



The Big Trees

Owner's Manual

Important safety instructions

WARNING: THIS APPARATUS MUST BE EARTHED!

- A PLEASE*** read this instruction manual carefully before switching on.
- B ALWAYS*** use the supplied mains lead, if a replacement is required please contact your authorised Audio Kitchen dealer.
- C NEVER*** attempt to bypass the fuses or fit ones of the incorrect value.
- D There*** are no user serviceable parts.
- E Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel including replacement of fuses and valves.***
Serviceing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as when the 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.
- F NEVER*** use an amplifier in damp or wet conditions. No objects filled with liquids should be placed on the apparatus.
- G ALWAYS*** unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or if unused for long periods of time.
- H PROTECT*** the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles and at the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- I ENSURE*** that any extension cabinets used are of the correct impedance.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the requirements of the EMC directive (Environments E1, E2 and E3 EN 55103-1/2) and the Low Voltage directive in the E.U.

Note: It is recommended that all audio cables used to connect to The Big Trees are of a high quality screened type. These should not exceed 10 Metres in length. Always use Audio Kitchen approved speaker leads with The Big Trees and speaker cabinets.

WARNING: Do not obstruct ventilation grilles and always ensure free movement of air around the amplifier!

USA ONLY - DO NOT defeat the purpose of the polarised or grounding type plug. A polarised 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. When the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS

HEED ALL WARNINGS

KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS !

What is The Big Trees?

The Big Trees is the result of a project which began about 4 years ago under the working name 'Pedal/ Amp'. It has been through about 5 prototypes, thrown into a corner in disgrace at a few points along the way, and been the subject of plenty of robust discussion in the workshop.

It has changed course along the way to become quite different from the first concept and prototype, but has become something we are thoroughly proud to put the Audio Kitchen name to and hope it will become a favourite of many around the planet.

How do I use The Big Trees?

The most straightforward way to use The Big Trees is as an all valve guitar amp. Plug an instrument into the In jack, connect a speaker to the Speaker Out jack, turn the Gain up and away you go.

Use the Root and Branch controls to tailor the Bass and Treble respectively.

The Dirt switch will reduce the output volume and introduce more break-up as it is clicked anti-clockwise (similar to the Power pots on the larger amps).

The Line Output controls will not affect the sound you hear from the speaker.

