

# NEUTRON



## **Neutron Core NC-RKMAN-NDX NDX Profile Pack for NAM & Convology XT**

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### **User Guide**

# Introduction

## Neutron core amp pack for Neural Amp Modeler

These profiles have been designed for use alongside other Neutron Core components, and recorded to deliver realistic results in modular signal chains.

Each amp was captured across a range of settings to allow faithful recreation of the sound and behaviour of the original hardware. The profiles in this pack are full quality NAM A1 Standard architecture compatible and should work in all plugins and devices that will load that format.

### What you will need:

The Neural Amp Modeler plugin or standalone app, or a compatible device or plugin capable of loading standard architecture NAM A1 full quality files. The official NAM plugin for PC and MAC can be obtained for free at the following link: <https://www.neuralampmodeler.com/>

The Convology XT plugin is free, and available here:

<https://wavearts.com/products/plugins/convology>

To get your free lifetime serial key for CXT, read the FAQ here:

<https://wavearts.com/support/faq#how-do-i-get-a-convology-xt-serial>

## About

Neutron Core is a groundbreaking ecosystem designed to provide guitarists and producers with unparalleled tonal flexibility. Consisting of separate packs of guitar amps, pedals, and effects, Neutron Core products can be used individually or combined with each other and our Quantum Speaker and PowerPack profiles to create a fully integrated mix-and-match environment. This comprehensive system is built on our core philosophy of blending cutting-edge technology with decades of real-world music industry expertise.

Our profiles and presets leverage the best tools available, including NAM (Neural Amp Modeler) for amp modeling and Convology XT for high-quality convolution effects. Each pack is meticulously crafted to deliver hyper-realistic results, capturing the authentic character of the original gear.

Importantly, we avoid applying pre-EQ to our profiles, allowing users to tailor the sounds to their specific musical projects without destructive EQ baked in. This approach preserves the richness of harmonic and frequency content, ensuring that users can shape their tones by cutting away excess frequencies rather than resorting to extreme EQ boosts, which can degrade phase integrity and fidelity. We add simple HP/LP filters only to our AIO (full rig) profiles to help get you closer to a finished sound, leaving all the other profile types (DI, Preamp, Quantum Speaker) completely untouched for maximum versatility.

This manual specifically focuses on the Neutron Core SR&D Rockman v1 Profile Pack, a tribute to one of the most iconic devices in guitar history.

## The Scholz R&D Rockman v1: The Sound of the 80s

The **Scholz Research & Development Rockman**, created by Tom Scholz, the founder of the band Boston, is one of the most iconic pieces of guitar gear in music history. Introduced in the early 1980s, the Rockman revolutionized the way guitarists approached tone and recording. Compact and versatile, this headphone amp and effects processor became famous for its signature “Rockman clean” sound and built-in effects like chorus and echo, delivering a studio-quality tone in a portable format.

The Rockman was a groundbreaking device for its time, allowing guitarists to plug directly into a mixing console or use headphones for silent practice while maintaining a polished, professional sound. It was particularly favoured for its pristine clean tones and shimmering stereo effects, which defined many records during the 1980s. The Rockman’s compact design and sonic versatility made it a go-to tool for studio recording, live performances, and even home practice setups. It remains a sought-after piece of vintage gear for guitarists and producers aiming to capture the signature tones of the 80s and early 90s.

### Rockman Version 1

The sounds featured in this pack are made with the **rare Version 1 Rockman unit**, the original model used by many of the most iconic artists of the 1980s. This version is prized for its unique tonal characteristics and warmth, which differ from the later revisions (like the x100) which do not sound like the iconic recordings made with the original. Its distinct sound was pivotal in shaping the tones heard on legendary albums and remains one of the most sought-after devices by collectors due to the unique, highly recognisable sound that is featured on many iconic recordings from the 80s.

