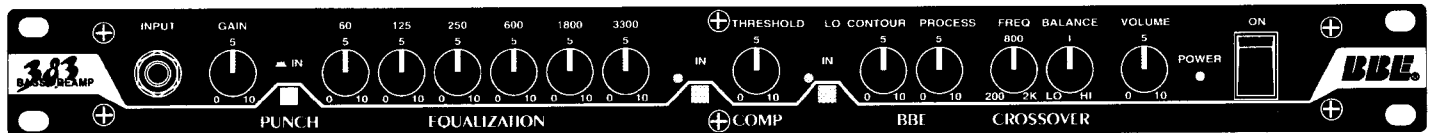
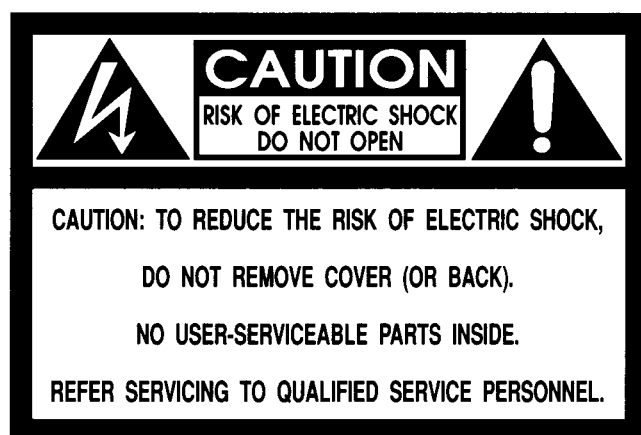


BBE[®]
Sound Inc.

▲
MODEL 383
BASS PREAMP
USER MANUAL



Important Safeguards



WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.

ATTENTION: RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIC- NE PAS OUVRIR.



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



The exclamation point, within a equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

For your protection, please read these safety instructions completely before operating the appliance, and keep this manual for future reference.

Carefully observe all warnings, precautions and instructions on the appliance and described in the operating instructions supplied with the appliance.

INSTALLATION

Water and Moisture - Do not install the appliance near water: for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool.

Heat - Do not install the appliance near sources of heat such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other appliances that produce heat.

Ventilation - Situate the product so its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, you should not place the product on a bed, sofa, rug, or similar surface that might block the vent openings, or placed in a built-in installation, such as a bookcase or cabinet that might impede the flow of air through the ventilation openings.

Wall or Ceiling Mounting - If your appliance can be mounted to a wall or ceiling, mount it only as recommended.

USE

Power Source - Connect the appliance to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the appliance.

Power-Cord Protection - Route the power cord so that it is not likely to be walked on or pinched by having objects placed on it, paying particular attention to the plugs, receptacles, and the point where the cord exits from the appliance.

Grounding or Polarization - Do not defeat the grounding or polarization feature of the AC power cord. If your AC receptacle will not accept the power cord plug, contact your electrician to install a proper AC receptacle.

When not in use - Unplug the power cord of the appliance from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time. To disconnect the cord, pull it out by grasping the plug. Never pull the plug out by the cord.

AC Receptacle - Check to make sure that the AC receptacle holds the power cord plug firmly and securely. If the power cord plug is loose, contact your electrician to replace the defective and unsafe AC

Foreign Objects - Be careful that foreign objects and liquids do not enter the enclosure through openings.

SERVICE

Unplug the appliance from the wall outlet and consult qualified service personnel when:

- the power cord or the plug has been damaged.
- a solid object or liquid has fallen into the cabinet.

- the appliance has been exposed to rain or moisture.
- the appliance does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.
- the appliance has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.

Do not attempt to service the appliance beyond that described in the operating instructions. For all other servicing, refer to qualified service personnel **only**.



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Congratulations on your purchase of the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp! The BBE 383 is an extremely versatile pre-amp which is capable of achieving a wide array of tones while conveniently configuring itself into any application. Able to accommodate the most demanding bass guitar output levels, the BBE 383, with its **three** stages of tone processing circuitry, will add tremendous thunder and clarity to the signal while retaining the integrity of the bass' original tone. No extra devices are needed to get flawless performance out of the BBE 383. The BBE 383's multifunctional output section will cater itself to single and bi-amped configurations for both live and studio performances.

The following features of the BBE 383 shall entice even the most demanding of players:

1. **Gain** control to accommodate any bass guitar's output level.
2. A **Punch** circuit which adds an extremely valuable presence boost to both the high and low frequency ranges.
3. A **Six** Band Graphic EQ section.
4. A built-in **Compressor** circuit with variable **Threshold** to eliminate any unwanted signal peaks and for increased sustain.
5. **BBE Sonic Maximizer** to add clarity and power to the signal without adding any noise or harmonic distortion.
6. Dual output **Crossover** circuit with variable **Frequency** and **Balance** controls for bi-amped configurations.
7. **Master Volume** control which simultaneously adjusts both the **Balanced** and **Unbalanced** outputs.
8. An **Effects Loop** to interface the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp with any effects processor.
9. A **Ground Lift Switch** to disable the ground pin of the XLR connector. This will be an important feature to have in the event of a hum caused by multiple ground loops.

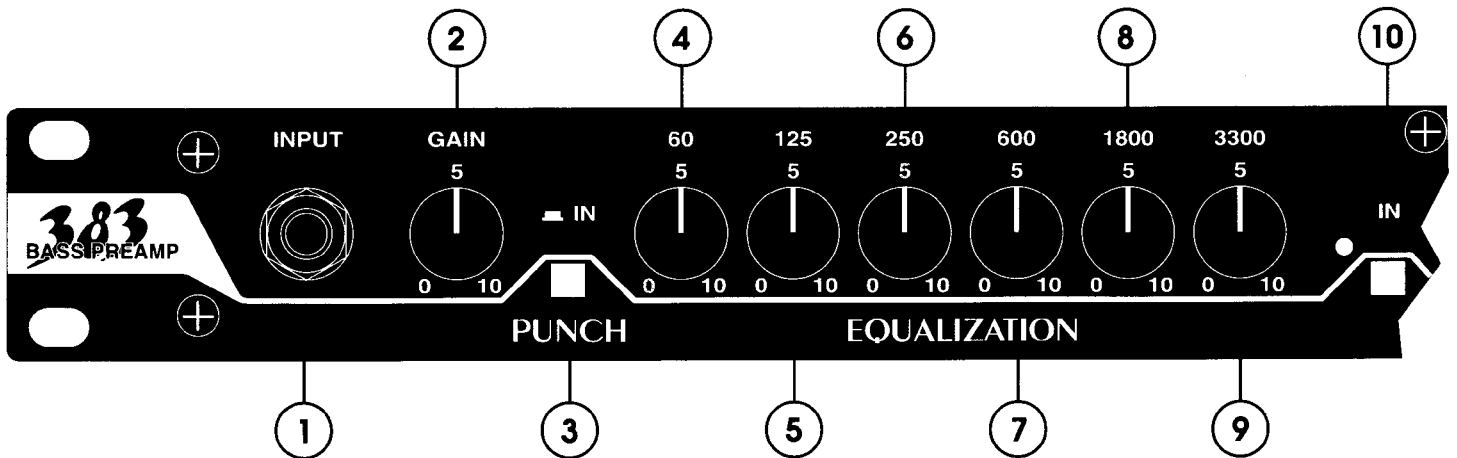
IMPORTANT

Before you begin, please check the contents within this box to insure that included are:

1. The BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp.
2. The BBE 383 User's manual.

If either of these items are found to be missing, immediately contact the BBE dealer from whom the unit was purchased immediately.

CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS

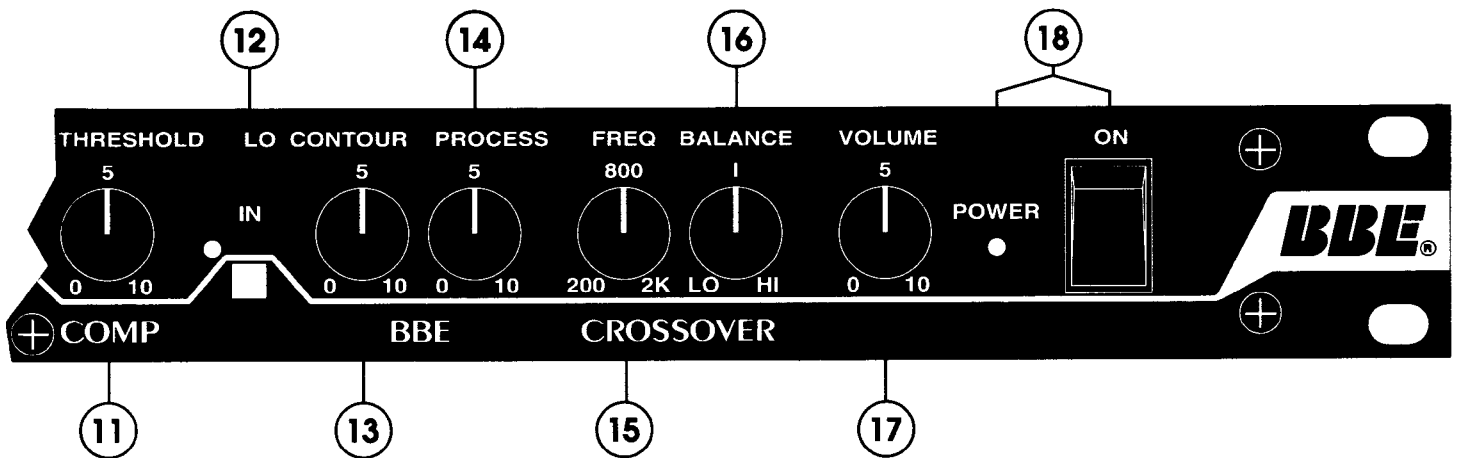


FRONT PANEL

1. **INPUT:** This jack allows for the connection of a bass guitar to the BBE 383.
2. **GAIN:** This control allows for the calibration of the bass guitar's output level to the input of the BBE 383. The maximum gain of this section is 40dBu.
3. **PUNCH:** This button adds a preset frequency boost to both the low and high frequencies for added power and projection.

EQUALIZATION

4. **60:** This control adjusts the amount of the low frequency content peaked at 60Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.
5. **125:** This control adjusts the amount of the low frequency content peaked at 125Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.
6. **250:** This control adjusts the amount of the mid range frequency content peaked at 250Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.
7. **600:** This control adjusts the amount of the mid range frequency content peaked at 600Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.



8. 1800: This control adjusts the amount of the high frequency content peaked at 1800Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.
9. 3300: This control adjusts the amount of the high frequency content peaked at 3300Hz. Turning the knob to its maximum position (clockwise) provides a boost of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) provides a reduction of 15dBu. Turning the knob to its middle position (12 O'clock) would be flat or no change.

COMPRESSOR

10. IN: This switch engages the compression circuit on the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp. When depressed, the "IN" position, the compressor circuit will be engaged. However, the "RED" LED will illuminate only when compression actually occurs. This will assist in selecting a proper threshold level and eliminate guessing when the compression is actually occurring. When in the "OUT" position, the "RED" LED will not illuminate and the compression circuit has been disengaged.
11. THRESHOLD: This control adjusts the level at which the compression takes effect. This feature is used most for increasing sustain and reducing signal peaks in both live and studio performances. Turning the **Threshold** knob clockwise will adjust the amount of compression. The further the **Threshold** knob is turned clockwise, the greater the signal peak reduction and sustain. **Note: An overall reduction of signal level will occur when the Threshold is adjusted to extreme settings.**

BBE PROCESS

12. IN: This switch engages the BBE Process. When depressed, the "IN" position, the "GREEN" LED will illuminate. When in the "OUT" position, the "GREEN" LED will not illuminate, indicating that the BBE Process has been disengaged.

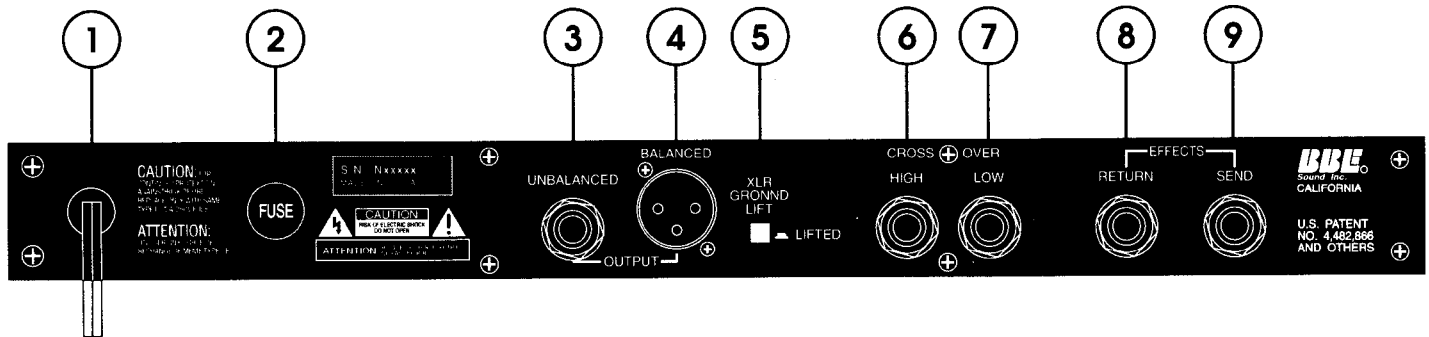
13. LO CONTOUR: This control is a low frequency adjustment for the **BBE Process**. It provides a boost of 10dBu when turned to its maximum position (clockwise) at 50Hz. When turned to its minimum position (counter-clockwise) it reduces the 50Hz signal by 10dBu. The middle position would be flat or no change. This control differs from that of the 60Hz adjustment in the **Equalization** section due to the inherent phase shift of the **BBE Process**.
14. PROCESS: This control introduces the **BBE Process** which has specially modified for the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp. The **BBE Process** gives the user a more detailed perception of tonality, added "bite" and an increase in clarity. The low end of the bass guitar will be tightened without losing its thunderous effect... all without adding or creating any additional noise or harmonic distortion. When the knob is in its minimum position, completely counter-clockwise, no process is taking effect and the circuit is in its noise suppression mode. Turning the knob clockwise will introduce the BBE Process. Adjust the knob to mix the desired amount of process to suit your taste. The **BBE Process** also has its own in/out switch for comparison of the processed to unprocessed signal located on the front panel. Experiment with the process. Use the **BBE** as an extension of the tone controls. Please note that the **BBE process** is not an effect, but an improvement. Generally a good place to start the **BBE process** is to set the knob to it's 12 o'clock position, then adjust accordingly. **Note: The BBE process is applied after the effects return.**

CROSSOVER

The BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp can accommodate a bi-amped bass system by utilizing the two outputs in the crossover section.