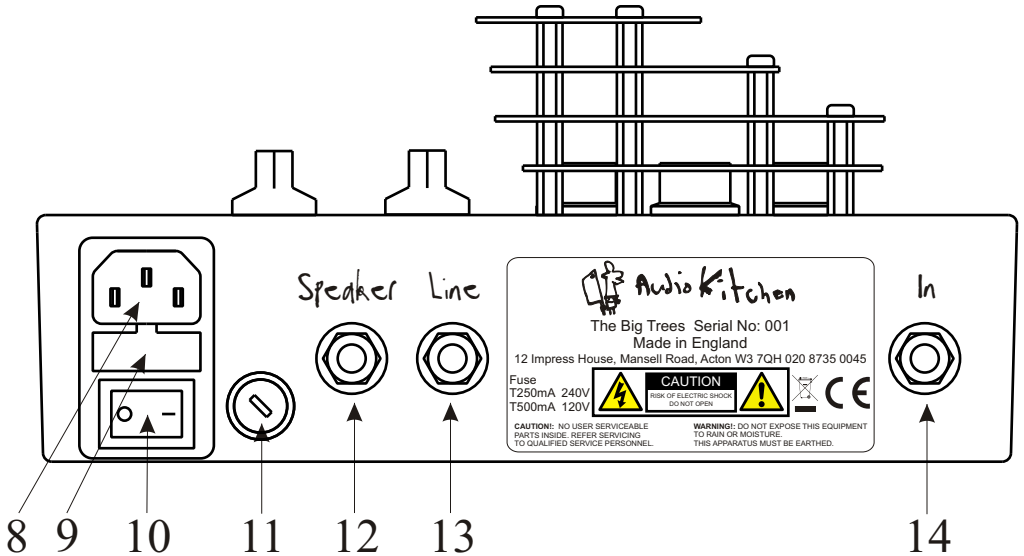
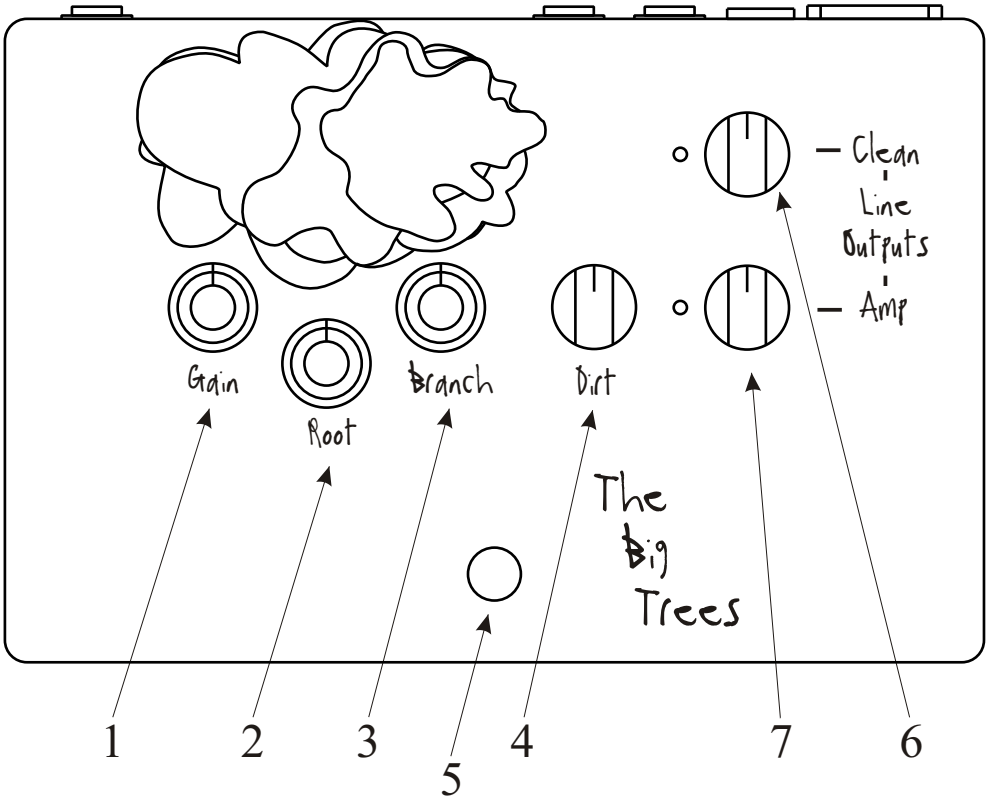
So how does the Line Output work?

If you connect the Line Output jack to the input of another amp, The Big Trees becomes an incredibly versatile preamp/ Drive/ Clean gain/ Buffer/ Line driver. You can also plug directly from the Line Output jack into a recording interface and record, although you will probably want to use a cab simulator plugin if you want it to sound amp-like.

Of course, a speaker can be connected to the Speaker Output at the same time as driving another amp from the Line Output...

Experiment!

