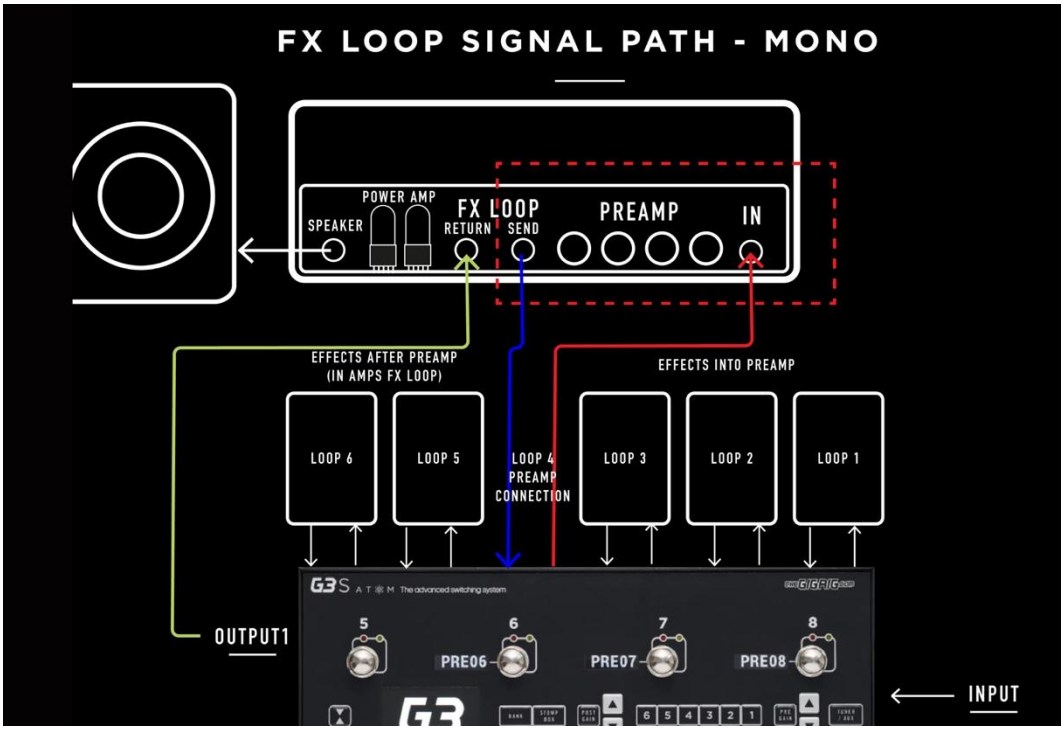


4 CABLE METHOD WITH G3, G3 ATOM

CONTENT

1. Introduction

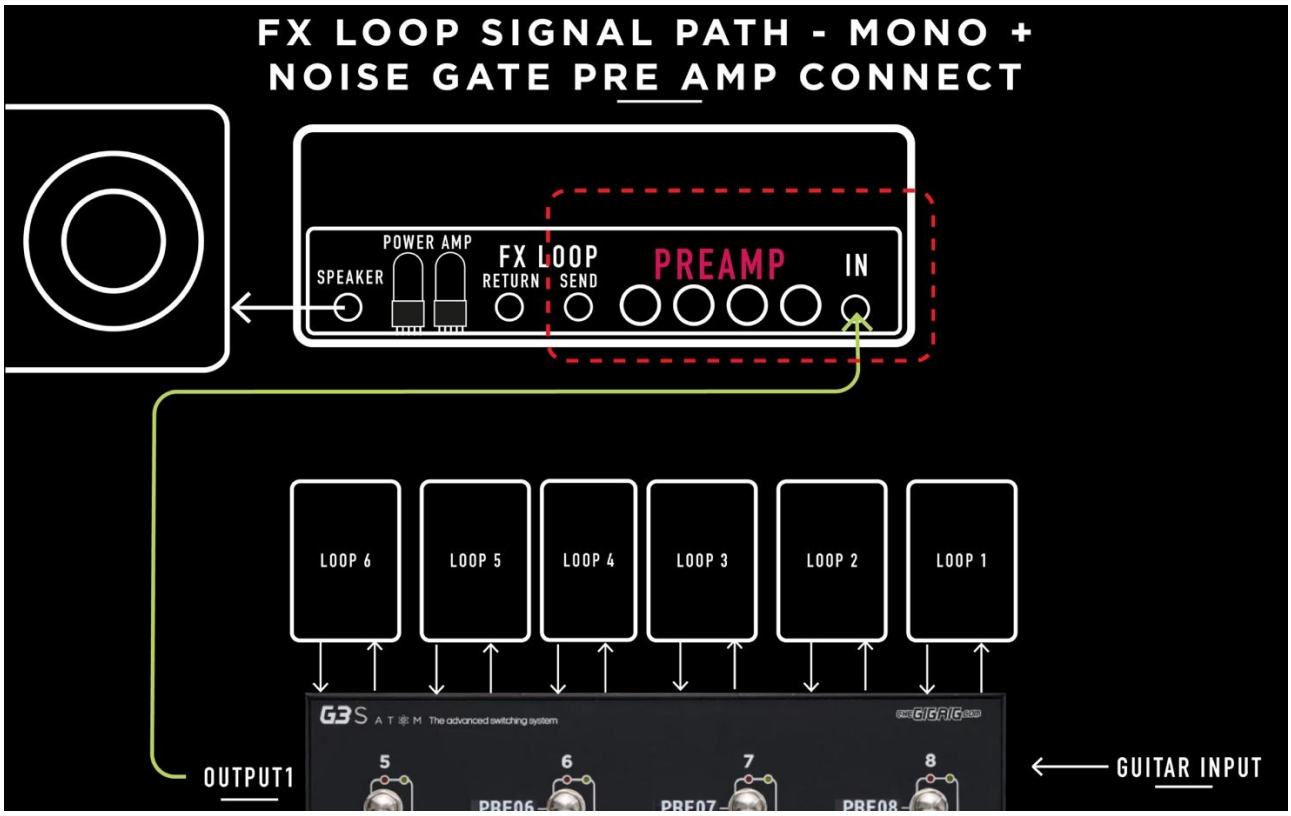
The 4 Cable Method allows you to integrate your amplifier's **preamp** into the G3 or G3 Atom signal chain. This enables you to place certain effects **before** the amp's preamp (such as compression, wah, and overdrive) and others **after** it, commonly referred to as being "in the amp's FX loop" (such as delay, reverb, and modulation).

2. Series VS 4 Cable Method

It's important to understand that the 4 Cable Method is still a **series signal path**.

