

Virtual Jeff^(R) PRO

DEEP DIVE



BLEND

BLEND

BLEND is a very creative and versatile feature built into Virtual Jeff PRO.
Here's a list of topics in this Deep Dive:

BLEND BALANCE
WAGGLES
CHORUS
// HARMONY

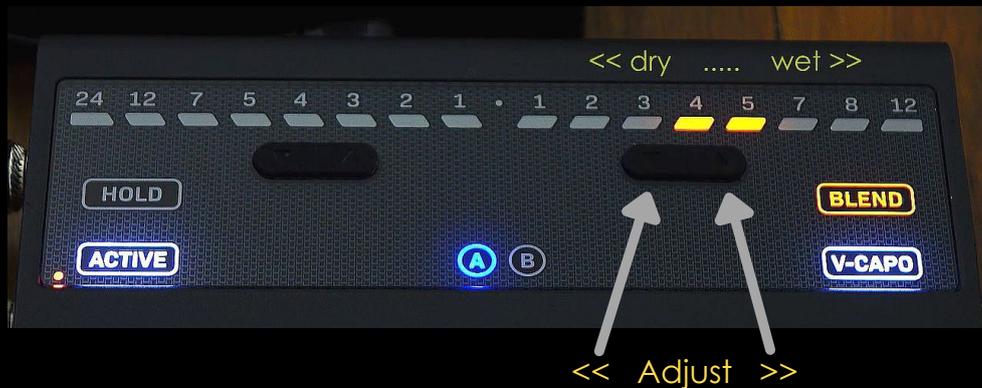
BEND TO HARMONY
12 String/Octavia
SUB-OCTAVES
USEFUL TIP

BLEND BALANCE

Blend mixes the original guitar sound ('dry') with the pitch-shifted guitar sound ('wet'). The pitch-shift can be from moving the whammy arm, V-Capo or both. The balance between the two sounds affects the impact that BLEND has on the sound.

Setting the BLEND BALANCE is easy:

Every time you turn BLEND on, two LEDs flash for 5 seconds to show the current balance. While they're flashing, use the right pitch-set buttons to adjust the balance - move to the left for more 'dry', move to the right for more 'wet'. This is demonstrated in the companion video clip.



Here's the exact ratios of the BLEND BALANCE settings:

LEDS	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-7	7-8	8-12
DRY/WET	87.5%/12.5%	75%/25%	62.5%/37.5%	50%/50%	37.5%/62.5%	25%/75%	12.5%/87.5%

NOTE:

Your BLEND BALANCE setting is automatically saved until you change it again!

WAGGLES

A lot of whammy use is for 'waggles' - adding vibrato to a note or chord. This can be subtle or extreme depending on the music style. BLEND adds a new character to waggles because you're hearing two pitches at the same time - the original plus the whammy arm movements.

This combination adds a subtle 'chorus-like' effect to a waggle (quite similar to the detuning a mechanical whammy does when you waggle). On a gentle waggle it's a cool softening of the whammy pitch shift; on a more extreme waggle it's a noticeable de-tuning that sounds like a Uni-vibe. There are examples in the companion video using clean sounds so you can hear the effect - but it gets even more exciting on overdriven/fuzz sounds.

CHORUS

You can use BLEND with the HOLD feature to create a custom chorus:

Turn on BLEND and move the whammy arm a small amount (up or down) to detune the guitar. Now turn on HOLD. This freezes the detuning. The amount of detune up or down determines the depth and character of the chorus effect.

TIP: Use the ACTIVE/BYPASS switch to turn the chorus effect on/off.

MAY THE 5th

BLEND combines with V-Capo to create parallel harmonies.
One harmony to try is a '5th' - a 'perfect' interval.

FYI: This interval is used to make up 'power chords' on a guitar (e.g. in the key of E, the power chord is just E and B, a fifth interval). Power chords work well because the 5th interval is closely related mathematically to the tonic/root note (so no ugly dissonance) and power chords don't have the 3rd interval which determines if it's a major or minor chord. That means power chords fit with all kinds of chords/melodies without clashing. Ditto, parallel 5th harmonies. Enough theory!