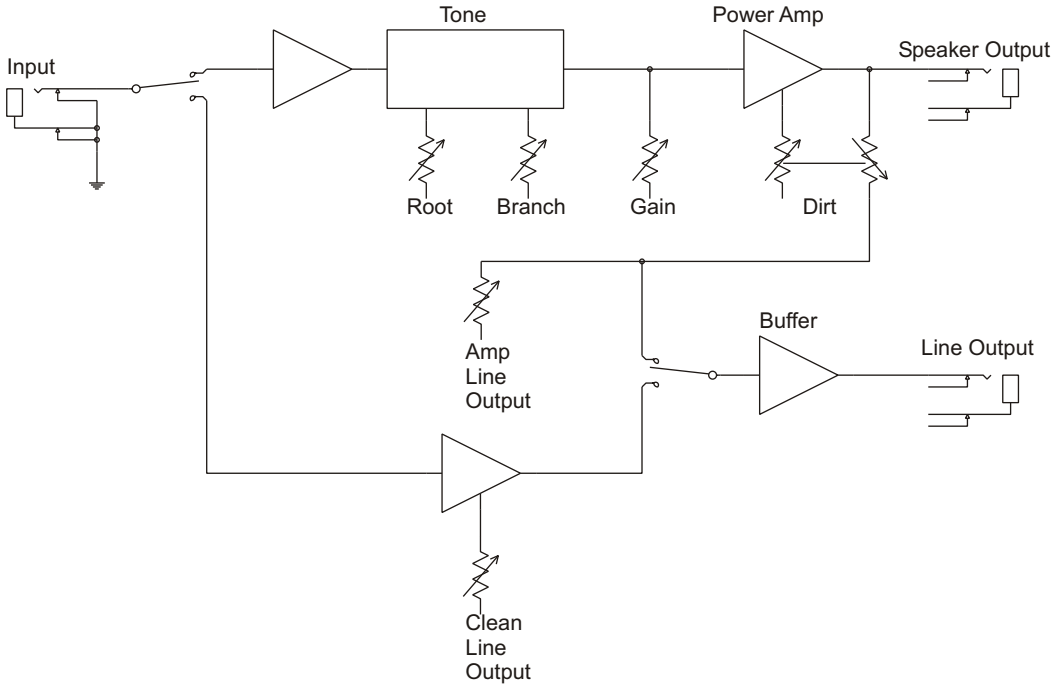
Because The Big Trees can do so many things so well, it may seem a little confusing at first. I promise it is worth spending the time sitting down with it and exploring how all of the controls change the sound and also interact with each other - once you have a handle on it you will never look back!



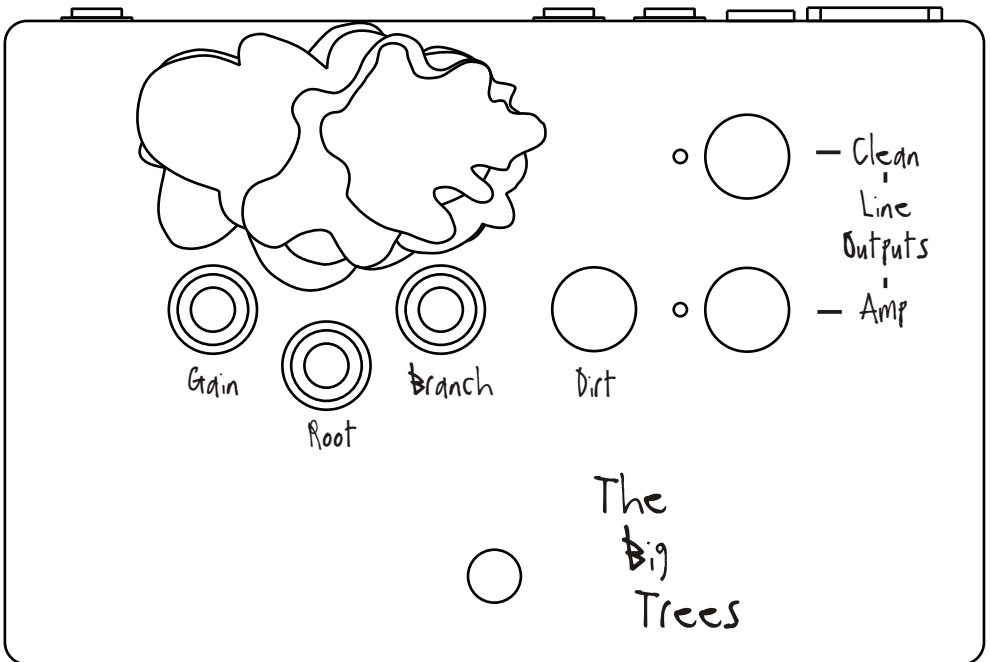
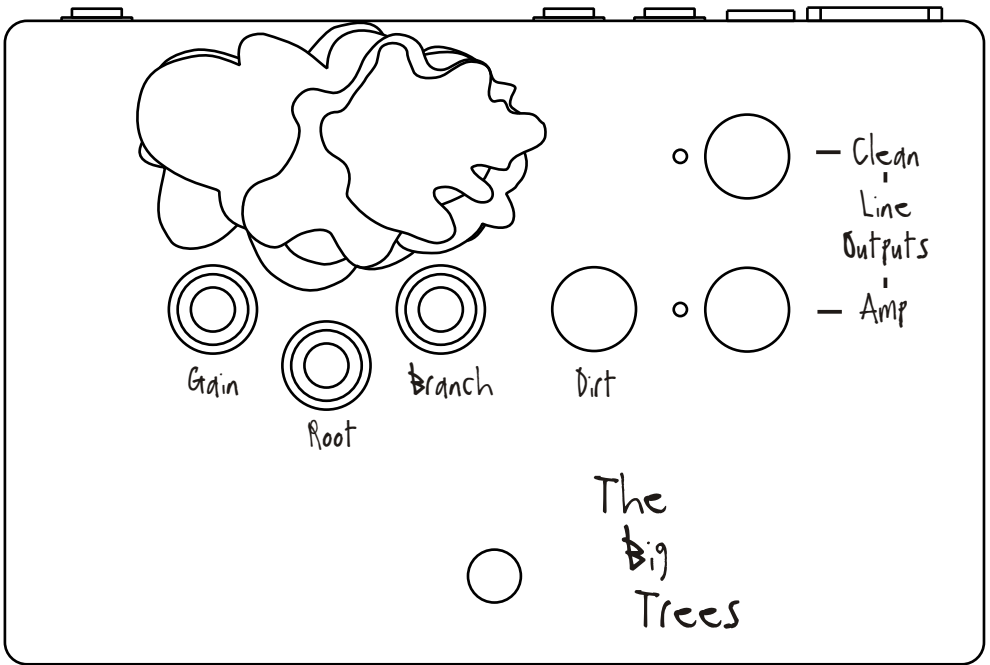
Controls

