

OLC CIRCUITS FAQ

OCTOBER, 2009

General Kit Information:

1) What is included in OLC kits?

Drilled enclosure, PCB, transistors/FETs/tube/opamps ("chips"), resistors, capacitors, potentiometers, 3PDT switch, 1/4" in/out jacks, 2.1mm DC jack, battery snap, LED, knobs, wire (24 gauge), and detailed instructions (download). Everything that is needed is included.

2) What else will I need to build an OLC kit?

A soldering iron with a fairly small tip, solder, a multimeter, a pair of cutters, a Phillips-head screwdriver, a small flat-head screwdriver (only for kits with set-screw knobs), pliers/wrench (to tighten pots, jacks, switches to the enclosure).

You don't need to eat Ramen Noodles for a week to afford the tools:

Soldering iron suggestion: 8.99

Multimeter suggestion: \$9.99, \$19.99

Cutters suggestion: \$4.99

More info: http://www.olcircuits.com/documents/olc_required_tools.pdf

3) What are the instructions like?

Take a look here:

http://www.olcircuits.com/olc_umble_buildguide.pdf

4) Are OLC's PCBs etched (handmade) or manufactured?

Most are manufactured, some are etched. There is no difference in circuit functionality between the two, but manufactured PCBs are easier to work with.

5) Do you recommend batteries or 9v power supplies?

We do not recommend batteries. They do not fit well into the enclosure, but battery snaps are included anyway. We highly recommend 9v power supplies. OLC kits and pedals use the most common type: 9VDC, negative center, 2.1mm x 5.5mm barrel. There are dozens available, but these two are the most well-known: Boss, Visual Sound. Of the two, we suggest the Visual Sound 1-Spot. With 1700mA on tap, it will power many pedals at one time.

The Darth Fader, Eclipse Valve, and Tube Cricket, which are all tube projects, require a 12VDC power supply. This is included in orders shipped within the United States. However, because of the differences between the US voltage and other countries, power supplies will not be shipped to international customers. We have been recommending and linking international customers to a power supply at Maplin Electronics. Our customers have reported 100% success with this model:

MG81C 12VDC @ 9.99£

<http://www.maplin.co.uk/Search.aspx?criteria=MG81C&DOY=23m2>

Shipping Questions:

How long will it take for my kit to arrive?

There is a lead time. This means that it takes time to produce the kit before shipping. The lead time is 6-10 business days, on average.

We ship via the United States Post Service. Domestic orders usually take 3-4 business days. Overseas orders (shipped via Airmail) usually take 6-10 business days. Shipping to Canada, for some reason unbeknownst to us, sometimes takes longer than shipping to Australia, which is halfway around the world from OLC.

Pre-built Pedal Information:

We are transferring our pre-built pedals to a dedicated, third-party builder. Please contact us directly before placing an order for a pre-built pedal.