### Notable Users of the Rockman

1. **Tom Scholz:** The Rockman’s creator used it extensively to shape the iconic guitar tones of Boston, as heard on hits like “More Than a Feeling” and “Amanda.”
2. **Def Leppard:** The shimmering clean and chorused tones of the Rockman played a critical role in their multi-platinum albums, including *Hysteria*, where the Rockman was famously used on almost every single guitar track.
3. **ZZ Top:** Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top also famously used the Rockman to record the *Afterburner* album, giving them a unique sound for the MTV era.
4. **Steve Stevens:** Steve used the Rockman to great effect for shimmering clean tones on the *Rebel Yell* album, with tracks like *Flesh for Fantasy* featuring it heavily.
5. **Joe Satriani:** Known for his innovative playing and pristine tone, Satriani used the Rockman to achieve clean and chorus-laden tones during the 80s.
6. **Journey:** Neal Schon of Journey utilized the Rockman for both live and studio applications, contributing to the lush textures heard in their ballads.
7. **Elliott Easton (The Cars):** Easton leveraged the Rockman’s unique tones to enhance his band’s signature sound, blending clean choruses and punchy leads.

## Legacy of the Rockman

The Scholz R&D Rockman v1 left an indelible mark on the music industry, shaping the sound of countless hit records during the 1980s. Its innovative approach to tone and effects processing set a new standard for portable guitar gear. Today, the Rockman is celebrated as a vintage classic, cherished for its unmistakable sound and its influence on modern guitar effects processors. Although there have been reissues and newer versions of the Rockman over the years, none of them truly capture the original sound of the v1 units. This pack will give you access to the real sound you remember from the 80s!

## What's Included

Inside the pack you will find:

### 16 NDX Profiles for NAM (Neural Amp Modeler):

There are both the original (direct) sounds included for the CLN1, CLN2, EDGE and DIST settings, along with an additional 3 sounds for each created using a full analog recording studio to reproduce the techniques and sounds you will remember from the iconic recordings of the 80s that the Rockman v1 was featured on. Equipment such as analog tape machines, outboard compressors and EQ and all the same techniques used back in the 80s have been applied for a truly authentic sound and feel.

### 13 FX presets for Convology XT

There are both single and multi FX presets included for Convology XT, captured using advanced convolution. These including both the original effects found in the Rockman and complex, authentic, 80s studio FX chains to give you the complete experience.

### 6 HPF/LPF Filter IRS, 3 with and 3 without a pultec EQ to further shape your sound

## Core Pack file Structure:

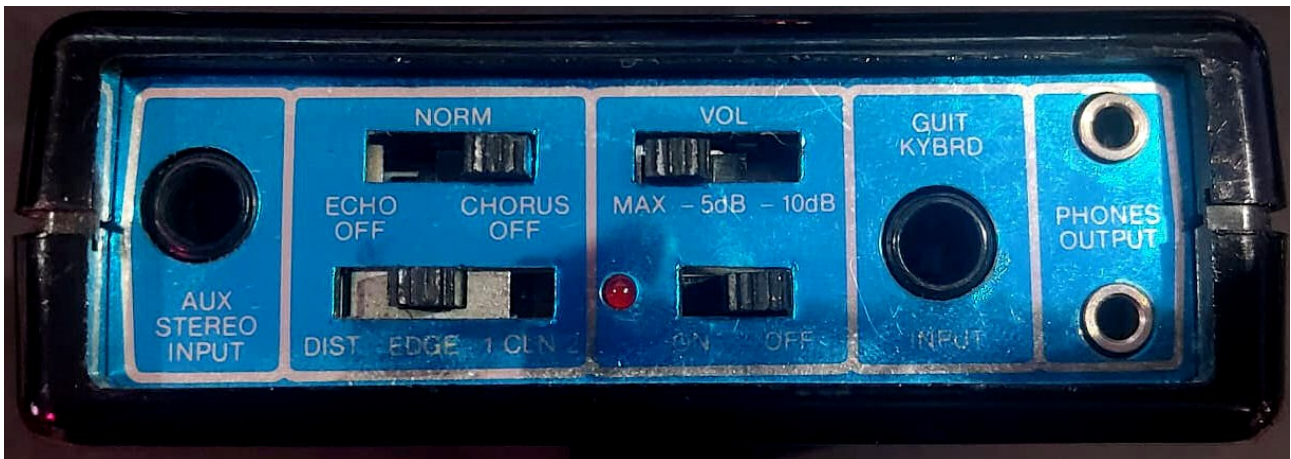
The pack is organised into a clear folder structure to help you navigate the included content:

