

# NICOMPRESSOR

The NICOMPRESSOR was inspired by the Loco Box 'The Choker' Compressor of the 70s

It achieves exceptional compression dynamics while keeping higher-frequencies intact, making your guitar sound incredibly full and fat, without compromising your tone.

In seeking to honor, improve, and expand this concept, we developed a broader range of functionality and finely-tuned controls.



The NICOMPRESSOR (pronounced "Nigh Compressor") was the final effect pedal designed by Catalinbread's founder, Nicholas J. P. Harris. Nic finished his design in early 2016, shortly before his life was tragically cut short on a road trip to the Oregon coast. Taking Nic's breadboarded prototype of the effect to a finished product was a labor of love. Developing this effect pedal the way Nic originally intended was our highest priority and goal. We dedicated many hours to this design, revising our prototype while still keeping the effect true to Nic's original design, concept and inspiration.

To understand what the NICOMPRESSOR is doing with your guitar signal, it helps to know a little bit about how compression works. When your instrument's signal is quiet, the compressor kicks on and adds a little bit of gain. When your instrument's signal is loud the compressor attenuates the signal so that the dynamics of your playing becomes more uniform. In this case, soft notes ring as loud as hard-picked notes, and loud notes are made to be a little quieter. The compressor squishes the envelope of your instrument's signal so that all notes are roughly set to the same volume, which is really helpful for playing lead runs or switching back and forth from rhythm to lead. In short, compression helps to keep the volume of all notes played roughly at the same level.

Not only can compression make the overall dynamics of your playing more uniform, but it can also add sustain. For example if you pick a note or strum a chord, the NICOMPRESSOR will boost the volume as the guitar signal naturally fades out, preventing the sound from fading out quickly and allowing for longer sustained notes.

Compression can be a subtle effect, because it primarily affects the volume of your guitar signal. As a result, compression will be more noticeable to the person playing guitar as it affects the attack and sustain of the notes played, and will be less noticeable to others listening. In other words, compression will have more of a noticeable effect on the way playing the instrument feels rather than how it audibly changes the sound of the instrument.

The NICOMPRESSOR is an "always on" style compression, so find your sweet spot, leave it and ROCK!

**catalinbread**  
MECHANISMS OF MUSIC

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## CONTROLS OVERVIEW

### GAIN

The Gain allows you to experiment by adding some grit or grain to your sound.

### BASS & TREBLE

Expanding on the concept of uncompromising tone, these knobs boost desired frequencies, bringing them to the surface.

The Treble brightens your tone, making it sparkle, even when compressed.

The Bass enhances the lower-frequencies and increases sustain when turned up.



### COMPRESSION

Staying true to its inspiration, this single knob design allows you to find the sweet spot and make adjustments simply and effectively.

### VOLUME

When turned up, the compressor sends out a hot signal, boosting from within.

When turned down, the next effects in the chain boost the compression.

