

# Visual Volume User Instructions

Ver. 05/06

Originally released in 1995, the all new Visual Volume 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition is back by popular demand. Like all useful things, Visual Volume started with a need. If you use a volume pedal for anything more than simple fades and approximate levels, you know that being able to come back to a specific volume level with some accuracy is really very useful. It can be quite difficult to get to just the right level, then come back to that level by ear later in a stage environment.

Visual Volume gives you some help with that. You know how your amp's knobs have numbered position indicators from 0 to 10 (or 11 ...)? Those numbers give you a visual indication of where the knob is set and so, by remembering the number, you can get back to a setting you had before.

PLEASE NOTE: Visual Volume will use up a 9V alkaline battery very quickly. We strongly recommend using a high quality regulated 9VDC adapter like the 1 SPOT. (Boss PSA, Dunlop ECB-03, Ibanez AC-109, Morley 9V also acceptable.)

Visual Volume - Viewed from normal playing position.

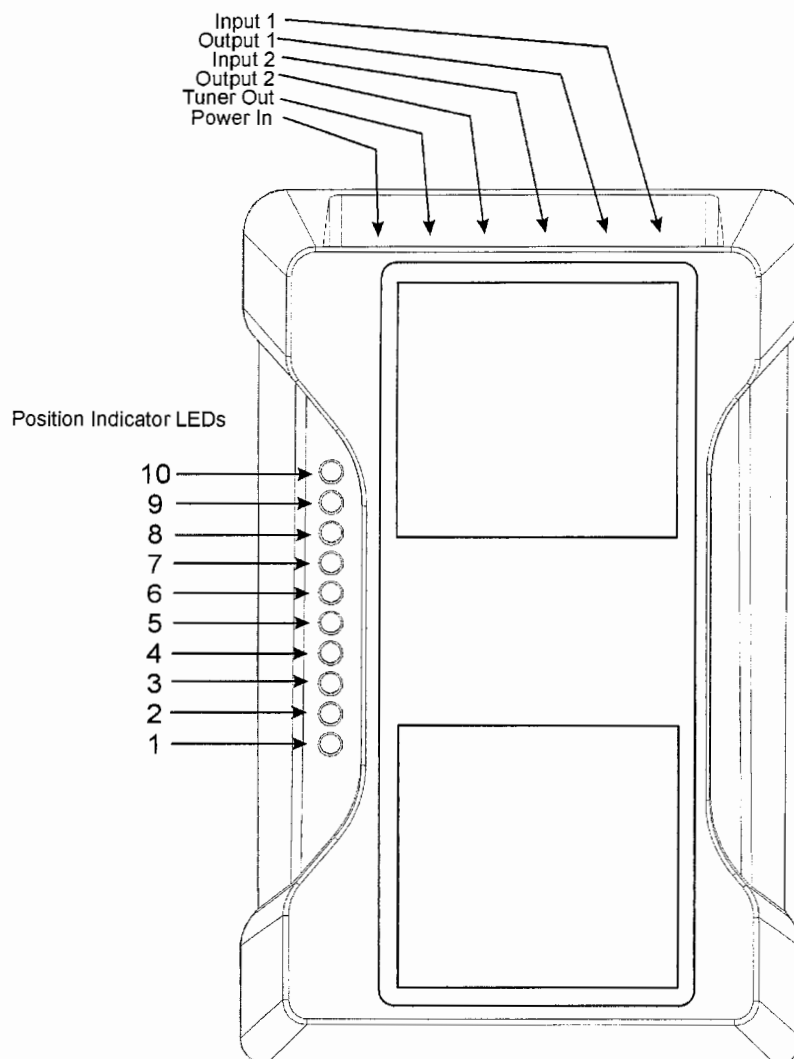


Figure 1. Top View

With Visual Volume, the rocker position is indicated by a column of ten LED's as shown in Figure 1. With the rocker fully back (toe up, heel down) all of the lights are off. As you rock your foot forward, the indicators light up one by one with the rocker position until all ten are lit. The volume is off with all indicators off, and maximum when all indicators are on.

To make this easy to see at a glance, LEDs 1 through 4 are blue, 5 is red, 6 through 9 are blue again, and LED 10 is red.

For simple volume pedal use, you plug your guitar into Input 1, and the rest of your setup into Output 1, and rock the pedal for volume changes. **However, if you use a distortion pedal and don't want to change the drive level of the distortion, make sure to put Visual Volume after the distortion pedal.** Putting a volume pedal before distortion causes it to act like the volume knob of your guitar, changing the amount of distortion as you reduce the volume level.