- **Main Pack Folder:**
- **Profiles:** Contains all the NAM profiles.
- **Filters (Load\_into\_IR\_Slot):** Includes three standard SSL LPF/HPF filter IRs, provided with all Neutron Core packs, Plus 3 Enhanced filters using a Pultec EQ, tweaked for heavier sounds to add sub-sonic weight and a super high-end sheen. You can load these into the NAM IR slot right on the same instance as the profile, you will need to turn up the output knob to compensate for the loss of level you get when loading an IR (typically +8 - +10 on the knob after loading the IR).

- **FX (For Convology XT):** Contains Convology XT presets for this pack in two formats:
  - .SFX EXE (for PC)
  - .ZIP (for macOS).

## Pack Design Principles

The Neutron Core RKMAN Pack is designed to be simple to use, much like the original device:



**Switch position:** Profiles are separated by the position of the sound selector switch on the Rockman control panel, the available options are:

**CLN1:** A compressed clean sound with the built-in speaker emulation circuit engaged. This gives the sound a more mid-focused quality that really cuts through a mix.

**CLN2:** A compressed clean sound with the built in speaker emulation disengaged. This sound has a more natural tone, with less of a mid focus.

**EDGE:** A crunchy overdriven tone with less mid pre-emphasis. Great for parts with articulation where more gain would obscure note detail

**DIST:** Maximum drive for a full “amp in a box” sound. Complex filtering both before and after the drive, along with speaker emulation make for one of the most iconic guitar sounds in the history of recorded music.

The profile naming structure is designed to make the sound you want easy to find:

for example: **NC-RKMAN-NDX-CLN2-01-DIRECT**

“**NC-RKMAN-NDX**” Is the pack name, “**CLN2**” is the switch position, **01** is to help sort the sounds, and “**DIRECT**” shows that this is a totally untreated, direct profile of the unit with no studio processing applied.

This structure ensures players can easily find the profiles that suit their specific needs.

