



Ampeg®

Knowledgebase

Micro VR with active bass

Question: My bass has active pickups. Should I use the -15db pad?

Answer: Having the 2 inputs is more a convenience than a necessity. Some amps have two inputs, one for active the other for passive. Others have a single input with a Gain knob, and some have a padded selector switch. Some even have a combination: input jack with active/passive switch and Gain knob.

These are all different ways of accomplishing the same thing: preventing a high-output active bass from pushing the amp into unwanted distortion/clipping. When set to Active, the signal is reduced, aka "attenuated", or "padded". A nice feature is a clip light that tells you when the amp is clipping. (Note: for some of us, clipping can be a good thing, especially with tube amps or preamps).

Use the -15db pad if you notice that the peak/mute LED comes on regularly.

At the end of the day, use your ears and pick the one that sounds the best to you.