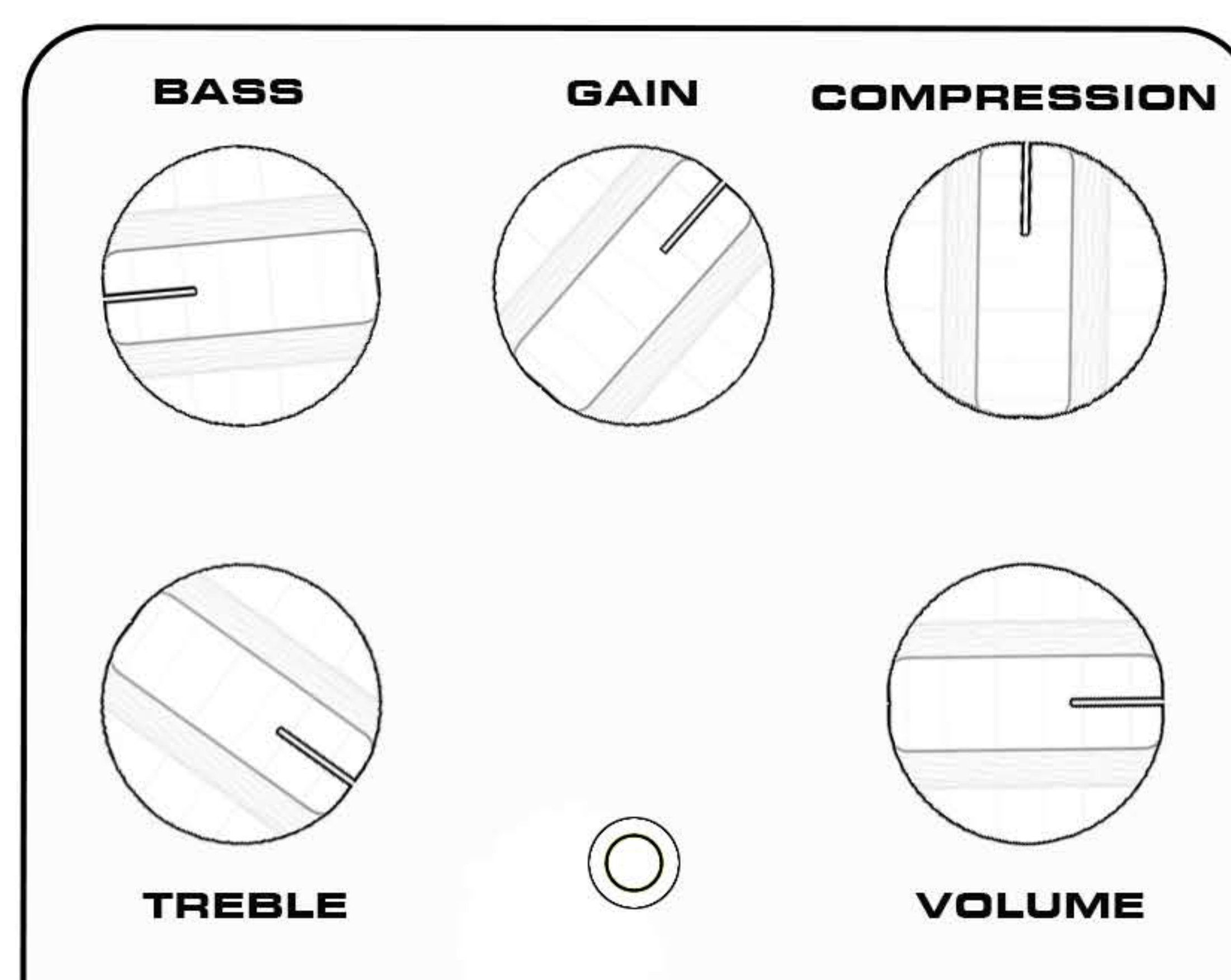
## COMPRESSOR STARTER SETTINGS

When it comes to the art of compression, the truth is, there is no right or wrong. It is up to you, the player, to dial in the desired tone.

