

# Gibson Digital Guitar Owner's Manual

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



Caution, risk of electrical shock.



Caution, refer to manual.

**WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. OBJECTS FILLED WITH LIQUIDS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON THIS APPARATUS.**

- ✓ Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized 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. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- ✓ Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- ✓ Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- ✓ Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as: power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.



## Congratulations on your purchase of a Gibson Digital Guitar.

Gibson has invested more than ten years in the development of the world's first digital guitar, with the goal of enhancing and advancing the instrument, opening up a virtually unlimited range of new sonic opportunities without altering or diminishing in any way the traditional sounds and functions of the electric guitar.

# ABOUT YOUR GIBSON DIGITAL GUITAR

The Gibson digital guitar is a genuine Gibson Les Paul, with all of the features and capabilities of a traditional Les Paul, and with revolutionary digital technology. Here's how it works:

**Hex pickup** captures a separate signal for each individual string and sends it to...

**Onboard digital converter** using Gibson's patented MaGIC™ digital transport technology to send the signal out of the guitar via...

**Cat-5 Ethernet cable**, which is capable of carrying the signal 100 meters with no latency issues or loss of quality (thanks to MaGIC technology). The cable plugs into...

**Breakout Box (BoB)**, which converts the digital information back to analog and outputs it in Sum, Stereo or Hex configuration. In order to minimize noise, all input jacks and output jacks on the BoB are balanced.

## MORE FEATURES

**Classic Mode™** delivers traditional sound from the humbucking pickups only.

**Headphone** with volume control lets the player listen to a monitor mix or any other incoming audio signal.

**Audio Out** adds a microphone or any other audio signal to the digital mix.

## PLUG IN AND PLAY

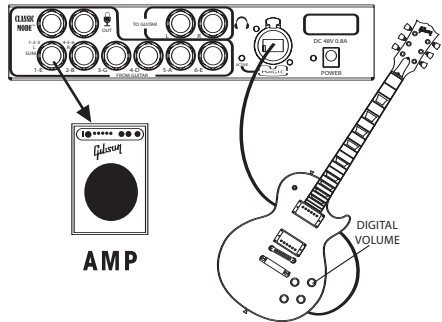
1. Plug in BoB. The Breakout Box comes with a power source. First, connect the power cord to BoB's POWER jack. Then plug the standard three-prong plug into a grounded wall outlet. This is the safest way to power BoB.



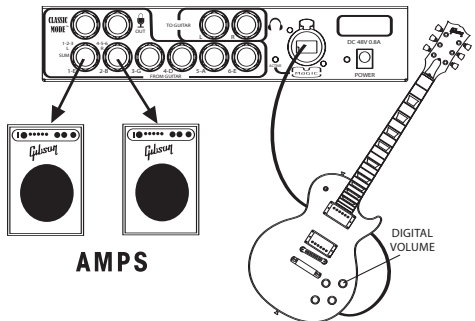
**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOUNT THE BREAKOUT BOX INTO A RACK SHELF.** You may cause damage to the unit. The unit you have received is a Beta unit. While the production model will have rack-mount capability, this unit is not intended to accept a thread for mounting.

2. Connect BoB output(s) to analog audio inputs such as your guitar amplifier(s). Use a standard guitar cord with quarter-inch plugs. There are three ways to connect the outputs:

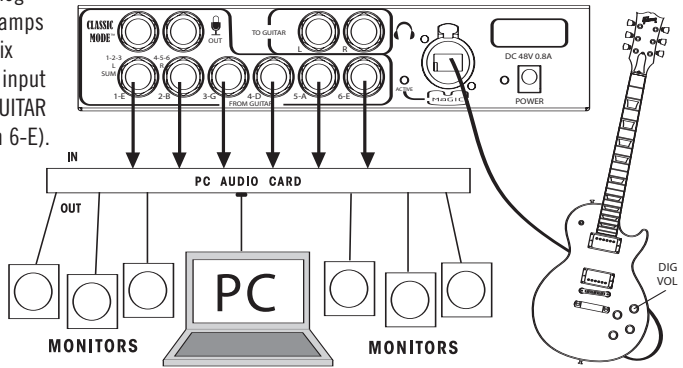
**SUM output** – all six strings together through one amplifier. Plug the cord from the amp into BoB's SUM output jack.