15. **FREQ:** This control is to select the split or "Q" point of the filter for the **Crossover** output on the rear panel. The "Q" point of the filter has an adjustable range of 200-2kHz to achieve the user's "ideal situation" for a given amplifier or speaker configuration. For example: If the **Freq** knob is set at 800Hz, the **High** frequency output on the rear panel will contain frequencies above 800Hz, the **Low** frequency output will contain frequencies below 800Hz. The slope of the filter is 12dB per octave.
16. **BALANCE:** This control adjusts the **Crossover** output levels. Turning the knob clockwise will increase the output level of the **High** output while simultaneously reducing the **Low** output level. Turning the knob counter-clockwise will have the opposite result.
17. **VOLUME:** This control simultaneously adjusts the signal level of both the **Balanced** and **Unbalanced** outputs, along with that of the **Crossover** output levels of the BBE 383 Bass Guitar pre-amp. The output is capable of a **+4dBu** average level which is ideal for driving a power amplifier or a long snake line back to a mixing console.
18. **POWER:** This switch applies AC power to the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp. The "RED" power LED will illuminate when the **power switch** is in the "ON" position. When the switch is not in the "ON" position, the "RED" power LED will not illuminate.

REAR PANEL



1. POWER CORD: This is a standard three-pronged AC power cable for connection to any standard grounded 110Vac outlet.
2. FUSE: Replace **ONLY** with same type Fastblow fuse.
U.S., Canada and Japan models:
250Vac, 1/2A Fastblow
Standard model:
250Vac, .125A Fastblow

MAIN OUTPUTS

3. UNBALANCED: This output, a 1/4" monaural phone jack, is to connect the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp to the next subsequent component in the system. Used in conjunction with the **Master Volume**, this output can accommodate any required output level.
4. BALANCED: This output, a balanced XLR jack, is to connect the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp to a mixing console or tape deck. Used in conjunction with the **Master Volume**, this output can accommodate any required output level.

XLR GROUND LIFT

5. LIFTED: Use this switch to disable the ground pin of the XLR connector. This is a useful feature in eliminating a ground loop between the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp and any subsequent component in the signal chain.

CROSSOVER

The BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp can accommodate a bi-amped bass system by utilizing the two outputs in the crossover section.

6. HIGH: This jack is the output for the high frequency content as determined by the **Crossover** controls on the front panel.
7. LOW: This jack is the output for the low frequency content as determined by the **Crossover** controls on the front panel.

EFFECTS

8. RETURN: Use this jack to connect the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp to an effects processor's output. **Note: The effect processor's level control may need to be adjusted to properly match the level of the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp. (Nominal level is -10dBu.)**
9. SEND: Use this jack to connect the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp to an effects processor's input. This level is approximately -10dBu depending upon the status of the **Gain** and **Equalization** settings.



SPECIFICATIONS

Power Requirements: U.S., Canada & Japan models: 120VAC, 50/60Hz, 8 WATTS
Standard model: 220VAC, 50/60Hz, 8 WATTS

Fuse: Replace with the same type FASTBLOW fuse.
U.S., Canada & Japan models: 250Vac, 1/2A Fastblow type fuse
Standard model: 250Vac, .125A Fastblow type fuse

Dimensions: 19"(W) x 5.5"(D) x 1.7"(H)

Shipping Weight: 7lbs.



GENERAL OPERATION

In order to reduce the risk of damage to any equipment, properly connect all audio and power cables before turning on any components in the system. Most important of all, **ALWAYS TURN ON THE POWER AMPLIFIER LAST TO AVOID DAMAGING THE SPEAKERS OR THE AMP.**

Different bass guitars will vary in output level. For this reason, the **BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp** has an input **Gain** control. Adjust this knob to achieve a strong signal input to the BBE 383. As a starting suggestion, bass guitars with passive style pick-ups will usually require a higher setting than bass guitars with active style pick-ups.

The **Equalization** circuit of the BBE 383 has many facets to appease most any player. In conjunction with the **Punch** button, adjust the **EQ** controls of 60Hz, 125Hz, 250Hz, 600Hz, 1.8kHz, 3.3kHz, to achieve your "individual" sound.

Compression is a feature that will be welcomed by any bass player. Adjust the **Threshold** knob to eliminate any volume peaks that may accompany "slapping" the bass or for smoothing a bass guitar for recording. An increase in sustain is also a desired result of large amounts of compression as determined by the **Threshold** control.

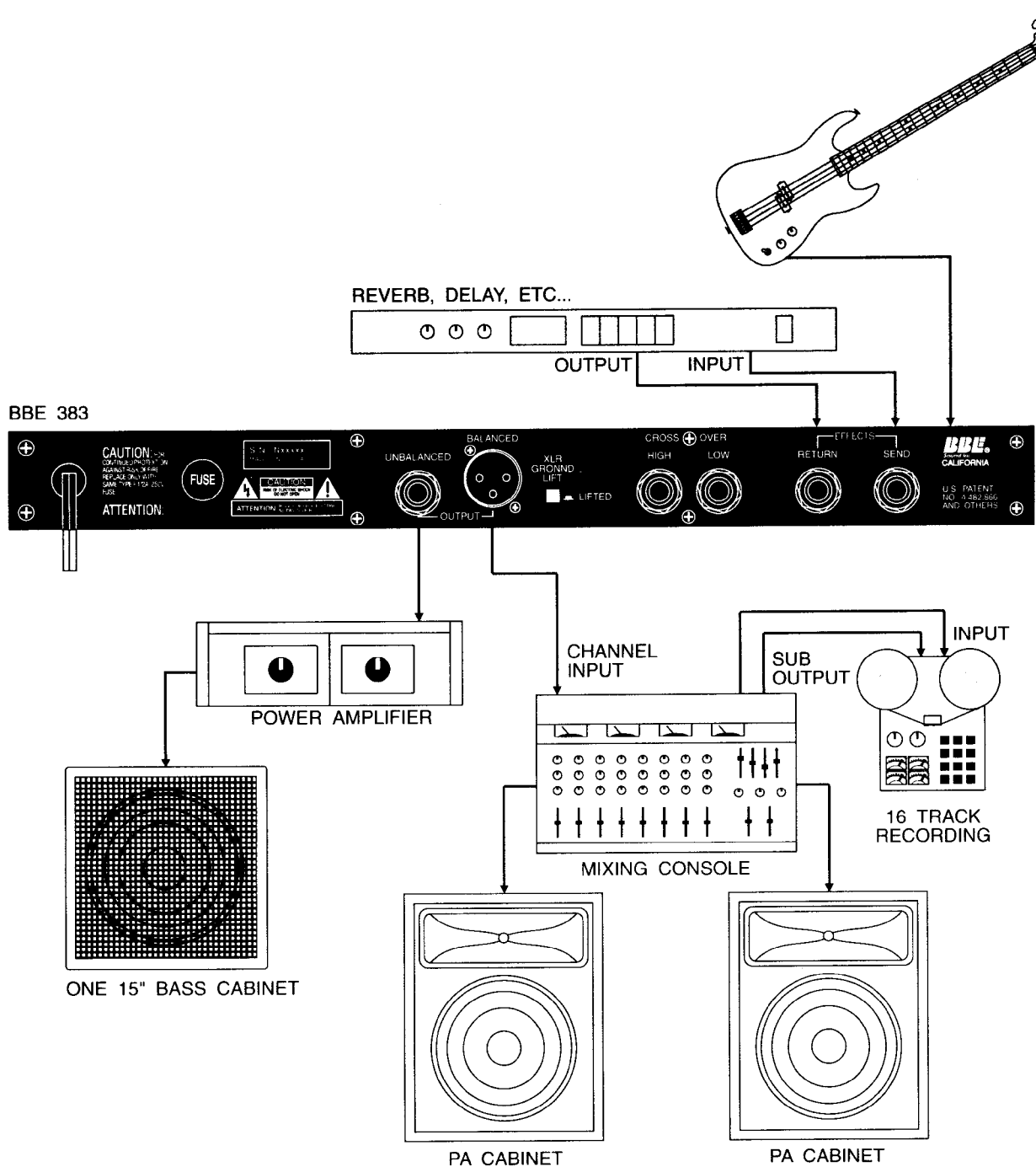
The **BBE Process** is a unique feature that only the BBE series of pre-amps possess. The **BBE Process** will produce a clear, crisp, full-bodied sound without adding any noise or harmonic distortion to the signal. The **BBE Process** should be used as an extension of the **Equalization** controls to improve the overall quality of the bass guitar's tone.

