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# Blackstar<sup>®</sup>

AMPLIFICATION



**FLY**  
**HIGH GAIN**  
3 WATT MINI AMP

**Owner's Manual**

**the sound in your head**

**Blackstar Amplification Ltd**, Beckett House, 14 Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5AW, UK  
For the latest information go to: [www.blackstaramps.com](http://www.blackstaramps.com)

Whilst the information contained herein is correct at the time of publication, due to our policy of constant improvement and development, Blackstar Amplification Ltd reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.

Designed and Engineered by  
Blackstar Amplification UK 

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
10. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
11. 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, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

**“TO COMPLETELY DISCONNECT THIS APPARATUS FROM THE AC MAINS, DISCONNECT THE POWER SUPPLY CORD PLUG FROM THE AC RECEPTACLE”.**

**“WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. THE APPARATUS SHALL NOT BE EXPOSED TO DRIPPING OR SPLASHING AND THAT OBJECTS FILLED WITH LIQUIDS, SUCH AS VASES, SHALL NOT BE PLACED ON APPARATUS”.**  
**This apparatus is for professional use only!**

## Warning!

### Important safety information!

#### **READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. SAVE ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!**

#### **Follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product!**

Do not open the equipment case. There are no user serviceable parts in this equipment. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

Clean only with a dry cloth.

Condensation can form on the inside of an amplifier if it is moved from a cold environment to a warmer location. Before switching the unit on, it is recommended that the unit be allowed to reach room temperature.

Unauthorised modification of this equipment is expressly forbidden by Blackstar Amplification Ltd.

Never push objects of any kind into ventilation slots on the equipment casing.

Do not expose this apparatus to rain, liquids or moisture of any type.

Do not place this product on an unstable trolley, stand or table. The product may fall, causing serious damage to the product or to persons!

This product should not be placed near a source of heat such as a stove, radiator, or another heat producing amplifier.

Use only the supplied power cord which is compatible with the mains voltage supply in your area.

Power supply cords should always be handled carefully and should be replaced if damaged in any way.

Never break off the earth (ground) pin on the power supply cord.

The PSU-1 power supply cord should be unplugged when the unit is to be unused for long periods of time.

An apparatus with Class 1 construction should be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.

The mains plug of the power supply cord should remain readily accessible.

A warning that batteries (battery pack or batteries installed) shall not be exposed to excessive heat such as sunshine, fire or the like.

Attention should be drawn to the environmental aspects of battery disposal.

Only use the approved Blackstar PSU-1 AC/DC power supply.

High headphone levels can cause permanent hearing damage. You should therefore avoid the direct vicinity of loudspeakers operating at high levels. Wear hearing protection if continuously exposed to high levels.

If the product does not operate normally when the operating instructions are followed, then refer the product to a qualified service engineer.

The U.S. Government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has specified the following permissible noise level exposures:

| Duration Per Day In Hours | Sound Level dBA, Slow Response |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8                         | 90                             |
| 6                         | 92                             |
| 4                         | 95                             |
| 3                         | 97                             |
| 2                         | 100                            |
| 1½                        | 102                            |
| 1                         | 105                            |
| ½                         | 110                            |
| ¼ or less                 | 115                            |

According to OSHA, any exposure in excess of the above permissible limits could result in some hearing loss.



All electrical and electronic products should be disposed of separately from the municipal waste stream via designated collection facilities appointed by the government or the local authorities.



## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this Blackstar FLY Series amplifier.

The FLY 3 HIGH GAIN is an innovative mini amp which packs all the great tones of the original Blackstar FLY 3, plus an additional all-new high-gain Nitro Channel into one compact, portable amplifier. The FLY 3 HIGH GAIN also includes the Blackstar-exclusive ISF circuit, which gives you infinite possibilities for changing the tone of your amp. You can plug in your phone, MP3 player, laptop or tablet into the AUX IN and jam along to your favourite songs.