1. **Gain** controls the level of preamp signal presented to the power amp (EL84).
2. **Root** controls the level of bass frequencies present in your tone.
3. **Branch** controls the level of treble frequencies present in your tone.
4. The **Dirt** control is a little more complicated. When The Big Trees is used as an amp (speaker connected to Speaker Output jack), clicking the Dirt control **anti-clockwise** simultaneously *decreases the output level and the headroom of the power amp*, so it gets **quieter but more broken up**.
When using the Line Output however, there is an attenuator which works in the opposite direction to the inherent volume drop, which allows the signal level at the Line Output jack to remain similar for all positions of the Dirt switch, thus allowing the huge range of break-up textures to be available for comparison, without having to compensate for volume changes.
In short: the signal level at the Line Output jack remains similar for all settings of Dirt switch.
5. The **Foot Switch** selects between signal from either Amp Line Output or Clean Line Output and routes it to the Line Output jack. The green and red LEDs indicate which is selected.
Beware: The signal to the speaker will be cut if the green LED is on.
6. **Clean Line Output** controls the level of signal present at the Line Output jack when the green LED is lit. This signal is pure, clean gain and does not pass through any of the amp circuitry. I chose to include this instead of a bypass as it sounds better and is more flexible.
7. **Amp Line Output** controls the level of signal present at the Line Output jack when the red LED is lit. This signal is taken from the output of the amp so all controls 1-4 affect it.
8. **Mains Input** - Your amp is provided with a detachable mains (power) lead which is connected here. Before connecting for the first time, please ensure that The Big Trees is compatible with your electricity supply. If you have any doubt, please get advice from your Audio Kitchen dealer.
9. **Mains Fuse** - The correct value of mains fuse is specified on the rear panel of the amplifier. Please refer to Important Safety Instructions, Page 2.
10. The **Power Switch** is the On/OFF switch for the mains power to the amplifier. Please ensure the amplifier is switched off and unplugged from the mains electricity supply before being moved.
11. The **Voltage Selector** must be set to the correct position for the mains voltage available in your country.
Your amp should be completely powered down before the selector is turned. Adjustment from 240V to 120V or vice versa will require the mains fuse to be changed to the corresponding value as detailed on the rear panel.
12. The **Speaker Output** jack is for connecting to an external load, i.e. speaker cabinet. **NEVER leave a speaker lead attached without a speaker attached!**
13. The **Line Output** jack is for connecting to the input of another amplifier, pedal or recording interface. The signal present at the **Line Output** is selected by the foot switch.
14. The **In** jack is where you plug your musical instrument in. Yes, really.

Block Diagram



Recall Sheet





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