In live sound, crossovers are used, in conjunction with the speaker cabinets, to give the audience a clear and precise duplication of the music program. This is achieved by allowing only a narrow band of frequencies to go to an individual speaker cabinet instead of all frequencies going to any one speaker. For example, all frequencies above 5kHz may go to the tweeter/horn, 250Hz to 5kHz may go to a midrange speaker and everything below 250Hz may go to a sub-woofer. The end result: Each speaker is able to work more efficiently and produce a superior quality of music. The **BBE 383** has a crossover circuit built in. The **Crossover** is equipped with an adjustable **Frequency** point and a **Balance** control to adjust the mix of the **High** and **Low** frequency outputs. Now a player is able to use multiple speaker cabinets tailored to their requirements: A cabinet for the midrange frequencies and one for the thundering lows. Additionally, these outputs may also be used to create many different bass sounds by mixing the **Crossover's** signal with the signal from the main output.

The **Volume** control will simultaneously adjust the **BBE 383's** output volume from all outputs: The **Balanced**, **Unbalanced**, and **Crossover** outputs. Use either the **Unbalanced** or the **Balanced** output to connect to a power amp or a mixing console and the **Crossover** outputs, as described above, to best suit the requirements of any performance. The **Unbalanced** and **Crossover** outputs are 1/4" monaural phone plug while the **Balanced** output is an male XLR connector with a **Ground Lift** switch to eliminate any multiple ground connections.

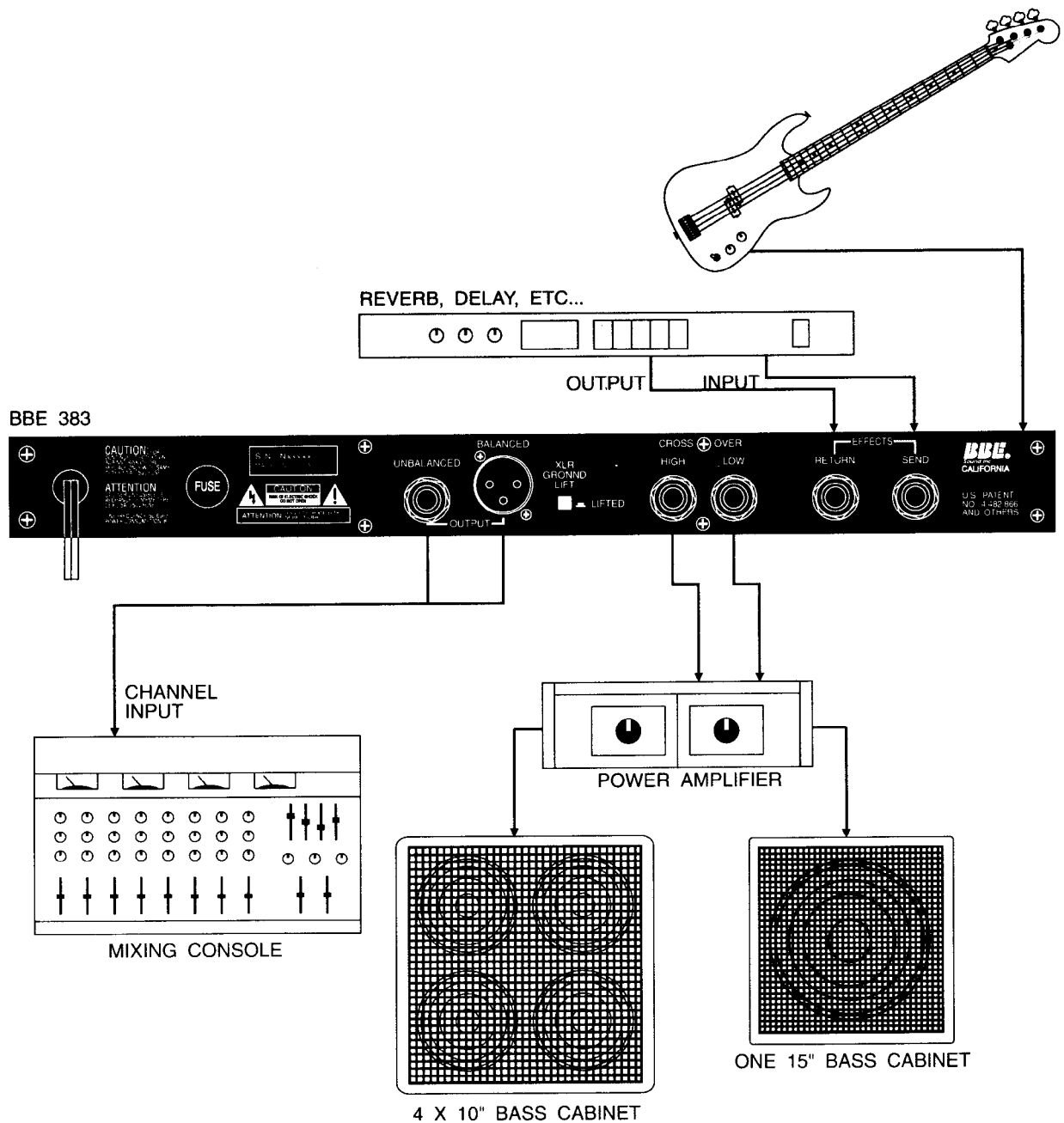
Use the following illustrations as a guide for placing the **BBE 383** into the signal chain.

