

Front Panel (U250, U500)

1. Input

Plug your bass guitar in here. Always use a good quality screened instrument cable.

2. Clip Indicator

This LED illuminates to indicate that the Input stage is being driven into clipping. The Pad Switch (3), Gain (4) and the volume control on your instrument all affect this signal level and at what point the input stage clips. Clipping the input stage (Clip Indicator illuminating) will not cause any damage to your amplifier, and may be desirable depending on your tonal preference.

3. Pad Switch

Select a gain range according to your instrument pickup using the Pad switch. As a guide, try the 0dB setting for a passive pickup, and the -10dB for an active pickup.

4. Gain

This controls the gain of the input signal to the preamp stage. For a pristine clean tone turn up the Gain whilst playing hard until the Clip Indicator (2) LED illuminates, then reduce it slightly until the LED no longer lights. When using Drive (6) use the Gain control to vary the amount of distortion. Clipping the input stage will not cause any damage to your amplifier, and may be desirable depending on your tonal preference.

5. Voice Select

Select between three distinct preamp voices:

- CLASSIC – Valve-inspired growl with vintage EQ
- MODERN – High headroom dynamics and advanced EQ
- FLAT – Totally flat, clean and transparent with studio-style EQ

6. Drive

Blend in the desired amount of distortion for the currently selected Drive (6) relative to the clean signal. With the Drive control set to its minimum position (fully counter clockwise) the Drive circuit will be bypassed. As the Drive control is increased (clockwise) the amount of gain and blend is increased, until a fully distorted sound is reached with the control at maximum.

The currently selected Drive can be switched on and off using the included FS-13 2-way footswitch or the optional FS-12 5-way footcontroller. See the Footcontrollers section on page 15.

7. Drive Select

Select between three distinct Drive types:

- OVERDRIVE – Smooth, open, harmonically-rich overdrive
- DIST – Balanced pedal-like distortion
- FUZZ – In-your-face full-on fuzz

In addition to switching the current Drive on and off, the optional FS-12 5-way footcontroller also allows you to change the currently selected Drive type. See the Footcontrollers section below for more detail.

8-11. Equalisation

Your Unity Pro Bass amplifier features an advanced semi-parametric EQ which varies multiple underlying parameters to best match the style of the selected Voice (5). This allows for ultimate flexibility when combined with the unique Response (13) control to achieve the sound in your head.

VOICE	LOW (8)	MID LEVEL (9)	MID FREQUENCY (10)	HIGH (11)
CLASSIC	±12dB @ 40Hz	+10dB / -20dB	220Hz - 3kHz	+15dB / -20dB @ 4kHz
MODERN	±15dB @ 40Hz	+15dB / -20dB, with advanced Q morphing notch @ min.	50Hz - 3kHz	±15dB @ 6kHz
FLAT	±16dB @ 40Hz	±12dB	180Hz - 1kHz	±16dB @ 5kHz

12. Effect Select

Select a desired effect from the simple but powerful effects section: OFF, CHORUS or OCTAVE. Chorus and Octave effect levels are adjusted using dedicated controls on the rear panel.

The currently selected effect can be switched on and off using the included FS-13 2-way footswitch. Simply set the Effect Select switch to your chosen effect and toggle it on and off with the footswitch.

The optional FS-12 footcontroller allows both Chorus and Octave effects to be used simultaneously. See the Footcontrollers section on page 15 for more detail.

13. Response

Your Unity Pro Bass amplifier features Blackstar's unique Response control, allowing you to tailor the feel and dynamics of the power stage to best suit your playing style and desired tone. The sag, compression and tonality of three revered power amp stages can be paired with a similar preamp voice to create classic tones, or mix and match to create a sound unique to you.

Select between three power amp responses:

- LINEAR – Powerful and articulate – let your playing do the talking
- 6L6 – Compression and punch of 6L6 power valves
- 6550 – Dynamics and headroom of high power 6550s