

EBS BASSIQ

Published in: MM #5, 2000

Author: Ulf Widlund

Translation by: Carl J. Feuk

BassIQ is Swedish EBS' latest addition to their pedal line, which also includes the OctaBass, MultiComp and UniChorus. It's a so-called envelope filter which opens and closes a filter that is guided by the strength of the input signal. The effect is sometimes called auto-wah.

CONSTRUCTION

EBS has created a new metal box with lowered controls. The metal alloy used is designed to keep disturbances out, which gives a lower amount of noise. To change batteries, you still have to remove the bottom plate, but it can also be powered by an AC-adaptor or EBS' Phantom Power. The controls are a knob each for Threshold and Attack, a footswitch and a three-way switch for choosing between three different modes.

Threshold controls at which signal strength the effect should react. By fine-tuning it, you can find a setting where only the louder notes are affected. With Attack you set the time for opening and closing the filter. If you set it at a high value, the effect won't trig until you paus, which can be creatively used as an effect in itself.

Down is a function that closes the filter when the input signal cross the Threshold value. The effect is a "aow"-sound.

Up is the classical function and works the other way around. It opens the filter and creates a "wah"-sound. The third function, Hi-Q, is a sharper version of Up.



In true EBS spirit, there is also a bit of high-tech candy under the shell, where you find a small trimpot. Normally, it is set in the zero position, but if you adjust it, you can mix in treble from the clean signal.

IN USE

It has been a very long time since I've had this fun with an effects unit: Serious funky getdown! The Up-position was the one that worked best from the start, but Down matured and became my favourite after a while.

Unlike most other wah-wah/auto-wah effects units, there is enough bottom in the effects signal for you to not loose any low end power.

Hi-Q gives less bottom but more treble and works great for fingerings higher up on the neck or for guitar-like rythm parts.

Threshold and Attack together gives a huge amount of useable sounds, but a certain finger-tip

feeling is a good idea, as small adjustments make big difference.

CONCLUSION

EBS has yet again succeeded in providing us bass players with a quality product that feels both functional and wanted. It is a natural expansion of the effects arsenal, even for those who feels that effects do more damage to the sound than improving it. You get lots of funky sounds without having to sacrifice any low end, and the controls are both flexible and user friendly. **YO!**

- +
 - Easy to use
 - Great low-end
 - Several power-supply possibilities
 - Affordable
- - Complicated battery change

Specifications

TYP:	Analogue envelope filter
CONTROLS:	Threshold, Attack and a three-way switch for Down, Up and Hi-Q
FILTER AREA:	60-8k Hz
FILTER Q:	3 / 10
THRESHOLD:	-50 - +6dB adjustable
ATTACK TIME:	50 ms - 2 s
POWER SUPPLY:	9-12 V DC Regulated < 15 mA (battery, AC-adapter or EBS Phantom Power)