USING THE BBE 383 BASS GUITAR PRE-AMP IN A STANDARD APPLICATION



For most configurations, using the **Unbalanced** output of the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp to connect to a speaker cabinet for monitoring the bass guitar and using the **Balanced** output to connect to a mixing console for live and studio applications will prove to be an ideal starting point.

▲ USING THE BBE 383 BASS GUITAR PRE-AMP IN A BI-AMPED CONFIGURATION



Use the **Crossover** outputs for configuring a more sophisticated system. An advantage to **Bi-amping** is that each speaker cabinet is working on a smaller frequency band than a full range output. The speakers then work more efficiently and produce better results. The main outputs and the **Crossover** outputs are interchangeable and are worth experimenting with to find the ultimate configuration!



SERVICE

We recommend that if at all possible a BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp which requires service be sent to our facility in Huntington Beach, CA. We request that a "RETURN AUTHORIZATION" be issued by the dealer from whom you purchased the unit. If this is not possible, call BBE Sound, Inc. directly at (714) 897-6766, to obtain a "RETURN AUTHORIZATION." Include a copy of the bill of sale with the unit when it is shipped to BBE Sound Inc., so that the service process can be expedited.

As the repair turnaround time is minimal, we request that the unit be sent BBE Sound, Inc. This helps us add reliability data to our files for use in designing future products.



MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp is limited to proper cleaning of the unit with a mild household cleaner such as Formula 409[™] or Windex[™]. The chassis and cover are steel finished with a durable polyurethane paint, while the front panel is an anodized aluminum extrusion.

There are no user replaceable parts and the unit should not be opened for any reason unless you are a qualified technician.

Calibration should be performed if parts are replaced or if a performance check-out indicates a problem with calibration. Long term use has shown that over the life of the unit there is little or no drift of the components in the BBE 383 which would cause a change in calibration. A conservative design philosophy has resulted in a piece of equipment which should give years of trouble-free service.



WARRANTY

Warranty registration of the unit to BBE Sound Inc. is not necessary. However, it is strongly recommended that a copy of the bill of sale is retained for future reference.

IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE END USER TO PROVIDE THE BILL OF SALE OR OTHER MEANS OF PROOF OF PURCHASE TO VALIDATE THE WARRANTY IF WARRANTY SERVICE IS REQUIRED.

The BBE 383 Bass Guitar Pre-amp is warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from date of purchase from BBE Sound, Inc. or from an authorized dealer.

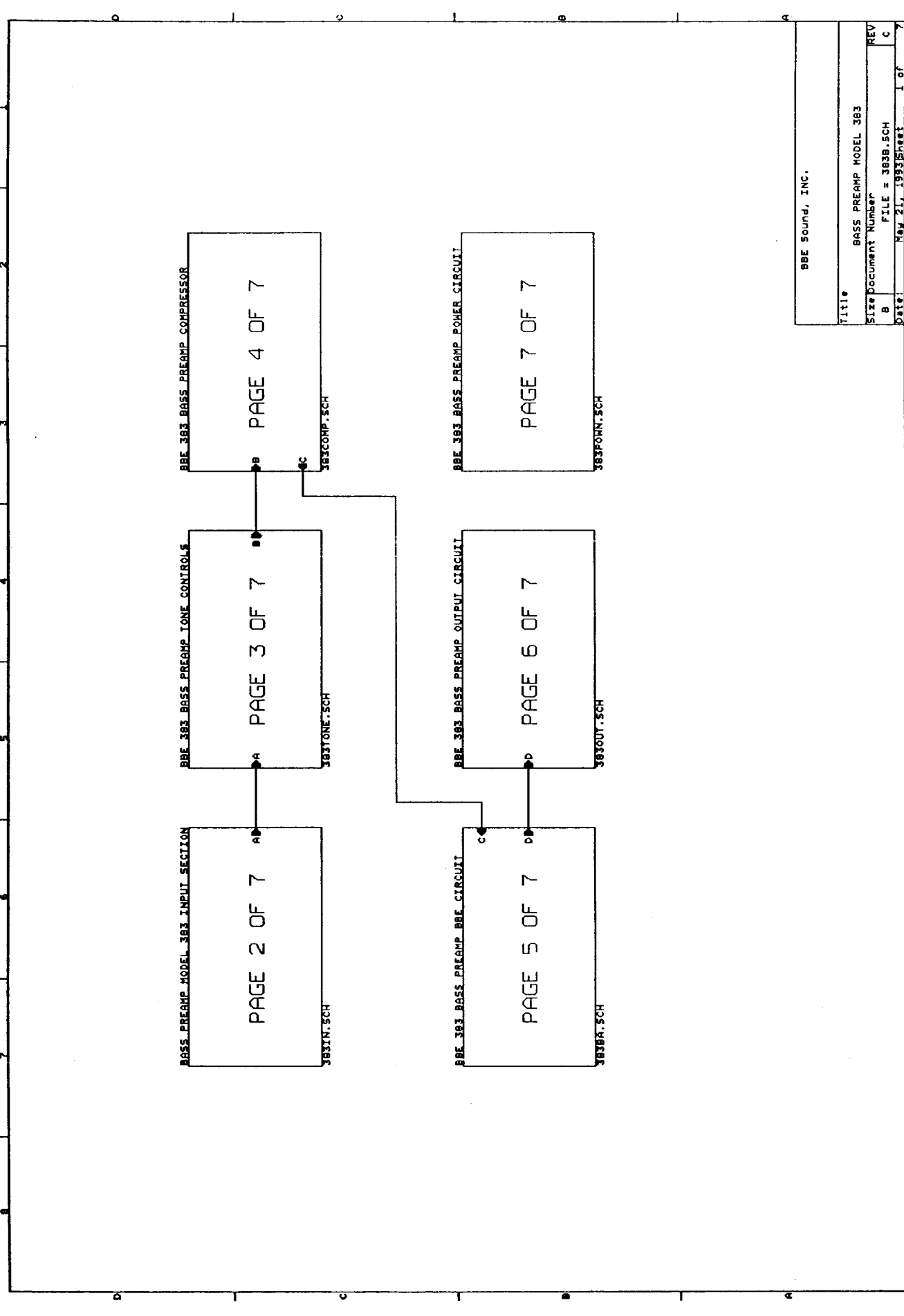
During this period, we will repair units free of charge providing that they are shipped prepaid to BBE Sound, Inc., 5381 Production Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. We will pay return UPS shipping charges within the USA. All charges related to non-US shipping, including customs clearance, will be billed. The warranty will be honored for the longer of either 90 days from the date of any service or the remainder of the original **1 Year** factory warranty.