The FLY 3 HIGH GAIN can be used in combination with the FLY 103 mini cabinet (not-included), to create a stereo sound for your guitar playing and music; a perfect combination for creating a big sound and great tone whilst jamming, it also gives greater power output when used with other devices via the AUX IN socket.

Like all Blackstar products, the FLY HIGH GAIN is the result of countless hours of painstaking research and development by our world-class design team; based in Northampton (UK), the Blackstar team are all experienced musicians themselves, and the sole aim of the development process when creating our products is to provide guitarists with ultimate tools for self-expression.

All Blackstar products are subjected to extensive laboratory and road testing to ensure that they are truly uncompromising in terms of quality, reliability and above all – TONE!

If you like what you hear and want to find out more about the Blackstar range of products, please visit our website at [www.blackstaramps.com](http://www.blackstaramps.com).

Thanks!

The Blackstar Team

## Features

The FLY 3 HIGH GAIN is a compact mini amp with big TONE. Combining three channels, our patented Infinite Shape Feature (ISF) and a tape delay, it's the perfect take-anywhere amp.

The Clean and OD Channels remain from the original FLY 3, with an added powerful third Nitro Channel to deliver aggressive high-gain tones with a built-in noise gate to keep everything tight and controlled.

The patented ISF circuit gives you unlimited adjustment over the characteristics of your tone and takes you from the USA to the UK and anywhere in-between.

The AUX IN allows you to connect to a music device and jam along to your favourite music.

All the FLY 3 Mini Amps make a great speaker for your phone, tablet or PC / laptop.

A fully specified speaker emulated output allows you to get great tone to tape or disk, or through headphones.

Capable of being powered by batteries, you can take your FLY 3 HIGH GAIN with you wherever you go and always get 'the sound in your head'!

## Front Panel

### 1. Input

Plug your guitar in here. Always use a good quality screened guitar lead.

### 2. Gain

This control adjusts the amount of overdrive or distortion.

When the Clean Channel is selected, low settings counter clockwise (CCW), will deliver a clean sound. As the Gain control is increased clockwise (CW) the sound will move from clean into break-up, until at its maximum position, a full crunch tone is arrived at.

When the Overdrive Channel is selected, the Gain control adjusts the amount of overdrive or distortion. Low settings, counter clockwise, will deliver a clean sound on the edge of break-up. As the Gain control is increased CW the sound will become more overdriven moving through crunch tones until, at its maximum position, a full distorted lead tone is arrived at.

When the Nitro Channel is selected, the tone will generally be overdriven at all settings, however, the Gain control will still vary how extreme this gets.

### 3. OD (Overdrive)

Press this switch in to select the Overdrive channels. When this switch is out the Clean Channel is in operation. This switch must be pressed in to enable selection of the Nitro Channel.

### 4. Nitro

With the OD switch pressed in, press this switch to select the high-gain Nitro Channel. With the NITRO switch out, the original OD Channel is in operation.

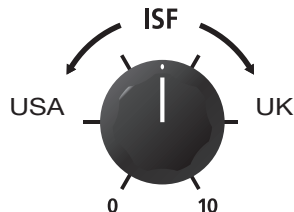
The Nitro Channel has significantly increased available gain (16dB) into an additional overdrive clipping stage, also tightening the low-end before the clipping. Then a carefully tuned post-clipping EQ shaping circuit sculpts the resultant harmonically rich tone, before passing through a pre-set noise gate circuit, keeping things under control without interfering in any inspired shredding.

### 5. Volume

This controls the volume of the Clean, Overdrive and Nitro Channels. Turning it clockwise increases the volume.

### 6. ISF (Infinite Shape Feature)

The patented ISF control allows you to choose the exact tonal signature you prefer. Fully CCW has a more American characteristic with a tight bottom end and more aggressive middle, and fully CW has a British characteristic which is more 'woody' and less aggressive.



