



Isolation / Recording Cabinet for Guitar



User Manual

July 2009

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing the Axetrak® Isolation/Recording Cabinet for Guitar. We have gone to great lengths to insure that you are purchasing a high quality piece of professional studio equipment. The Axetrak® will last an extremely long time if used correctly. Please be sure to read through this manual carefully, as it contains important information on the performance and operation of your new Axetrak®. This will help to ensure proper connection and safety precautions necessary for safe operation of this device.

LIMITED WARRANTY

Your Axetrak® product is guaranteed against failure for 1 year. JLH Products will service and supply all parts at no charge to the customer providing the unit is under warranty. Shipping costs are the responsibility of the customer. This warranty does not cover, and no liability is assumed, for damage due to: natural disasters, accidents, abuse, loss of parts, lack of reasonable care, incorrect use, or failure to follow instructions. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied. No representative or person is authorized to represent or assume liability for JLH Products in connection with the sale or servicing of this product. JLH Products shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages. When returning merchandise to the factory, you must call or email our office for a return authorization number. Describe in writing each problem. If your unit is out of warranty, you will be charged the current flat rate for parts and labor to bring your unit back to factory specifications. Contact 949-859-7293 or email us at axetrak@jlhproducts.com. **You must register your product online at www.axetrak.com to validate your warranty.**

Contents of Axetrak® should include:

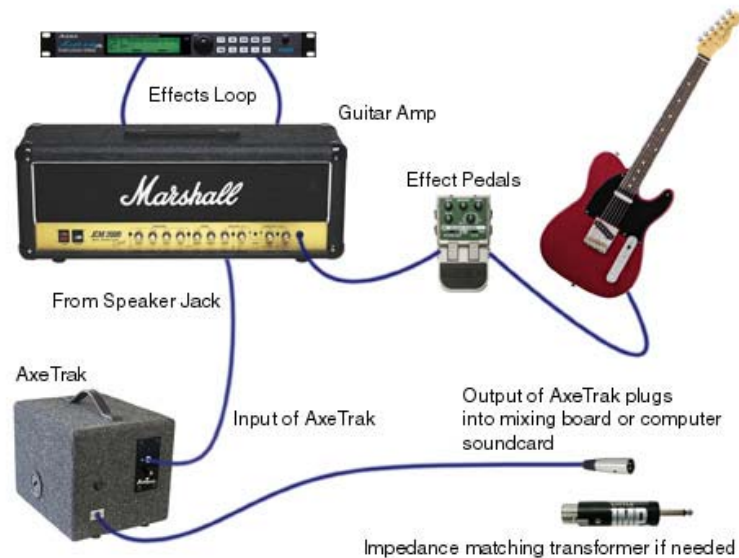
- Axetrak® Isolation / Recording Cabinet for Guitar
- User Manual
- Impedance Matching Transformer
- Two additional - Fast Acting, Fuses

CAUTION: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OPEN THE AXETRAK® AS IT MAY SERIOUSLY HURT THE SOUND CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS DEVICE AND WILL VOID THE WARRANTY. THE AXETRAK® IS ASSEMBLED WITH VERY TIGHT TOLERANCES SO THAT IT DOES NOT CREATE ANY UNWANTED RESONANCES. DO NOT USE THIS DEVICE IN ANY WAY OTHER THAN DESCRIBED IN THIS MANUAL.

The AxeTrak® is a very useful piece of professional studio equipment that will make recording high gain, overdriven and distorted guitar tracks as easy as one two three.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

With your guitar amplifier turned off, connect all of the pedals and processors that you would normally use for “Your Sound” to your amplifier. Connect them the same way you would for your live sound. Connect a speaker cable from the speaker jack of your amplifier to the “IN” jack on the AxeTrak®. Always make sure that your guitar amplifier can safely drive the input impedance of your AxeTrak. If you are using a tube amplifier, adjust the speaker output impedance selector on your amp to match the input impedance of your AxeTrak. The volume on your guitar amplifier should be turned all the way down initially. Insert a low impedance microphone cable into the XLR jack on the front of the AxeTrak®. Plug the other end of the microphone cable into your recording console, computer sound card, preamp or mixing board. **Do NOT use phantom power on this device.** If you are plugging the AxeTrak® into a high impedance ¼ inch jack, you will need to use the included impedance matching transformer.



For recording overdriven guitar tones the preamp gain on your guitar amplifier should be cranked so that your amplifier is producing a smooth distorted or overdriven signal. The master volume should be turned up very slowly until the input LED of the AxeTrak® BEGINS TO GLOW BRIGHTLY. **The AxeTrak® is NOT designed to handle high gain amplifiers cranked at full volume like a power attenuator.** This is a very critical point; you do not want to needlessly crank your amp beyond this level.

If you use a distortion or overdrive pedal, set the volume and gain on your pedal the same way you would for a live performance. Slowly turn up the master volume on your amplifier until the input LED of the AxeTrak® BEGINS TO GLOW BRIGHTLY.

This device was not originally designed for the purpose of reproducing clean guitar tones, as it has a very confined and limited volume of air space. However, you can record great sounding clean guitar tones if you adjust your setup as follows: With your amp turned off, turn the master volume on your amp all the way down. Connect a speaker cable from the speaker jack of your amplifier to the “IN” jack on the AxeTrak®. Now turn on your amp and slowly turn up the master volume until the level LED on the AxeTrak® JUST BEGINS TO FLICKER. Removing the “Deep Plug” will further improve the clean-recorded tone of this device and allow it to move more air.