This warranty will be considered null and void by BBE Sound, Inc. if any of the following is found:

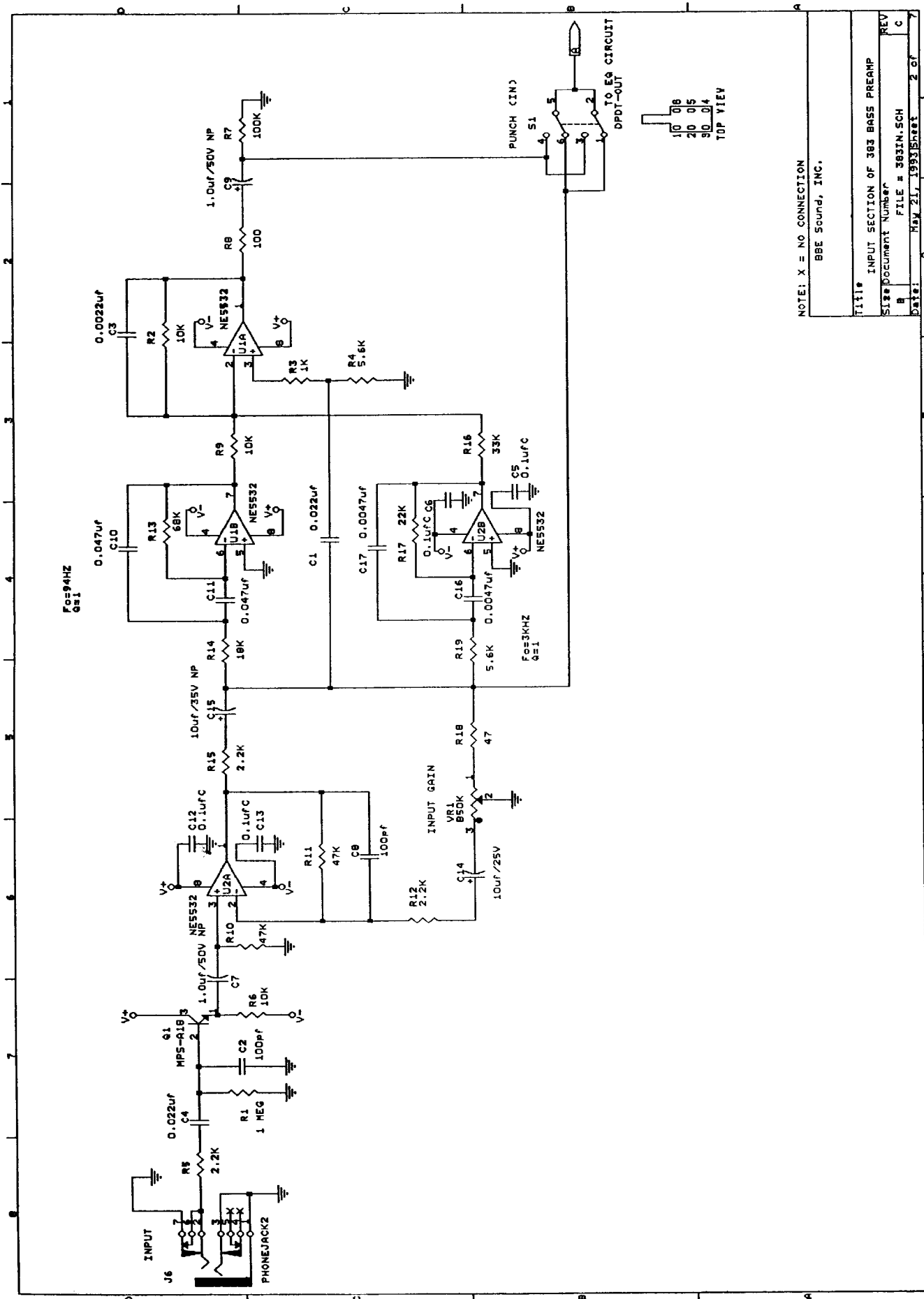
1. The equipment has been physically damaged.
2. The equipment shows signs of abuse.
3. The equipment has been electrically damaged by improper connection or attempted repair by the customer or a third party.
4. The equipment has been modified without authorization.
5. The bill of sale indicates that the purchase date of the equipment is not within the warranty period.

All non-warranty repairs are warranted for a period of 90 days from the date of service.

BBE Sound, Inc. is NOT LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. Should the pre-amp fail to operate for any reason, our sole obligation is to repair the unit as described above.



BBE Sound, Inc.	
Title	BASS PREAMP MODEL 363
Size Document Number	B
REV	FILE = 363B.SCH
Date	May 21, 1993 Sheet 1 of 7



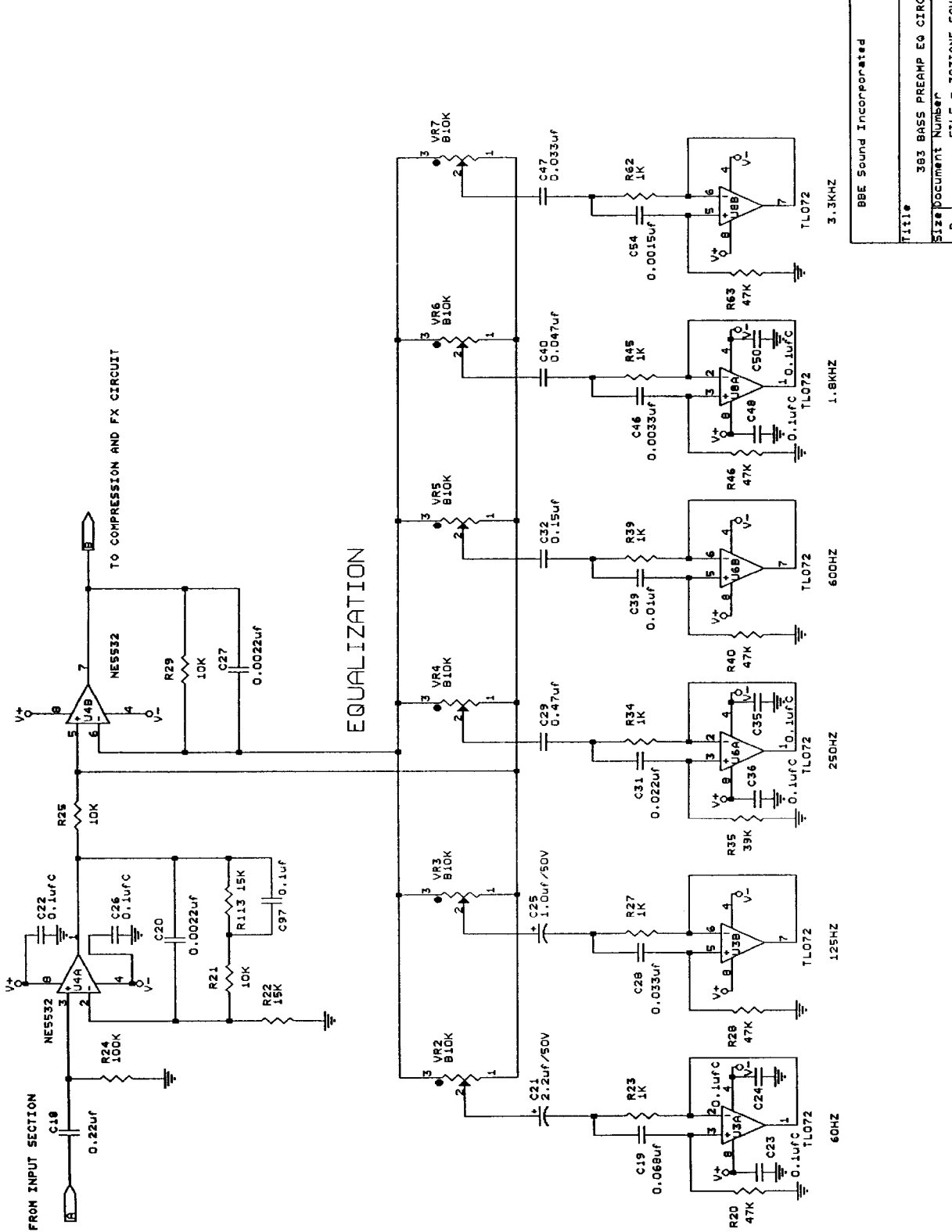
F₀=94KHZ
Q=1

F₀=3KHZ
Q=1

10 08
20 05
30 04
TOP VIEW

NOTE: X = NO CONNECTION
BBE Sound, INC.