**Profile List:**

<b>CLN1 Sounds</b>		
<b>ID</b>	<b>Switch</b>	<b>Sound Description</b>
CLN1-01-DIRECT	CLN1	The direct, untouched sound of the CLN1 setting
CLN1-02-STUDIO	CLN1	A Studio treated version of the CLN1 setting, recorded to analog tape with subtle limiting from an LA-2A compressor and additional shaping with a Pultec EQ
CLN1-02-RUN2U	CLN1	Super mid-focused clean with full studio treatment, inspired by the Brian Adams hit "Run to You"
CLN1-04-NOCOMP	CLN1	A special version of the direct CLN1 setting with the compression removed. This is useful for loading onto devices that cannot support native NAM profiles. By adding a compressor to them you can get a useful approximation of the Rockman clean sound where it would otherwise be impossible
<b>CLN2 Sounds</b>		
<b>ID</b>	<b>Switch</b>	<b>Sound Description</b>
CLN2-01-DIRECT	CLN2	The direct, untouched sound of the CLN2 setting
CLN2-02-STUDIO	CLN2	A Studio treated version of the CLN2 setting, recorded to analog tape with subtle limiting from an LA-2A compressor and additional shaping with a Pultec EQ
CLN2-03-FLESH	CLN2	A hyper-compressed natural clean with full studio treatment in the style of the Billy Idol hit "Flesh for Fantasy"
CLN2-04-NOCOMP	CLN2	A special version of the direct CLN2 setting with the compression removed. This is useful for loading onto devices that cannot support native NAM profiles. By adding a compressor to them you can get a useful approximation of the Rockman clean sound where it would otherwise be impossible
<b>EDGE Sounds</b>		
<b>ID</b>	<b>Switch</b>	<b>Sound Description</b>
EDGE-01-DIRECT	EDGE	The direct, untouched sound of the EDGE setting
EDGE-02-STUDIO	EDGE	A Studio treated version of the EDGE setting, recorded to analog tape with subtle limiting from an LA-2A compressor and additional shaping with a Pultec EQ
EDGE-03-RAW	EDGE	Studio treated EDGE sound with no low pass filter applied, allowing you to choose your own filter character
EDGE-04-DEF-LIGHT	EDGE	A fully studio treated EDGE sound in the style of Def Leppard's classic "Hysteria" album, great for lighter driven parts and melodic hooks
<b>DIST Sounds</b>		
<b>ID</b>	<b>Switch</b>	<b>Sound Description</b>
DIST-01-DIRECT	DIST	The direct, untouched sound of the DIST setting
DIST-02-STUDIO	DIST	A Studio treated version of the DIST setting, recorded to analog tape with subtle limiting from an LA-2A compressor and additional shaping with a Pultec EQ
DIST-03-AFTERBURNER	DIST	A fully studio treated DIST sound in the style of ZZTOP's classic "Afterburner" album, great for singing, sustained leads like the hit single "Rough Boy"
DIST-04-DEF-HEAVY	DIST	A fully studio treated DIST sound in the style of Def Leppard's classic "Hysteria" album, great for full power chords and heavier riffs

## FX Presets for Convology XT

This pack includes several multi effects presets for Convology XT, these all-in-one presets can contain any combination of modulation, delay and reverb for a complete sound in a single preset. They are designed to enhance your playing experience for a studio quality sound and are made using advanced convolution technology from the highest quality sources for an authentic and realistic result. Notice the suffix of -M, MS or -S in the preset name, this shows whether the preset is mono (-M), mono in+stereo out (-MS) or stereo in and out (-S). Make sure you place any mono or mono in effects presets before stereo ones, as otherwise they will collapse anything stereo into mono before applying their effect:

### FX Presets List for this pack:

1. **NCFX-RKMAN-Multi-S**: The original sound of the Rockman with both echo and chorus enabled.
2. **NCFX-RKMAN-Chorus-S**: The original sound of the Rockman with only chorus enabled.
3. **NCFX-RKMAN-Echo-S**: The original sound of the Rockman with only echo enabled.
4. **NCFX-RKMAN-Remaster-S**: Inspired by the original effects in the Rockman, but made using high quality studio effects from the 80s!
5. **NCFX-Mod-Ambience-S**: A short reverb with delays and modulation.
6. **NCFX-Ultimate-80s-S**: 80s style chorus, delay and reverb, great for clean sounds.
7. **NCFX-Nashvill-Echo-S**: Slapback tape delay into a real live recording space, country classic!
8. **NCFX-Studio-Multi-S**: The full works! Inspired by Def Leppard and other iconic 80s rock bands with high-end production.
9. **NCFX-Echo-Chamber-S**: A modulated Stereo Echo chamber (a real room), as found in many iconic recording studios.
10. **NCFX-Vibe-Delays-S**: Heavily modulated and filtered delays create this original and striking effect.
11. **NCFX-Warm-Verb-S**: A modulated, smooth, warm sounding hall reverb.
12. **NCFX-Gate-to-the-80s-S**: Modulated Gate Reverb for seriously 80s pop vibes..
13. **NCFX-Coopers-Cube-S**: Recreation of the legendary Cooper Time Cube made famous by radio rock from the 70s.
14. **NCFX-Double-Slap-S** Another slap echo, this time with 2 repeats very slightly off-sync and panned L/R for stereo interest.
15. **NCFX-Arctic-Canyon-S**: Modulated Lush, long, clean sounding reverb.
16. **NCFX-Arena-Rock-S**: Modulated, huge, ambient sound of a rock arena.