### 7. Delay Level

Rotate the small DELAY LEVEL knob to adjust the amount of the Delay effect that is mixed in with the dry signal – the higher the DELAY LEVEL setting, the more of the delay effect will be heard.

### 8. Delay Time

Rotate this knob to adjust the length of time between the DELAY effect repeats – turn the control clockwise to increase the delay time, and counter-clockwise to decrease the delay time.

### 9. Aux In

Connect the output of your audio source here. Adjust the player's volume to match that of your guitar to enable you to play along.

**Note:** The connection is stereo.

### 10. Speaker Emulated Output & Headphones

This output emulates the tonal characteristics of a guitar speaker cabinet and provides a natural valve overdrive tone for connection to a recording device or mixing desk, and for use with headphones. To make full use of the stereo reverb, use a stereo jack to two mono jacks splitter lead to feed two channels of the recording device or mixer (see diagram below). The output will also function into a mono guitar type lead. Always use a good quality screened lead.

**Note:** When a lead is connected here the combo's internal speaker is disconnected.

### 11. Power

This switch is used to turn the FLY 3 HIGH GAIN on and off. When using batteries, the Power Indicator will dim as the power in the batteries runs out.

### 12. Power Indicator Light

The power indicator will illuminate when the amplifier is switched on.

## Rear Panel

### 1. DC Input (PSU-1)

Connect external Power supply here

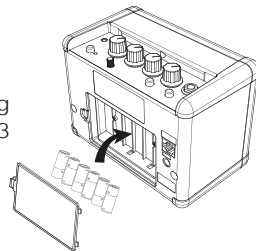
**ONLY USE A BLACKSTAR APPROVED POWER SUPPLY (PSU-1)**

6.5V 1.5A min.

### 2. Battery Compartment

Insert batteries here for portable use. We recommend using rechargeable (NiMH) or Alkaline batteries in your FLY 3 HIGH GAIN to get the most out of using it on the go.

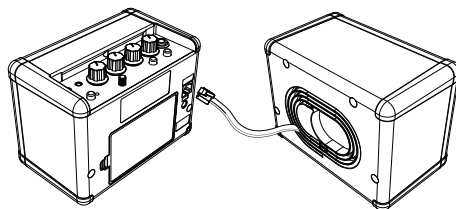
6 x AA batteries.



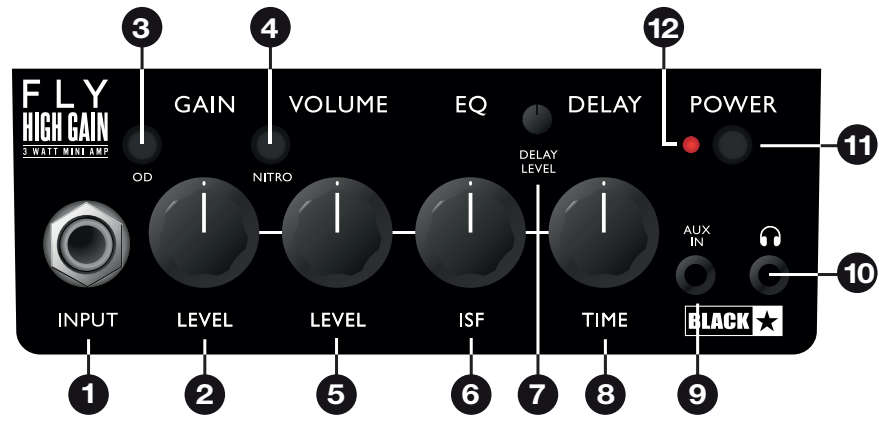
### 3. Extension Cabinet (FLY103)

Connect your FLY 3 HIGH GAIN to a FLY 103 using the FLY 103's built-in cable to create a 6W stereo set-up.

(Extension cabinet sold separately)



FLY HIGH GAIN Front Panel



FLY HIGH GAIN Rear Panel