FILE #	383
INPUT SECTION OF 383 BASS PREAMP	
SIZE	Document Number
REV	FILE # 383IN.SCH
	C
DATE	MAY 21, 1993
	Sheet 1
	2 of 2



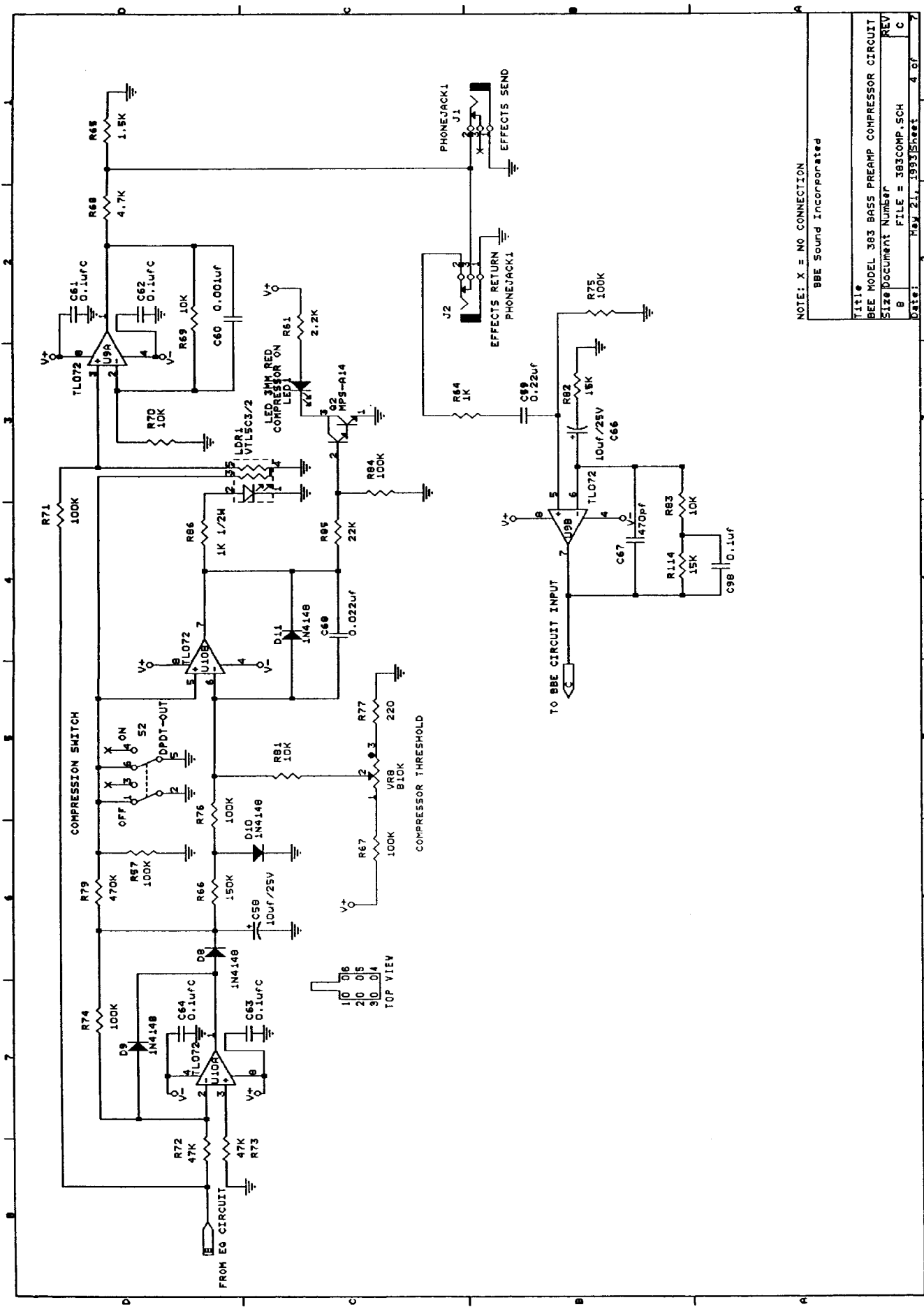
EQUALIZATION

FROM INPUT SECTION

TO COMPRESSION AND FX CIRCUIT

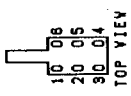
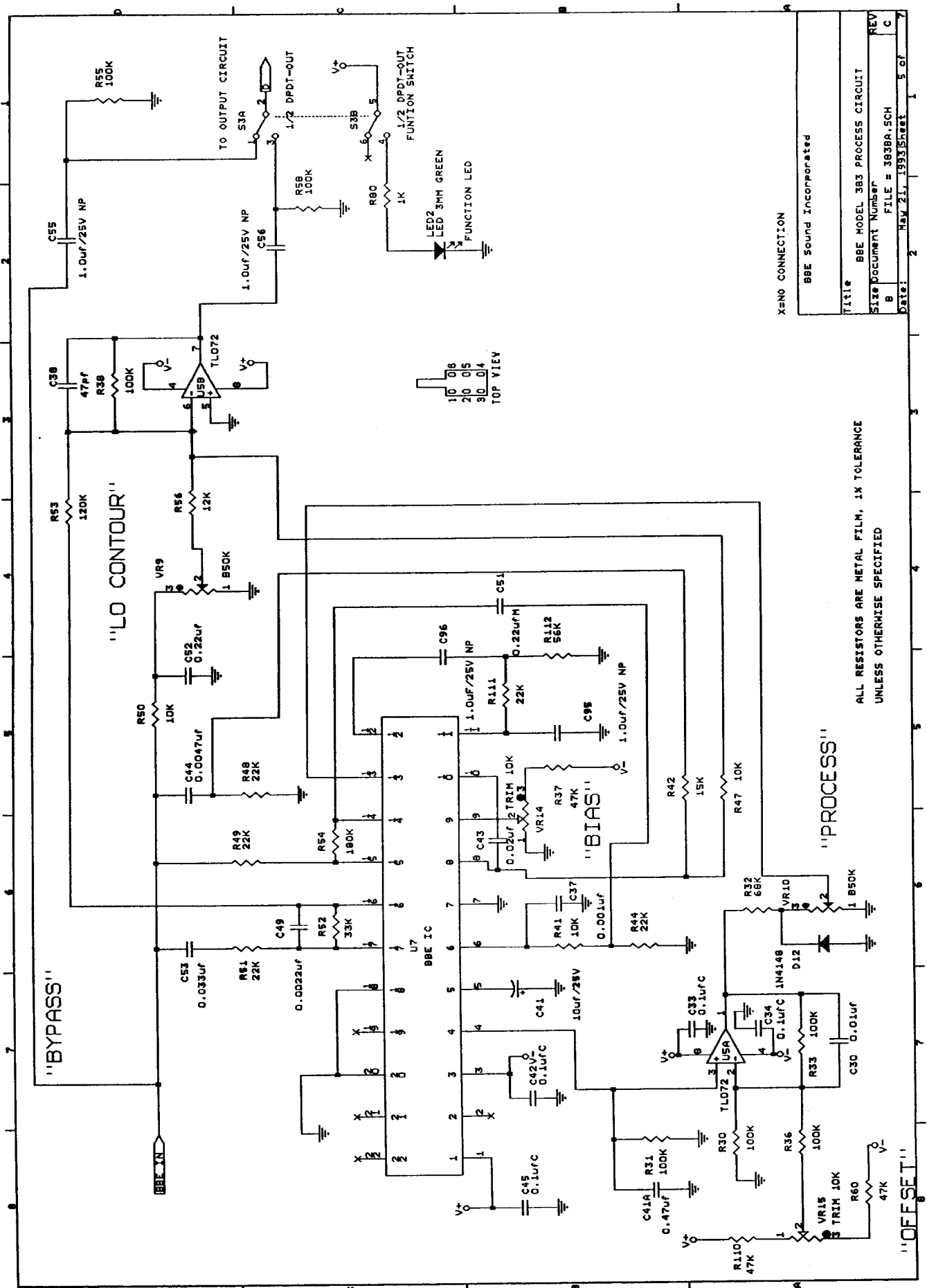
- 60HZ
- 125HZ
- 250HZ
- 600HZ
- 1.8KHZ
- 3.3KHZ