## To install the included FX presets:

**On Windows**, run the included EXE to install the FX presets into your Convology library folder, then reload any instances of convology XT for the presets to appear.

**On MacOS**, unzip the contents of the zip file in the FX folder of the pack to a location on your system (e.g. Documents\Neutron\FX\NEUTRON NC-RKMAN FX). Once the folder is in the location, on your convology XT plugin open the settings (picture of a cog wheel) and in the "preferences" section, set your custom library location to the same folder containing your extracted files (e.g. Documents\Neutron\FX\). Reload any instances of convology XT for the presets to appear.

## Input Control and Compression Behaviour

On the clean, compressed profiles included in this pack, Compression intensity can also be adjusted using the **Input control in the NAM plugin**. While input level behaves like a threshold control, it is important to note:

Reducing input from a higher-compression model will sound more natural than increasing input on a lower-compression model.

For best results, start with a profile that has more compression than you need, and reduce the input level until the desired behaviour is achieved.

## Gain Control and NDX amps

Due to the extended dynamic range present in NDX profiles, you can really use the gain control on NAM to get a huge variety of sound options from each and every profile. All the way down to -20 and up to about +10 you will find realistic results waiting, just like using the gain control on the amp. Due to the way "gain" works in NAM, unlike many other plugins and profilers, it does not invent gain behaviours, only acting as an input level into the model. For this reason you absolutely should experiment with the gain control, and don't be afraid to try the full range!

## Input/Output Calibration

All profiles in this pack contain input and return level calibration information where relevant. If your chosen plugin or device does not read this information do not worry, its not necessary to use the profiles. To enable the calibration feature on the NAM plugin, enable "Calibrated" mode in the NAM plugin settings and enter your own input calibration level in the box provided and turn on "input calibration". We create our sounds at +6dbU = 0dbFS. If your plugin or device does not support auto-calibration, either manually adjust your input to this level, or as a rough guide you can simply strum your guitar equipped with a humbucker and set your input level on your soundcard/device so that the signal peaks around -6db on your meter, or for a single coil guitar this should be around -12db. Add or remove gain from there to taste. We recommend setting the **output** calibration mode to "Normalized".

## NAM Input Meter: Avoiding Clipping

To maintain the most accurate and authentic reproduction of the captured gear, monitor your input levels carefully in NAM.

- **Keep levels below 0 dBFS** at all times
- Avoid clipping — it can cause unnatural behaviour or distortion
- If chaining NAM instances, adjust the output of one to avoid overdriving the next

## **Mix & Match Ecosystem: Combining Profiles for Maximum Flexibility**

The Neutron Core system, like all Neutron products, is designed as a highly versatile, modular platform that allows you to mix and match profiles to suit your creative needs.

Core pedal and amp packs scale from simple setups — a single AIO profile with pedal, amp and speaker in one profile — to full modular chains that rival the realism of multi-instance plugin rigs or complex studio workflows.

Neutron Core profiles are built to combine seamlessly in both serial and parallel configurations, enabling users to recreate real-world recording setups with natural, believable results.

### **Combining Profile Types**

#### **1. Pedal Profiles:**

Place at the front of the signal chain to add compression or gain shaping before the amp stage.

#### **2. Preamp Profiles:**

Found in Neutron Core amp packs. Combine with PowerPack profiles and Quantum Speaker captures to recreate rich, realistic behaviour and gain extra control of the sound.

#### **3. Power Amp Profiles:**

(Sold separately via Neutron PowerPack.) These simulate output stage saturation and speaker interaction, completing modular rigs.