***Sample uses for the Visual Volume:***

**Use it for a guitar mute:** Between songs, rock it all the way back and your guitar is muted. Or switch guitars while it's rocked back. No hum, buzz and clicks get through.

**Back for rhythm, up for lead:** Set it to 5 for rhythm chords, and rock it forward for leads. You can get back to your rhythm level by rolling back to 5.

**Boost:** Set to active mode with some additional gain. You can rock it back to unity gain, having clean boost available at a touch.

**Buffer:** The active mode of Visual Volume has the Pure Tone buffer circuit in it. Even when set at unity gain, the buffer makes it sound like you are plugged directly into your amp even when you have other pedals and long cables after it.

**Bowed notes:** You have to be good with your feet, but once you get the hang of it, you can rock back to zero at the end of a note and rock forward as you pick the note for a soft fade-up per note.

**Gradual fade in or out:** The indicators help you keep control of how much you fade and help you keep a consistent fading rate.

**Gain Control:** Put Visual Volume before distortion in your chain of effects and use it to control the drive level; this is just like using the volume knob of your guitar except you get to keep playing while you adjust the distortion level.

**Expression Pedal:** Use a standard audio insert cable. Plug the two mono plugs into Input 1 and Output 1. Take the stereo plug at the other end and plug it into the controller jack of whatever you want to control (keyboard, multi-effects, etc.). If this doesn't work, simply swap the two mono plugs and it will work.

**Easy Pot Replacement:** Over the years, guitar players have used their volume pedals enough to simply wear out the control pots. This leads to crackling, hiss, dropouts and similar problems. We wanted the Visual Volume pedal to be easy to service, so we made the control pot easy to remove and replace. Replacement pot kits to restore this to like-new performance are available from Visual Sound. Many owners will be able to replace their own pot assemblies without taking it to a service technician.

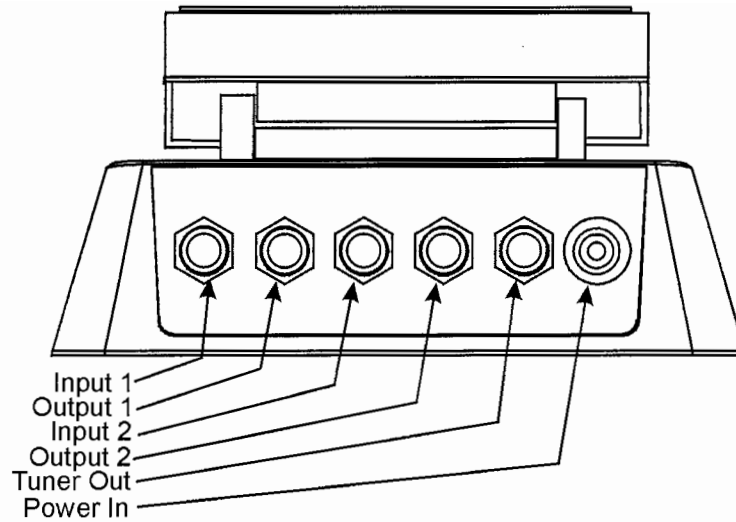


Figure 2. Input/Output Panel

**Mono Volume Control:** There are five jacks on the In/Out panel. Input 1 is the main input, and controls the volume at Output 1. This is the simplest way to use it.

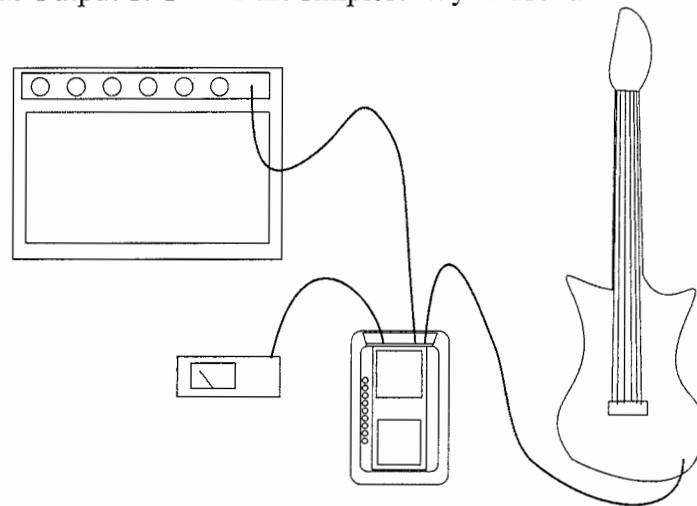


Figure 3. Mono volume control

**Tuner Out:** The fifth jack is a tuner output, and it's directly connected to Input 1, so you can rock the rocker fully back to get no output from the output jacks. The tuner output still has the input from Input 1, so the tuner operates while no signal goes to your amps.