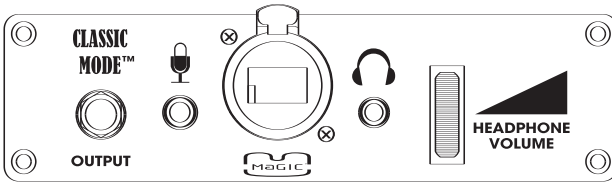
**STEREO output** – 2x3 separation with EAD (lower pitched) strings through one amp and GBE (higher pitched) strings through a second amp. Plug the cord from the amp for the EAD strings into BoB's 2-B FROM GUITAR output jack (also labeled 4-5-6 R). Plug the cord from the amp for the GBE strings into BoB's 1-E FROM GUITAR output jack (also labeled 1-2-3 L).



**HEX output** – each string with its own output. This connection requires six separate analog audio inputs such as six amps or a PC audio card with six inputs. Plug each analog input into one of BoB's FROM GUITAR output jacks (1-E through 6-E).



3. Connect your guitar to BoB. Plug one end of the Cat-5 cable into the guitar's MaGIC jack and the other end into BoB's MaGIC jack. The Neutrik Ethercon locking connectors were designed to maintain a connection, without signal breakup, under typical guitar playing conditions.



**CAUTION: DO NOT PLUG THE CAT-5 CABLE INTO A COMPUTER OR ANY OTHER DEVICE EXCEPT THE BREAKOUT BOX.**

4. Play. In digital mode, only the Master Volume control (the knob closest to the neck) is active.

## PLAYING IN CLASSIC MODE

Classic Mode engages the humbucking pickups only and also activates the traditional Tone and Volume controls for each individual pickup. The Digital Guitar offers two ways to access the Classic Mode output: directly from the guitar or from BoB:

**From jackplate:** The standard quarter-inch guitar jack on the jackplate bypasses all digital electronics and operates as a conventional, completely analog electric guitar. Use a standard guitar cord and plug directly into a processor or amplifier.

**From BoB:** The signal to BoB's Classic Mode jack starts out as analog from the humbucking pickups, gets converted to digital inside the guitar in order to send it through the Cat-5 cable as data packets, and then is converted back to analog inside BoB. Use a standard guitar cord to connect from BoB to a processor or amplifier. Connecting through BoB using the Cat-5 cable allows your guitar signal to be sent over 100 meters without the interference, signal degradation and other tonal drawbacks of a standard guitar cord.

## USING THE HEADPHONE AND AUDIO OUT FEATURES

Because your Digital Guitar uses Gibson's proprietary MaGIC protocol, it can send audio information bi-directionally over your Cat-5 guitar cable.

**HEADPHONE:** To receive an audio signal, such as a stereo monitor mix, plug the incoming signal into the L and R jacks on BoB, labeled TO GUITAR. The signal is transferred to the guitar through the same Cat-5 cable that connects the guitar to BoB. Plug your headphones into the jack on the guitar's jackplate and listen to monitor mixes, recording playback, talkback from the console, etc. The player can adjust the HEADPHONE VOLUME with the rotary control on the jackplate.

**AUDIO OUT:** To add another audio signal, such as a microphone, to the digital signal coming from your guitar, plug into the MIC input on the jackplate of the guitar. This signal is sent to BoB along the Cat-5 on its own channel, separate from the six string signals, and is output from BoB's OUT jack (with microphone symbol).

## USER ADJUSTMENTS



**GIBSON HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU DO NOT ADJUST YOUR HEX PICKUP.** If adjustment is necessary, Gibson recommends taking your guitar to your nearest, authorized repair center.

For a list of authorized Gibson repair centers, please visit us online at [www.gibson.com](http://www.gibson.com) or call 1-800 4GIBSON

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

**Strings:** The Digital Guitar is set up with Gibson Humbucker electric guitar strings, Medium Light gauge. String gauges are: .011, .014, .020Wound, .028W, .038W, .050W. Gibson recommends replacing strings with the same set.

**See your Gibson Guitar Owner's manual for additional information on the care and maintenance of your guitar.**

**Clean the outside of the Breakout Box with a soft cloth and mild detergent. Do not use solvents or other harsh chemicals.**

**There are no user serviceable parts inside the Breakout Box. Do not open the box. Refer service to your nearest Gibson repair center. For a list of authorized Gibson repair centers, please visit us online at [www.gibson.com](http://www.gibson.com) or call 1-800 4GIBSON.**