#### **4. Quantum Speaker (QS) Profiles:**

- **QuickStart Profiles:** Ready-to-use blends of classic mic placements.
- **Discrete Mic Profiles:** Combine individual mics in parallel for custom blends.

Signal Chain Examples

- **Series:** Pedal → Preamp → Power Amp → Quantum Speaker
- **Parallel:** Combine multiple Discrete Mic profiles for realistic mic mixing

## **What Is Neutron Core?**

**Neutron Core** is the foundation layer of Neutron Audio's profiling ecosystem. It provides highly accurate, modular profiles of individual components in the signal chain — including amplifiers, pedals, power stages, and more — all captured with an emphasis on preserving both detail and musical responsiveness.

Neutron Core profiles are fully compatible with the standard NAM format plugin and hardware ecosystem. They are designed to be mixed and matched: a user may choose a single All-In-One (AIO) profile for simplicity, or build a modular rig using multiple components — including pedals, preamps, power amps, and cabinets. Profiles are captured at consistent operating levels and behave predictably when combined, allowing for flexible signal routing without correction or compensation.

Each Neutron Core pack is the result of a process that combines **technical precision with recording industry expertise**. The capture process is **true to the source**, delivering an accurate representation of the gear's **sound, behaviour, and character**. The result also reflects the decisions made by experienced engineers — gain staging, signal flow, mic selection, balance, and response — shaped using high-end equipment and decades of professional studio knowledge.

The goal is to provide users with an **authentic, recorded guitar sound** — the kind of result they would expect if they walked into a professional studio and worked with skilled engineers using the best available gear. Every profile reflects Neutron Audio's core philosophy: **truth to the source**, and the belief that **technology fused with recording industry expertise** creates exceptional results.

## What Is NDX?

NAM was already the most accurate profiling solution available in terms of frequency content. NDX (Neutron dyNAMix) is Neutron Audio's bespoke NAM training process — a combination of software, hardware and expertise developed by us to include an additional, deeper layer of time-based dynamic realism. In short, it adds more Dynamics to NAM profiles.. hence the name “dy NAM ix” or NDX for short. The easiest way to hear this clearly in action is by checking out our compressor packs where you will clearly hear extreme, long time-domain compression in action. That was previously not possible with the standard NAM trainer or architecture, NDX adds this extra information to all of our profiles made with it.

NDX allows the authentic profiling of more complex compression, transient recovery, saturation bloom, and time-based level-dependent changes — these are the time-based responses which affect how real gear feels and reacts, not just how it sounds in the frequency domain. NDX also helps to reduce some of the aliasing-like artifacts you can often find in high-gain NAM profiles, as the increased time-domain information reduces frequency averaging for a more natural result; increasing both realism and fidelity across the board.

Historically, this has only been achievable using custom architectures with increased CPU demands and limited compatibility. NDX encodes this extra time-based dynamic information directly into standard format NAM profiles. They will work on any plugin or hardware that natively loads full NAM profiles.

It applies equally to compressor, pedal, amplifier, poweramp, and speaker profiles — allowing all of them to behave more like reality and increasing overall fidelity in all cases.

All profiles in this pack are created using the **NDX Gen2 system**.

## Support

If you need support or have questions about the Neutron Core Pack, you can:

- **Submit a request on our website:** <https://www.neutronstudios.com/>
- **Join our dedicated Facebook customer group:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1712386306166179>

Our Facebook group is the ideal place to ask questions, get updates on all our products, and connect with other Neutron Audio users.

## We are on YouTube!

This manual aims to cover all aspects of using the pack comprehensively, however we have also made a video that explains the Neutron Core concept in detail here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkE-U04qo2U>

We also invite you to watch the other videos on our channel at::

[https://www.youtube.com/@neutron\\_audio](https://www.youtube.com/@neutron_audio)

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