**Splitter:** If you do not plug into Input 2, the signal from Input 1 comes out on both Output 1 and Output 2 as well. If you use active mode, the buffered signal comes out both Output 1 and Output 2 and can be sent to two different loops or amps. (See Figure 4)

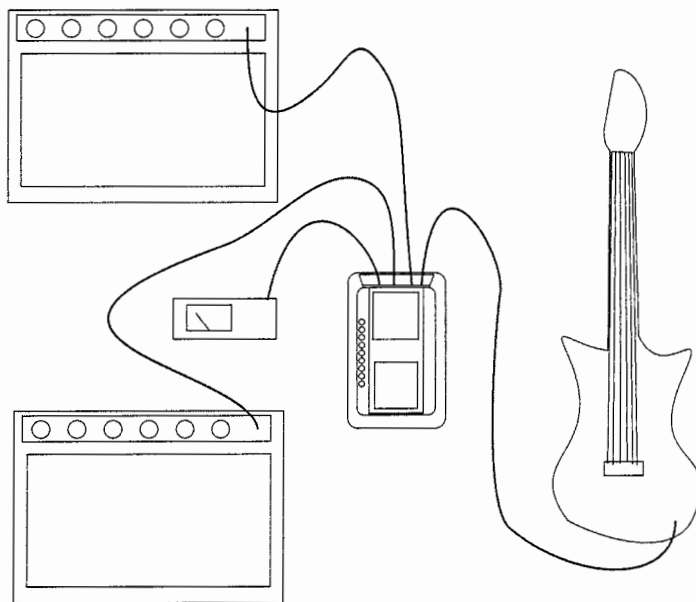


Figure 4. Splitter/volume control

**Stereo Volume Control:** If you plug a signal into Input 1 and Input 2, then the signal from Input 1 comes out on Output 1 and the signal from Input 2 comes out on Output 2. Both Output 1 and Output 2 have their level controlled by the rocker in unison – it's a stereo volume pedal now. So you can plug your guitar into, for instance, a stereo chorus, then run the stereo chorus output into the two inputs, and out to two amps. (See Figure 5)

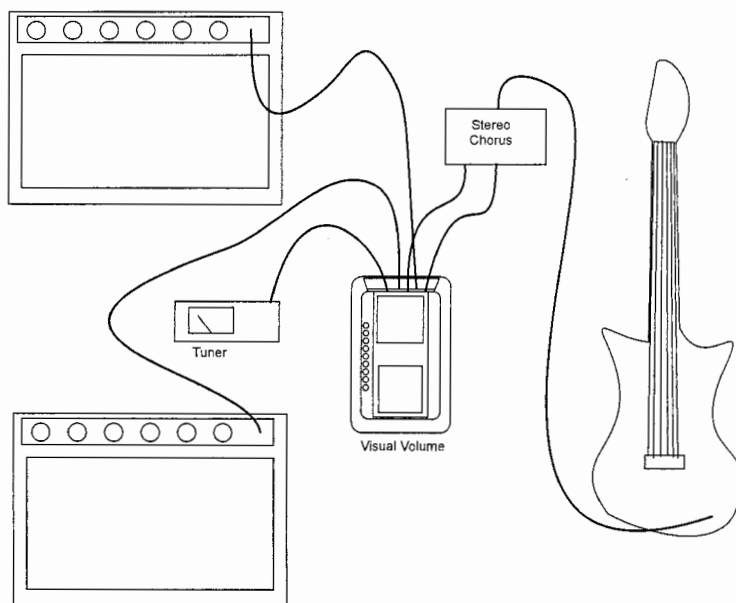


Figure 5. Stereo volume control

Another use for this is to have two guitars plugged into Visual Volume, so you can switch guitars without unplugging.

The remaining features are controlled from inside the unit. You can remove the bottom plate by removing the four screws that secure it to the main housing. Looking inside, you should see the following as in Figure 6. Note that the cable from the jacks and power connector has been left out of the drawing so you can see the other bits more clearly.

