The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **charmonder** » 02 Nov 2012, 17:28

I was about to list a boss HM-2 on eBay, which requires an ACA power supply. Personally I'd rather use a battery on this one, but I need to verify that it works with a power supply. Luckily I found this little tid bit:

> http://stinkfoot.se/archives/726
>
> *Conclusions*
> *If it says "PSA" on the bottom (or on the sticker next to the adapter jack), use a 9 volt regulated supply.*
> *If it says "ACA" on the bottom or on the sticker, it will need 12 volts on the adapter jack, rather than 9. Unless you are using a daisy chain or power supply with common ground for all outputs (DC Brick, Cioks, PowerPad etc). In that case, the pedal will work with 9 volts, as long as there's a 'proper' 9 volt pedal in the chain with it. And provided that there are signal cables connecting the pedals as well.*

charmonder

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Dirk** » 02 Nov 2012, 21:04

It will work just as Stinkfoot's site says, ie: It will work with an old style ACA adaptor, or daisy chained with other pedals from a modern PSA adaptor.

Dirk

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Clean Channel** » 04 Nov 2012, 14:46

Also don't forget that you can power them using the slots 1-4 on a Pedal Power 2+ (need to flip the dip switch away from 'normal').

Also worth noting that the Boss ACA adapters actually deliver over 14V, not 12. I have two, and when measured with a multimeter, they both delivered 14.7V. I've spoken to one other on this forum who measured his and got the same result.

Clean Channel

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Laurie** » 04 Nov 2012, 14:54

BEFORE you use it... check polarity and voltage!

But the best thing I've found for powering stand-alone ACA pedals is an old telephone-answering machine power supply. Get one marked 9V and it will probably put out about 12-13V unloaded. About $2 at your local thrift store.

Laurie

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **zombiwoof** » 04 Nov 2012, 20:27

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *Also don't forget that you can power them using the slots 1-4 on a Pedal Power 2+ (need to flip the dip switch away from 'normal').*
>
> *Also worth noting that the Boss ACA adapters actually deliver over 14V, not 12. I have two, and when measured with a multimeter, they both delivered 14.7V. I've spoken to one other on this forum who measured his and got the same result.*

I also have a couple of ACA adapters, and mine also measure over 14 volts like yours. Another thing I discovered, if you have any of those BBE pedals that came with their "9 volt" adapter, they also seem to be unregulated and put out over 13 volts. I've tried one of them on my ACA pedals and they work well in place of an ACA adapter. One note: the BBE adapters I have are from older BBE pedals, they may have changed to regulated adapters on their newer pedals, so I would measure the output if you have a newer BBE adapter to make sure they put out over 13 volts.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Jeremy** » 05 Nov 2012, 02:05

I've got a couple of related questions

Following some generous help from Laurie and others on this, I have managed to dig a couple of unregulated 12V adaptors out of thrift-shop bins, so that I have ACA-type adaptors at hand

Q1. Will the ACA-type adaptor (I think they both send about 13.5V unloaded) put 12 volts into a pedal that wants/will take a regulated 12 volt supply - like, for example, my excellent HZD booster?

Q2. Can you daisy chain PSA-type pedals to an ACA adaptor (as opposed to daisy chaining ACA-type pedals to a PSA adaptor)?

Jeremy

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Laurie** » 06 Nov 2012, 03:50

Q1: I wouldn't use the "ACA" adapter on any pedal that wasn't marked as taking ACA, or marked "up to" some voltage (eg. 24V like the HZD). So, yes it will work on the HZD, but I wouldn't use it on anything expecting regulated 12V

Q2: NOOOOOO! please don't. You can run ACA pedals off PSA adapter if daisy-chained with a PSA pedal, but the other way around will cause problems/damage.

Laurie

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Jeremy** » 06 Nov 2012, 06:11

Thanks Laurie

they are questions that have sat at the back of mind for a while now

don't worry .... precautionary principle was applied

Jeremy

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **zentropa** » 06 Nov 2012, 09:02

The funny thing is that back in the early 90's i thought a lot of boss pedals sounded like poo because the store had me demo them with a psa adapter on an aca pedal. Oddly enough there were a handful of pedals i preferred when they were powered this way.

zentropa

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Pepe** » 06 Nov 2012, 09:29

Ouch!

Pepe

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **visserman** » 06 Nov 2012, 16:59

Does anyone read what is coming out of their PSA powersupplies regularly? .....Hmmm they are regulated, so this is not a wordplay or.....

Here they vary from 8.7 to 8.9, that is without a load.

Just got curious because I have one that shorts out from time to time. After having read the votage of that particular PSA I thought that was the fault, after having read the values of different PSA's and them being in a similar range (8.7 upt to 8.9) I no longer think that is part of the fault.

Let us not go into what this fault could be, as someone is working on it right now. Fascinating to see that a powersupply which is maked to give out 9.00 volts reads actually below 9.00 volts. That was new for me, but than I discovered that a lot of pedals actually work well under 9.00 volts. They will work with 7 up to 8 volts. Again, let us not go into detail about this as it is not part of this post. Only want to highlight some of the ACA/PSA facts.

Enjoy

visserman

Re: The More You Know*: Boss PSA and ACA adaptors

by **Laurie** » 07 Nov 2012, 02:20

The LM7809 regulator has a voltage spec of 8.6 to 9.4

What that means is that while it would typically be 9V, anywhere from 8.6 to 9.4 is within specification.

Laurie