V-Capo has a wide range so you can try both versions of a 5th harmony - above and below.

- Set V-Capo to -5 ... this effectively gives a 5th harmony below the chord*
- Set V-Capo to +7... this gives a 5th harmony above the chord

* in music theory, -5 is a 4th interval below. This is the same note as +7, a 5th interval above, but an octave lower (e.g. E - 5 = B below E; E +7 = B above E)

Adding either parallel harmony changes the 'color' of chord progressions - and often inspires whole new ideas you haven't thought of before BLEND.

Check out the example in the companion video: There are three versions of a simple chord progression: Em, Am, C, D, Em. The first version has no harmony. The next BLENDs a 5th harmony below. The last, a 5th harmony above. Each version has a very different color/mood, but they all use the same chords.

TIP: These samples are all with BLEND BALANCE at 50/50, dry to wet. The harmony effect is more subtle or more obvious depending on the BALANCE setting.

BEND TO HARMONY

A cool variation of harmonies is to bend to them with BLEND turned on.

Play a chord with BLEND turned on, then use the whammy to bend all the way down or up. You'll hear two things simultaneously: The original chord sustaining while the whammy bends that chord. If you're set for -12/+12 bends, you end up with the original chord plus an octave of that chord above or below.

Half the fun is in the journey! It's cool on clean sounds but dynamite on overdriven/fuzz sounds.

Of course you can also bend to harmonies, not just octaves. Try the 5th settings discussed earlier. This adds another dimension to chords and progressions - check out the example in the companion video.

12 STRING/Octavia

Ever wanted a 12 string? Here's a quick way to get one at the push of a button:

Set V-Capo to +12 and turn on BLEND. Instant 12 string on any guitar... and you can use BLEND BALANCE to adjust the depth of the effect (try 62.5/37.5).

This is also a real winner on overdrive/fuzz sounds - for that screaming Octavia sound on solos.

A 5th interval (V-Capo = +7) works here too, and a 4th interval (V-Capo = +5) adds a fusion sound.

There's no limit to BLEND effects - e.g. add weight to a chorus, make the middle section sound 'weird', add a parallel harmony, use a 12 string for the signature riff etc. It's why BLEND is one of my favorite features!

SUB-OCTAVES

BLENDing is a good way to enhance the tone and impact of your instrument.

Try setting V-Capo to -12 and adjusting the BLEND BALANCE to (say) 75% dry, 25% wet. This sub-octave adds 'weight' to your tone that's great for fattening everything from acoustics to overdriven metal. (Use ACTIVE/BYPASS to check out the difference)

How you set the wet/dry balance determines if it's a subtle enhancement or a sledge-hammer power lift for the last chorus.

Another good V-Capo setting for weight is -5. This adds a color change that also fattens, but in a different way to octaves. See '12 string' for more!

USEFUL TIP

How do you use several different effects in one song if there's only one V-Capo?
Answer: Use HOLD to create temporary capos!

Here's an example:

- Set V-Capo to: +12
- Set WHAMMY (B) to: -12 / +7
- Turn on BLEND

- Turning V-Capo on/off will add 12 string/Octavia effect
- With V-Capo off, bend down to -12 and press HOLD - instant sub-octaves
- With V-Capo off, bend up to +7 and press HOLD - instant 5th harmony

You can mix & match settings like these for numerous effects - all you need is imagination and a few hours of fun to work them out.

And don't forget, the ACTIVE/BYPASS button is a great way to kick these sounds in/out for comparison. You can toggle BLEND, V-CAPO and MODE A&B in BYPASS to set up any combo ready to go ACTIVE.

NOTE:

The BLEND video examples mostly use 'clean' guitar sounds so you can easily hear what's happening. Many of these effects are even more impressive with overdriven/fuzz sounds!