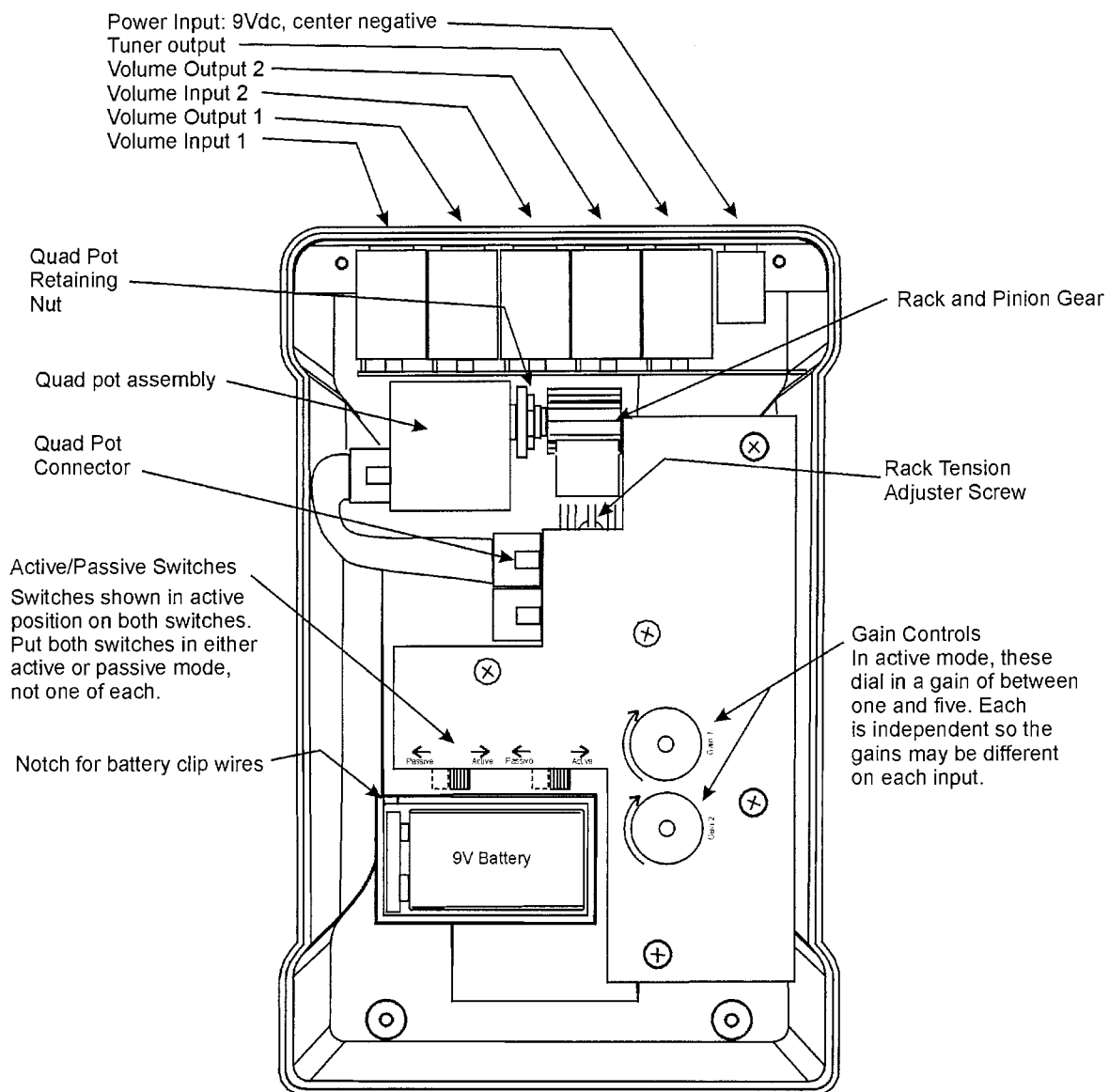


Figure 6. Bottom view, cover plate removed

**Selectable Active/Passive Volume Control:** Removing the bottom cover allows access to the inside of the pedal for battery replacement and for setting up the operation of the pedal. You can select either passive volume control or active volume control by setting the active/passive switches. To set the switches, use the point of a pen or pencil to move the switch lever to either active or passive. The active/passive directions are printed on the PCB to act as a guide.

**Variable Gain in Active Mode:** You can set the gain in active mode in the range between unity (no added gain) to approximately five times unity gain for a clean boost. With the knob rotated fully counter clockwise, the gain is unity; fully clockwise the gain is maximum.

**Battery Replacement:** Visual Volume uses a standard 9V / PP3 style battery. To replace the battery, remove the four screws holding the bottom cover on and remove the battery from the battery compartment. Replace it with a fresh battery, and put it back in the compartment. Be sure to place the wires from the battery clip in the small notch on the battery compartment so they do not get pinched between the battery compartment and the bottom of the pedal while the pedal is being used. Better yet, get a 1 SPOT to power all your pedals and don't worry about buying batteries ever again!

If you need to contact us, please access our web site at  
<http://www.visualsound.net>

Or contact us through the older means of mail or phone:

Visual Sound LLC  
4922 Port Royal Road, B-11  
Spring Hill, TN 37174  
USA

Ph: 931-487-9001  
Fax: 931-487-9922