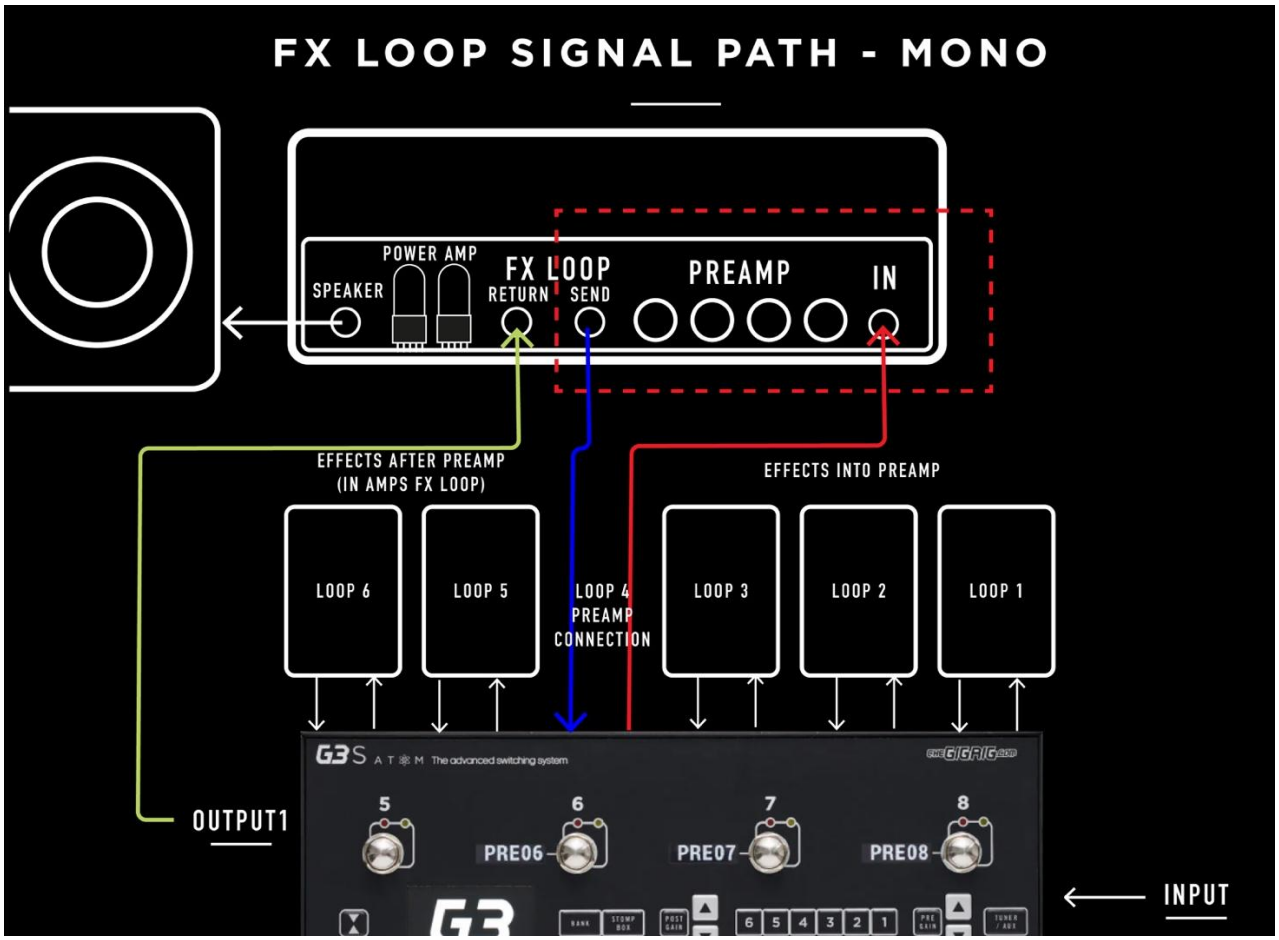
The only difference is that you are inserting your amplifier's preamp into the signal chain, just as you would insert an overdrive pedal in a loop.

Your signal still travels in one continuous path.



In this example, all pedals are placed in the G3/Atom and the output goes straight into the front of the amplifier.

Here we are inserting the amplifier's **preamp** into the signal path, exactly as you would an overdrive pedal.



Step-by-step wiring:

1. Guitar → Input of G3
2. Signal travels through the G3 looking for any engaged loops
3. Loop Send (for example Loop 4 - this can be any loop) → Amplifier Input
4. Amplifier FX Send → G3 Loop Return (the same loop)
5. G3 Output → Amplifier FX Return

Any loops placed **after** the preamp loop will effectively sit in the amplifier's FX loop, because they are positioned after the preamp stage.

