

2824100M-VA-1

01/26

# Blackstar<sup>®</sup>

AMPLIFICATION



**ARTIST FR**  
STANDARD

**ARTIST FR**  
SPECIAL

**Owner's Manual**

**Blackstar Amplification Ltd**, Beckett House, 14 Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5AW, UK  
For the latest information go to: [www.blackstaramps.com](http://www.blackstaramps.com)

Whilst the information contained herein is correct at the time of publication, due to our policy of constant improvement and development, Blackstar Amplification Ltd reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.

## IMPORTANT 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 a dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings.
8. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
9. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
10. 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 the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
11. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
12. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
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.

**“TO COMPLETELY DISCONNECT THIS APPARATUS FROM THE AC MAINS, DISCONNECT THE POWER SUPPLY CORD PLUG FROM THE AC RECEPTACLE”.**

**“WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE AND OBJECTS FILLED WITH LIQUIDS, SUCH AS VASES, SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON THIS APPARATUS”.**



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operation and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.



This symbol 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.



## Warning!

### Important safety information!

**READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. SAVE ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!**

**Follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product!**

**Danger! High internal operating voltages.**

Do not open the equipment case. There are no user serviceable parts in this equipment. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

Clean only with a dry cloth.

Condensation can form on the inside of an amplifier if it is moved from a cold environment to a warmer location. Before switching the unit on, it is recommended that the unit be allowed to reach room temperature.

Unauthorised modification of this equipment is expressly forbidden by Blackstar Amplification Ltd.

Never push objects of any kind into ventilation slots on the equipment casing.

Do not expose this apparatus to rain, liquids or moisture of any type.

Avoid placing vessels filled with liquid on top of the amplifier.

Do not place this product on an unstable trolley, stand or table. The product may fall, causing serious damage to the product or to persons!

Do not cover or block ventilation slots or openings.

This product should not be placed near a source of heat such as a stove, radiator, or another heat producing amplifier.

Use only the supplied power cord which is compatible with the mains voltage supply in your area.

Power supply cords should always be handled carefully and should be replaced if damaged in any way.

Never break off the earth (ground) pin on the power supply cord.

The power supply cord should be unplugged when the unit is to be unused for long periods of time.

Before the unit is switched on, the loudspeaker should be connected as described in the handbook using the lead recommended by the manufacturer.

Always replace damaged fuses with the correct rating and type.

Never disconnect the protective mains earth connection.

High loudspeaker levels can cause permanent hearing damage. You should therefore avoid the direct vicinity of loudspeakers operating at high levels. Wear hearing protection if continuously exposed to high levels.

If the product does not operate normally when the operating instructions are followed, then refer the product to a qualified service engineer.

The U.S. Government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has specified the following permissible noise level exposures:

Duration Per Day In Hours	Sound Level dBA, Slow Response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1½	102
1	105
½	110
¼ or less	115

According to OSHA, any exposure in excess of the above permissible limits could result in some hearing loss.

Ear plug protectors in the ear canals or over the ears must be worn when operating this amplification system in order to prevent a permanent hearing loss if exposure is in excess of the limits as set forth above. To ensure against potentially dangerous exposure to high sound pressure levels, it is recommended that all persons exposed to equipment capable of producing high sound pressure levels such as this amplification system be protected by hearing protectors while this unit is in operation.



All electrical and electronic products should be disposed of separately from the municipal waste stream via designated collection facilities appointed by the government or the local authorities.



## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this Blackstar Artist FR active cabinet.

Like all our products, the Artist FR range is the result of countless hours of painstaking R&D by our world-class design team. Based in Northampton (UK), the Blackstar team are all experienced musicians themselves and the sole aim of the development process is to provide guitarists with the ultimate tools for self-expression.

All Blackstar products are subjected to extensive laboratory and road testing to ensure they are truly uncompromising in terms of reliability, quality, and above all, TONE.

Please read through this handbook carefully to ensure you get the maximum benefit from your new Blackstar product. If you like what you hear and want to find out more about the Blackstar range of products please visit our website at <http://www.blackstaramps.com>

Thanks!

The Blackstar Team

## Features

The Blackstar Artist FR active cabinets are built with the experience of decades in research and development, designed to meet the evolving needs of guitarists. Drawing on Blackstar's legacy of innovation since 2007, the Artist FR range delivers professional FRFR (Full Range, Flat Response) sound in powerful and easy-to-use formats. Designed to capture the feel and response of a guitar amp, they are the ultimate partner for your modeller or floorboard. Using our custom-designed speakers, the Artist FR active cabinets are perfect for practicing at home, used as stage monitors, or for powerful stage sound during gigs. Built for musicians of all levels, enjoy:

- Custom-designed FRFR (full-range flat-response) speaker for accurate modeller reproduction and genuine amp feel.
- Easily controlled active EQ, specially voiced for maximum impact on guitar tone frequencies.
- Balanced high-frequency dispersion for consistent sound on and off axis.
- High-headroom power for clean performance at loud volumes.
- Controlled low end that stays tight and defined for guitar.
- Accurate translation of amp models, captures, and IRs.
- Designed for home practice, rehearsal, and live performance.
- Reliable tone consistency from bedroom to stage.
- Purpose-built as a guitarist's FRFR cabinet — not a PA speaker.

## Front Panel

### 1. VOLUME

Controls the level of the output volume. Turning it clockwise increases the volume. All way counter-clockwise is off.

### EQ

The EQ section features Bass, Middle, Treble, and Presence controls, specifically voiced for guitar tones rather than generic full-range systems.

The Bass, Middle and Treble form an active EQ circuit, allowing both cut and boost, with a centre detent on each control. When set to the centre position, the EQ is effectively neutral and does not alter your sound. This makes the EQ an ideal final-stage tone-shaping tool, allowing you to make fast, intuitive adjustments to compensate for different rooms, stages, or monitoring positions.