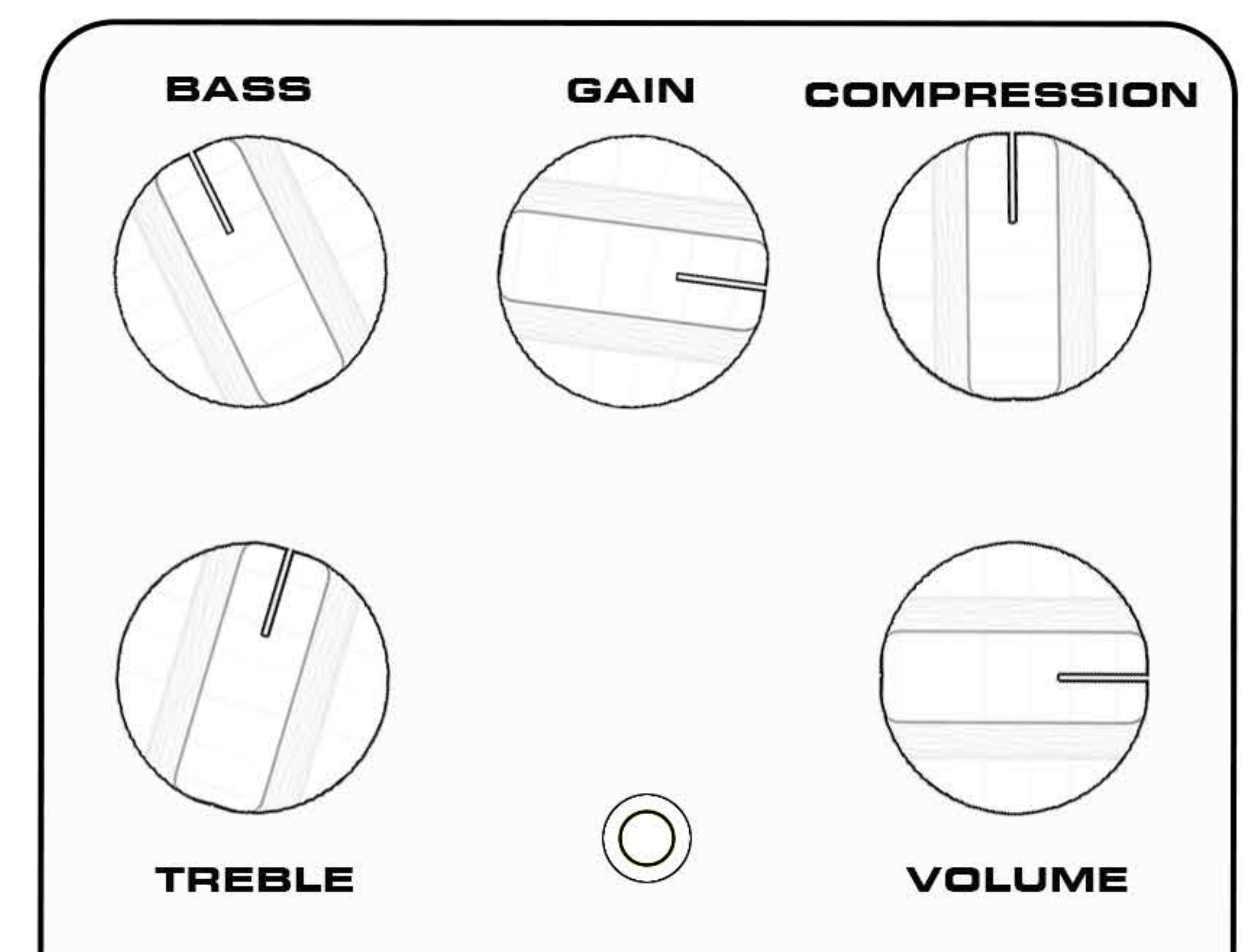
We urge you to experiment and test this out with different style pickups, bass guitar and even synths.

We've included a few settings to get you started.

### TREBLE BOOST



### LOW PUSH



### POWER YOUR COMPRESSOR

The NICOMPRESSOR was designed to be used with a 9V DC Power Supply with Center-Negative polarity.



THE POWER SUPPLY YOU ARE USING SHOULD HAVE THIS LOGO PRINTED ON IT.

### TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

Hand-built using all premium analog components, through-hole construction, FET based (MPF4393), transistors and op-amp based circuit.

Input Impedance: 400 k $\Omega$  · Output Impedance: 3.5 k $\Omega$

Noise Floor: -67.9 dB · Total Harmonic Distortion: < 0.2% @ -20 dBV, 1 kHz

Attack Time: 4.8 mS · Release Time: 350 mS · Current Draw: 11 mA



**DO NOT USE** a center-positive power supply, it will damage your NICOMPRESSOR, please use a power supply with the correct polarity.