be difficult to insert the wrong way round so avoid using excess force.



Inside view

Power specifications:

Internal -2xPP3 (9V) Batteries

External -18V 200mA DC Regulated
Center Negative PSU 2.1mm.

Power consumption - 6mA (approx.)