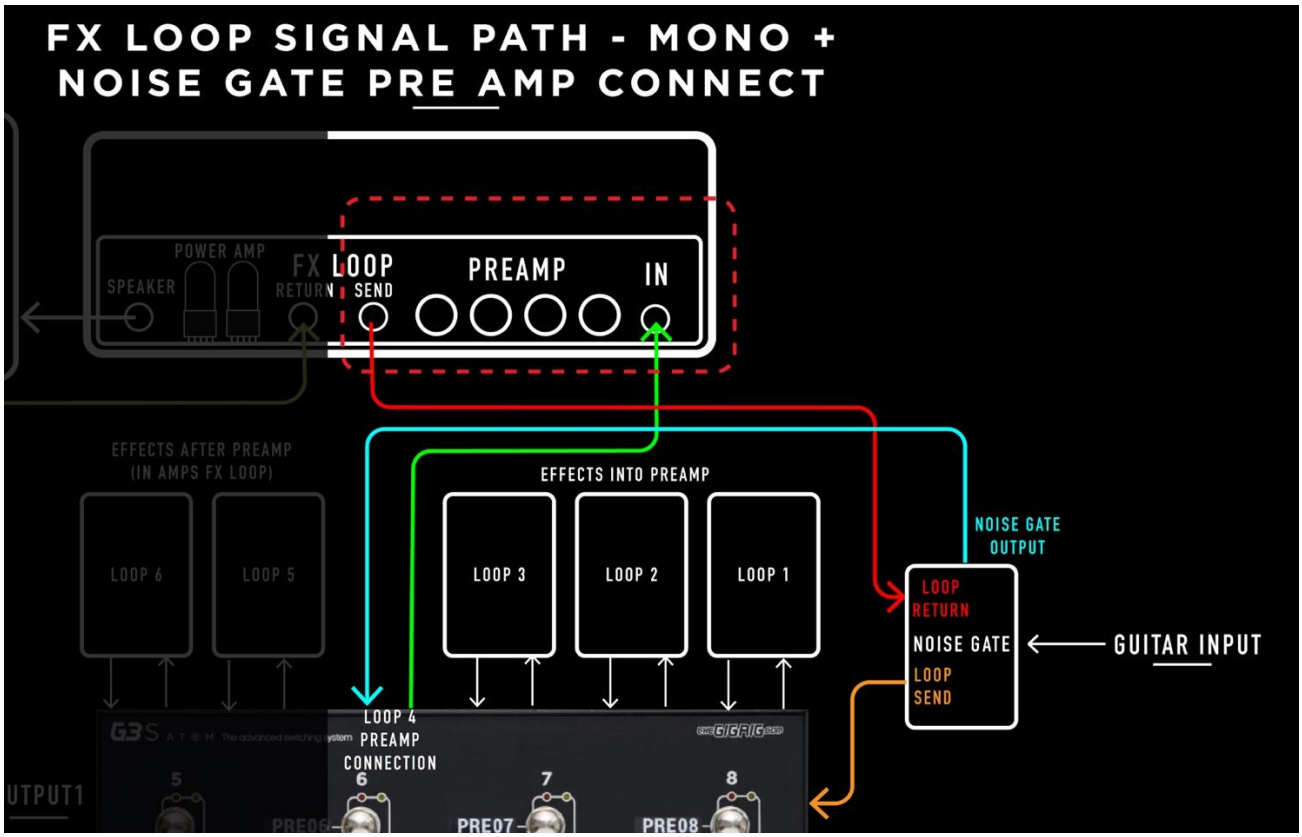
IMPORTANT

Every preset must include the loop that contains your amplifier's preamp (e.g. Loop 4 in this example).
If that loop is not engaged, your signal will bypass the preamp and go straight to the power amp — resulting in no preamp tone or gain.

Adding a Noise Gate

For higher-gain applications, the increased gain from a preamp can introduce unwanted noise.
A noise gate can help reduce this.
You can:

- Place the noise gate in its own loop and only engage it for high-gain presets
- Or position it at the front of your signal chain



In this configuration, the gate is placed so that it controls only the gain stages.

Rule: Gate the gain, nothing else.

Wiring example:

