For steel guitar: The Steel Guitar Black Box should be placed right after the pickup and before the volume pedal. This insures that the vari-z tone control will be most effective and the benefits of the vacuum tube maximized. The tuner output comes before the volume pedal which enables silent, hands-free tuning by simply muting with the volume pedal. The Steel Guitar Black Box will not only help you to tailor the treble peak response of the pickup itself, but by the nature of the high voltage tube circuit, it will greatly improve the tone quality of the instrument making for a much sweeter treble, richer midrange, warm, fat bass, and generally an improved balance among all the strings.

"WOW! What an incredible difference and improvement to my tone. The Black Box smoothed out my tone while giving it more depth and a bigger dimension. I can’t imagine playing without it now. I really believe in this product."

-Tommy White - Grand Ole Opry

For electric guitar: Ideally the Steel Guitar Black Box is placed first in the chain directly after the guitar and before any effects pedals. This provides the direct pickup to tube interaction that guitarists love when plug directly into their favorite tube amp. Once the tube in the Black Box has made the guitar’s signal active, this tube enhanced signal is then free to drive great lengths of cable and a number of effects pedals without suffering tone loss. The variable impedance knob on the Black Box will further help to refine the treble response of the pickups themselves to perfectly nail the tone that best represents the guitar and the tastes of the player. The separate tuner out jack will also allow the player to keep the tuner out of the direct signal path.

"I’m loving your Black Box. It’s making my guitars explosive." - Bob Weir

For bass guitar: The Steel Guitar Black Box will offer a more lively, nuanced, dynamic, and detailed tonal response from an electric or acoustic bass guitar. The sonic enhancement as the tube drives the bass guitar’s signal will bring out the most in any bass amp rig or DI situation. The variable impedance knob on the Black Box will have a more dramatic effect when used with passive pickups as it helps to take control of the resonant peaks of the pickups. It’s a different type of treble control that proves to be very useful and effective. With active bass pickups, the vari-z knob is less apparent, but still will help find the perfect load relationship with the bass guitar’s active circuitry.

"I play a lot of bass with a New Orleans funk type band and use the Black Box to front end my Eden bass rig. I won’t play without it now...I can’t say enough good things about my Black Box!!!" - Steven Silver

For acoustic instruments: The Steel Guitar Black Box has proven to be quite astounding in its ability to re-shape, sweeten, smooth out, and warm up the tone of piezoelectric pickups in acoustic instruments. The crispy highs are made much more natural and gentle to the ear. The midrange chirps and barks are greatly reduced, and the low end punch and dynamic response becomes much more woody and natural sounding. Some report that it makes a pickup sound more like a mic’d instrument and requires much less EQ to get the right sound. Due to the nature of piezo pickups, the vari-z knob can work as a deep bass control when used with a passive direct connection to the pickup.

"The ”Black Box ” unit is unfreakingbelievable!!!!" - Mike Retzinger

The Steel Guitar Black Box is the finest all-tube buffer available for amplified musical instruments.

"The SGBB is like salt...put it on everything." –Marlin Smoot

**HOW TO USE:**
1. Plug the Black Box AC power cord into 3-prong grounded wall outlet or power strip. Be sure that all devices in the setup get their power from the SAME strip or outlet.
2. Plug instrument into the "INPUT" jack on the Black Box.
3. Connect the "OUTPUT" jack of the Black Box to the input of the volume pedal, effects pedals, or other devices.
4. Set the Variable Impedance knob to taste. With magnetic pickups left is mellow and right is bright. For passive acoustic pickups, the vari-z works as a deep bass control.
5. If desired, connect you tuner to the “Tuner" jack.

**SAFETY:**
**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do NOT expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

**CAUTION:** To reduce the risk of fire of electric shock, do NOT remove screws. Refer to servicing to qualified service personnel.

**SPECs:**
- Frequency Response: 10Hz-200kHz
- Input Impedance: Variable from 33kΩ to 1MegΩ
- Output Impedance: 1KΩ (approx.)
- Power Consumption: 4w
- Weight: 3 lbs.
- Dimensions: 8.5”x4.5”x1.75”
- Tube: 12AX7 (ECC83, ECC803, 7025)
- B+ Supply: 300VDC
- DC Heater Supply: 6.3VDC
- Powdercoated Steel Chassis
- Cool blue pilot light!