Using BluesBaby™ with Modellers

Helix, Fractal, Kemper, Line6 & other modeller users - BluesBaby is the perfect partner for your modeller. It was designed with modeller use in mind from the outset, in addition to being a ‘tube challenging’ analogue guitar combo in its own right!

Bluesbaby’s ‘RetroTone™’ analogue power amp design is the secret and brings ‘real amp’ life and soul to digital guitar tone amplification!

What’s NOT a good idea for amplification? Going ‘direct’ to PA is OK, but it doesn’t have the feel of a guitar amp in the room. There’s something missing… that guitar speaker, open back cab, 80Hz resonance, punch and girth… along with the upper mid range ‘cone break-up’ harmonics that make it an authentic electric guitar tone! Only real guitar speakers located as ‘backline’ in the traditional manner can make these essential sounds possible.

As some have already found, it’s a mistake to use regular analogue rack mounted solid state power amps driving guitar speaker loaded cabs… it’s not enough! Those power amps were never designed for guitar use… they DO NOT feature the RetroTone™ design. They’ll sound cold, lacking warmth and dynamics... just like any budget solid state combo does!

No, BluesBaby is designed for the job and will exploit the ‘harmonic chime’ generating abilities of its guitar speaker to the full. This is where ordinary solid state guitar amps went wrong over the years!

We would not recommend using a lightweight Class D ‘switching power amp’ with modellers either. Certainly not the ‘pedal board mounted’ variety! They are very tempting… but not equipped with RetroTone™ like features either... and can cost a fortune to repair if they go wrong!

Employing an analogue based amplification system will provide all the natural speaker harmonics, along with rich bottom end tones that guitar players expect from their amps. It’s all about ‘working’ those guitar speakers in the correct way. And BluesBaby is the transportable lightweight nearest thing to a real tube/valve amp... but without the running costs and heavy weight of our old friends. And then, there’s the superior reliability that solid state can promise.

Connecting your modeller to BluesBaby for mono or stereo use is very simple!

Single Combo - Composite MONO
Simply plug your modeller left & right outputs into the ‘STEREO AUX/MP3 IN’ line-level inputs located on the back panel of the chassis. This directs your modeller’s output signals directly to our RetroTone™ power amp.

The ‘STEREO AUX/MP3 IN’ is equipped with a stereo (TRS) jack socket which will mix the left and right signals into a composite mono signal. You will need a ‘Y’ cable arrangement to do this. This method allows you to perform using the minimum of equipment for smaller venues.

We have suitable ‘Y’ cables available on the ClearTone Custom Cables pages of our website.

Double Combo - Full STEREO
To play in full stereo, you will need two BluesBaby combos. However, this time you can use two standard mono (TS) instrument cables. Plug one into the left combo’s LINE OUT and the other into the right combo’s LINE OUT.

It is also possible to plug the same MONO cables into each combo’s ‘STEREO AUX/MP3 IN’ if you prefer. Either will provide high quality audio.

BluesBaby’s LINE OUT jacks are bi-directional... they can be used as inputs or outputs! A neat facility adding more versatility.

All signals being applied to BluesBaby receive the RetroTone™ influence. So whatever you do, it will always be just like playing through a valve power amp!

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Guitar amp designer since 1967