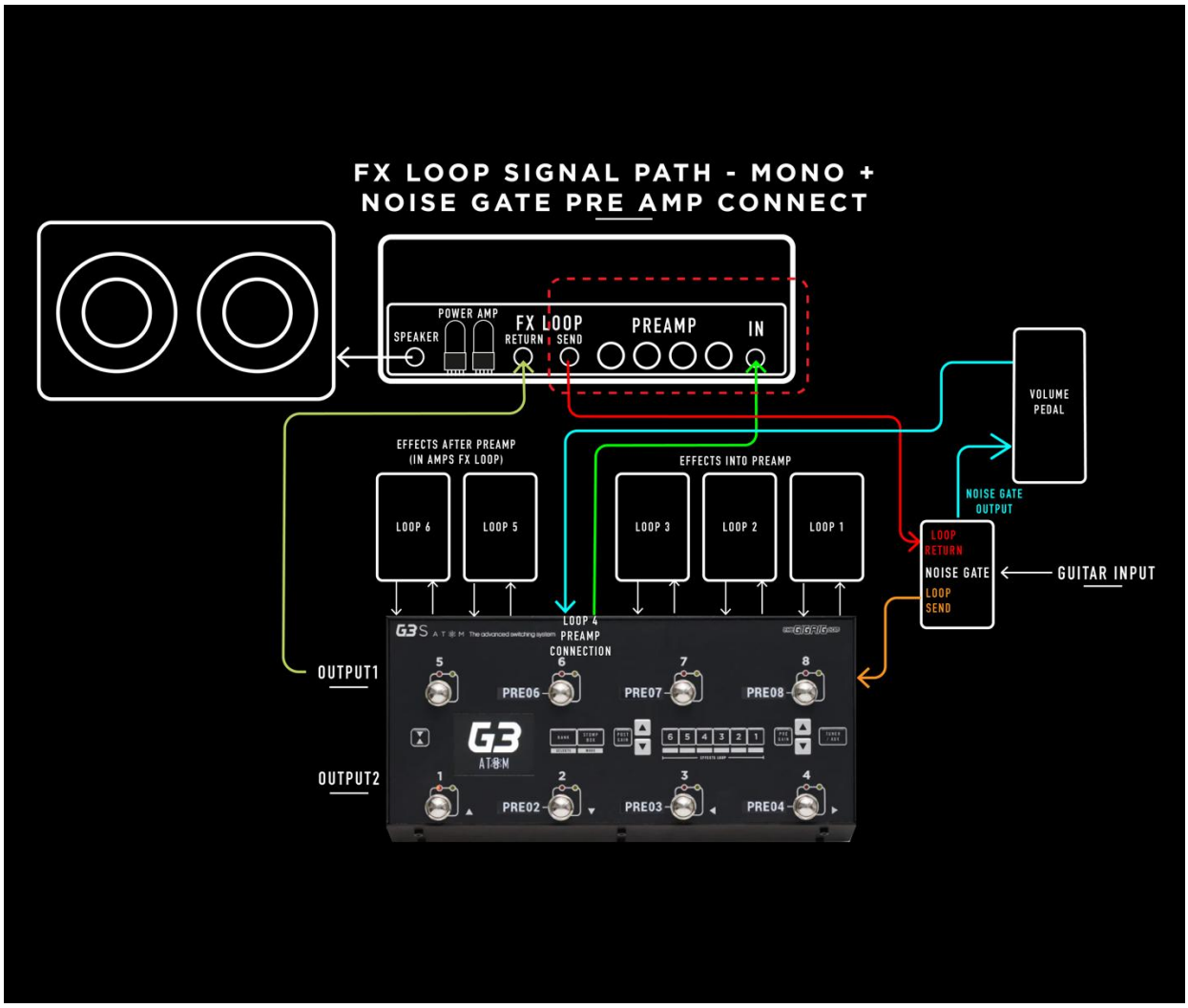
- Guitar → Noise Gate Input (to trigger the gate)
- Noise Gate Loop Send → G3 Input
- G3 Loop Send (preamp loop) → Amp Input
- Amp FX Send → Noise Gate Loop Return
- Noise Gate Output → G3 Loop Return

This ensures the gate controls the gain stages without affecting delay and reverb trails.

Adding a Volume Pedal

To add a master volume control, place your Volume pedal (or More Or Less) between the Noise Gate output and the G3 loop return that contains the preamp.
This gives you:

- Master volume control
- No change to gain structure
- Delay and reverb trails remain intact



Running Stereo

You can easily make this rig stereo by placing stereo effects after the preamp loop and using the G3's outputs to feed the FX Returns of two separate amplifiers.