The Presence control is a variable, passive, low-pass filter.

Whether moving from home to rehearsal, or from venue to venue, the EQ provides a quick and reliable way to refine your tone and maintain consistency without reworking your modeller patches.

### 2. BASS

Adjusts low-frequency weight and fullness—great for fine tuning your tone for different room sizes.

### 3. MIDDLE

Controls midrange body and note definition.

### 4. TREBLE

Shapes upper-frequency—great for adjusting brightness and attack depending on cabinet position and angle.

The cut/boost ranges and centre frequencies are:

BASS: +/-6dB @ 80Hz

MIDDLE: +/-9dB @ 850Hz

TREBLE: +/-11dB @ 12kHz

### 5. PRESENCE

Fine-tunes high-end clarity and 'air' using a low-pass filter. Turning it up opens the filter, with the maximum setting fully open.

### 6. CLIP LED

The intelligent clipping LED system provides quick visual feedback if clipping occurs anywhere in the signal path. The LED will illuminate if either the preamp or power amp section is being driven beyond its optimal range. If the LED lights, it indicates that the output level from your modeller may be too high, or that the Artist FR's Volume (1) is set too high. Reducing either the incoming level or the volume control will quickly return the system to clean, optimal operation.

## 7. POWER

Turns the device on or off.

## Rear Panel

### 1. MAINS INPUT

The supplied detachable IEC mains cable is connected here. Artist FR products use a universal input power supply. This means that the mains input range is rated at 100Vac to 240Vac and capable of operating at 50Hz and 60Hz.

**NOTE:** The mains input can only be connected to a power outlet that is compatible with the voltage, power and frequency requirements stated on the rear panel. If in doubt, seek advice from a qualified technician

### 2. XLR OUTPUT

The XLR OUTPUT passes your input signal for easy routing to a PA, mixer, or interface. This is a buffered output that will be electronically 'balanced' even if the input signal is un-balanced. Therefore, equivalent to a professional DI Output.

This output is not affected by the EQ controls or Volume.

### 3. XLR GROUND LIFT

Engage the GROUND LIFT switch if you encounter unwanted hum when connected to external units. Due to the balanced output circuitry, it is very rare that this will need to be used.

### 4. KENSINGTON LOCK

Also known as a Kensington Security Slot or K-Slot this is a specifically sized hole for connecting a compatible Kensington Lock to secure the amplifier to a fixed point. For more information please refer to <http://www.kensington.com>

### 5. COMBI-JACK INPUT

Connect the output from your modeller, profiler, or pedal-format amplifier's line-level output to the here. This input supports both 1/4" TS/TRS or XLR input.

### KICKSTAND

Press the locking pin and swing out the kickstand until it clicks. Tilt the cabinet back for angled use.

## Technical Specification

### Artist FR Standard

**Power:** 50 Watts

**Weight (kg):** 10.72

**Dimensions (mm):** 461 x 387 x 230

#### Active EQ Specification:

BASS: +/-6dB @ 80Hz

MIDDLE: +/-9dB @ 850Hz

TREBLE: +/-11dB @ 12kHz

### Artist FR Special

**Power:** 100 Watts

**Weight (kg):** 13.50

**Dimensions (mm):** 525 x 447 x 245

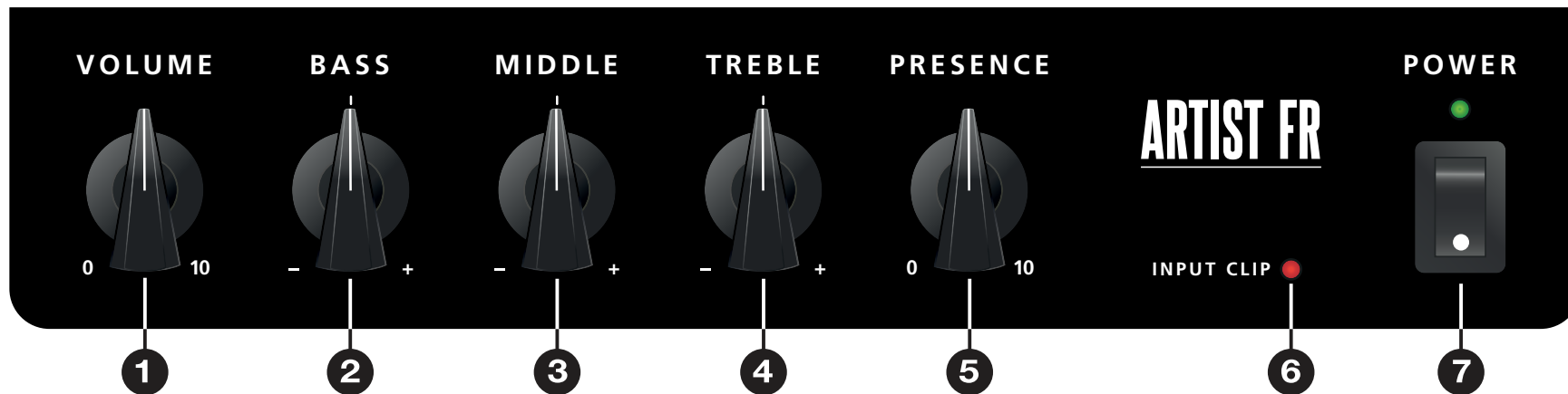
#### Active EQ Specification:

BASS: +/-6dB @ 80Hz

MIDDLE: +/-9dB @ 850Hz

TREBLE: +/-11dB @ 12kHz

Artist FR Front Panel



Artist FR Rear Panel