BBE Sound Incorporated	
Title	383 BASS PREAMP EQ CIRCUIT
Size	Document Number
B	FILE = 383TONE.SCH
C	REV
Date:	May 21, 1993 Sheet 3 of 7



NOTE: X = NO CONNECTION
BBE Sound Incorporated

FILE #	BBE Model 363 Bass Preamp Compressor Circuit
Size Document Number	BBE Model 363 Bass Preamp Compressor Circuit
REV	C
FILE #	363COMP.SCH
DATE	May 21, 1993
Sheet	1 of 4



X=NO CONNECTION
BBE Sound Incorporated

File	BBE MODEL 383 PROCESS CIRCUIT	REV	
Size	Document Number	FILE = 303BA.SCH	C
Date:	May 21, 1995	Sheet	1 of 5

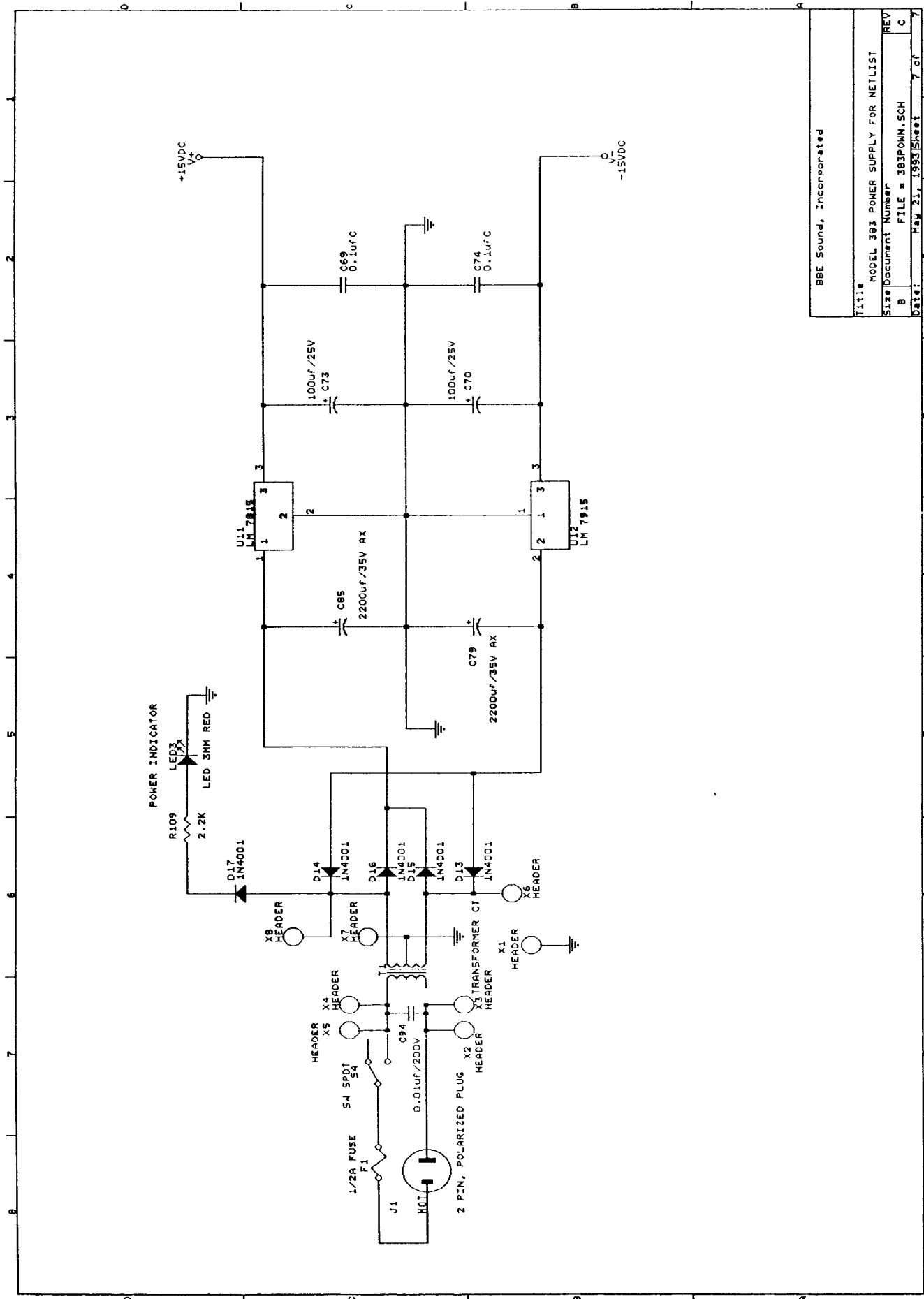
ALL RESISTORS ARE METAL FILM, 1% TOLERANCE
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

"PROCESS"

"LO CONTOUR"

"BYPASS"

"OFFSET"



BBE Sound, Incorporated	
Title	MODEL 363 POWER SUPPLY FOR NETLIST
Size	Document Number
B	FILE = 383POMN.SCH
REV	C
Date:	May 21, 1993 Sheet 1 of 7

BBE[®]
Sound Inc.
5381 Production Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
(714) 897-6766

Covered by U.S. Patent 4,482,866 and other U.S. and foreign patents pending.
BBE is the registered trademark of BBE Sound, Inc.