If the AxeTrak® does not make any audible sound, turn off your amp immediately and check the fuse. The AxeTrak® is fuse protected to protect the internal components. In the event that you blow the fuse on your AxeTrak®, it should **ONLY** be replaced with the same type fuse and with the same current rating. See below:

- For 8 ohm AxeTrak — 2A or 2.5A/250 3AG fast acting fuse.
- For 16 ohm AxeTrak — 1.5A/250 3AG fast acting fuse
- For 4 ohm AxeTrak — 2.5A/250 3AG fast acting fuse.

UNDERSTANDING THIS DEVICE

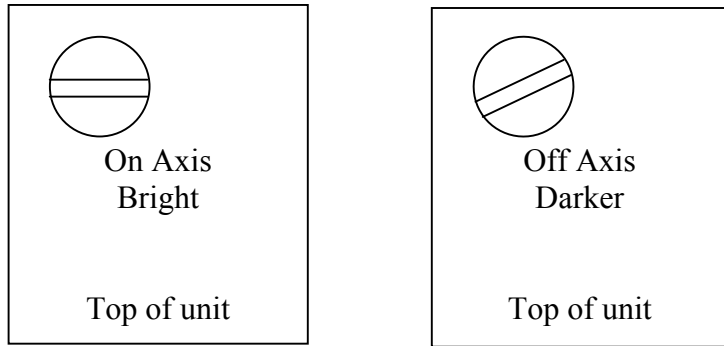
The input on the AxeTrak® is a standard ¼ “ phone jack which makes it easy to connect to the speaker output jack of most professional guitar amps. The input jack drives the custom driver as well as the signal level LED. The sound is converted into an electrical signal with the use of a dynamic cardioid microphone cartridge, which has been carefully selected and modified exclusively for this device. This cartridge is meticulously placed and aligned to our exact specifications, and is permanently mounted inside the enclosure. The cartridge is then wired to the XLR jack mounted on the front of the AxeTrak® so there is no ground connection on the balanced XLR output of the AxeTrak® so there is no possibility of noise being created from ground loops when using this device. The AxeTrak® uses a normal low impedance microphone cable so that it can be used in the studio as well as on stage where long cables are necessary for running sound.

This device can be used with or without the impedance matching transformer. If you do not use the impedance transformer you may find that you need to roll off some of the bass frequencies on your amp.

We recommend that you experiment with and without the impedance matching transformer and let your ears be the judge of what sounds best. Most players like the thunderous low-end punch that is produced when the AxeTrak is plugged directly into a recorder, mixer or soundcard without the use of the impedance matching transformer.

For overdriven guitar tones the AxeTrak is designed to sound its best when your guitar amplifier is set to a level that makes the input LED on the AxeTrak® begin to glow brightly. You do not want to needlessly crank your amp beyond this level.

MICROPHONE ADJUSTMENT SCREW -



MICROPHONE ADJUSTMENT SCREW - This is the newest feature on the AxeTrak® and allows for unlimited recording options. The microphone adjustment screw is located on the top of the AxeTrak® on the left side of the strap handle. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS SCREW SHOULD ONLY BE TURNED WITH A SMALL OBJECT LIKE A PENNY, DIME OR QUARTER. If this screw is turned too tightly it will compromise the adjustment capabilities of the assembly and the unit will need to be sent to the factory for service. PLEASE ALSO BE AWARE THAT THIS SCREW IS ONLY INTENDED TO TURN APPROXIMATELY 30 DEGREES. That would be roughly from a 9:00 position turned counterclockwise to an 8:00 position. This is not very much but as you will see it makes a huge difference in the recorded tone of the unit. If you want to record a bright clean guitar tone, you might start with the microphone direct on axis set as close to the speaker as possible. To set the microphone this way, turn the adjustment screw all the way clockwise (9:00 position). If you want to record high gain guitar tracks you might start with the microphone adjusted off axis like the older fixed microphone version of the AxeTrak. To set the microphone this way, turn the adjustment screw all the way counterclockwise (8:00 position). This will give you a slightly darker and smoother tone. Of course you can also adjust the screw anywhere in between for your recording preference.

HIGH FREQUENCY ROLL-OFF SWITCH - This switch is located directly above the XLR connector on the front of the enclosure. When the red dot on this switch is pushed in, your AxeTrak is giving you the full spectrum of sound at the XLR connector. When the other end of the switch is pushed, the high frequencies will be greatly reduced. This is a great option for many of the newer high-gain guitar amplifiers on the market today.

DEEP PLUG - If your particular style of music requires deep subsonic bass tones, you can unscrew the circular “Deep Plug” located on the left side of this device. Simply insert a quarter or small angle bracket in the slot and turn counterclockwise to remove. Do not over tighten this plug as it has a flared thread. It only needs to be slightly snug and it will not rattle or resonate audibly.

SPECIFICATIONS

Input Impedance

8 Ohms Standard (16 ohms and 4 ohms also available)

Output Impedance

Low Impedance 200 – 600 Ohms (Mic level)

Wattage Rating

75 Watts RMS (fuse protected)

Dimensions

Height 11” (279 mm)
Width 10.5” (267 mm)
Length 13.25” (337 mm)

Weight

21 lbs (9.5 kg)

Power Requirements

None

For product registration please go to www.axetrak.com and click on Register Product