

Virtual Jeff^(R) PRO

DEEP DIVE



BYPASS MODES

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Virtual Jeff® PRO has two bypass modes – Buffered and True Bypass.
What does that mean and how do you set them?

TRUE BYPASS

When VJP is in True Bypass mode, turning it 'off' (using the ACTIVE/BYPASS footswitch) sends the guitar signal from input to output without going through any electronics. A high-quality relay literally connects the input to the output. It's like the stompbox isn't even there.

True Bypass (sometimes called 'True Metal Bypass') wasn't common in many of the famous stompboxes in the 1970's – 90's. Many leading brands (e.g. Boss) still don't have it on most of their stompboxes. Without it, stompboxes can color your tone ("tone-suck"), limit the dynamic range or trash the harmonics of your guitar sound even when the effect is switched off.

True Bypass seems like an essential feature - but read on...

BUFFERED BYPASS

Buffered Bypass works by placing a 'buffer' amp at the input to split the signal two ways: one path goes through the electronics, the other bypasses the electronics. Now it's just a matter of selecting which path goes to the output.

Buffered bypass is popular with manufacturers because it makes the switching simpler (and cheaper). The drawback is that many stompboxes have cheap buffer designs so your tone thins out or dynamics get squashed.

VJP has a studio-quality analog buffer, with no compromises. It's completely transparent so tone-suck never happens. It's something we care a lot about – getting a good guitar sound is hard enough without having a cheap buffer trashing it.

WHICH ONE SHOULD I USE?

We recommend Buffered Bypass for most rigs. Why? There's two reasons:

(1) Guitar pickups don't like driving into difficult loads from long cables, pedal boards, even some amps - they change their tone when the load changes. To get a consistent tone, use a quality buffer as the first thing your guitar plugs into. The buffer isolates the pickups from all the loads in the signal chain.

VJP's input buffer and output driver can handle all those different loads much better than your pickups ever will. That's why we took the time and spent the money to build a quality buffer!

(2) Relays are switches that turn on and off with a control voltage. Like all switches, they take time to mechanically switch a set of contacts from A to B. Although this time is pretty short (e.g. 30-50mS) that makes a gap in the signal going to the output. And, the contacts make a little click as they close. We designed every aspect of VJP to be seamless in operation – no gaps, no clicks, no surprises. That isn't possible with True Bypass because of the relay switching.

Buffered switching is instant and totally silent.

SELECTING YOUR BYPASS MODE

True Bypass is occasionally useful for some setups or rigs. Most professional players use a buffer though – it's free insurance that your pickup's true tone will be preserved from gig to gig, even if you change or add pedals or longer cables.

VJP ships in Buffered Bypass mode by default, but it's simple to change modes:

- Press & Hold the ACTIVE and MODE switches while powering up VJP
- Release the ACTIVE and MODE switches – you're in Bypass 'Select' mode. (ACTIVE and one of the MODE leds - (A) or (B) - will be flashing)
- (A) = Buffered Bypass; (B) = True Bypass
- Press the MODE button to toggle between (A) or (B)
...you have about 5 seconds before it drops out of Bypass Select mode
- Once all LEDs stop flashing you're back in normal operation
- Your BYPASS Mode is saved permanently until you change it again

LIFESAVER MODE

Life is unpredictable and so are gigs. If VJP ever loses power during a gig -
DON'T WORRY! We built in LIFESAVER Mode.

When powered OFF, VJP always switches to True Bypass mode no matter what
mode is set for live playing.

The guitar signal at the input goes straight through to the output at power off.

No Blue Screen of Silence! Play on.

Watch the companion Deep Dive video to see how to change Bypass Modes