

Build Level: Beginner

Based On: VFE® SPS Switching System™

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Overview

The **TrueSoft 3.4** is the heart of all the VFE SPS projects. It handles the I/O and power for each circuit. It utilizes a relay-based, soft switching system for silent bypass operation. The TrueSoft PCB is connected to a separate audio PCB for each VFE SPS project via a soldered ribbon cable (included).

There are two varieties of the TrueSoft 3.4. The first version includes a voltage inverter for projects requiring split-rail DC operation. The second version does not include the inverter and is used with projects that require simple single rail 9v power. The correct version is provided with each VFE SPS project offered at madbeanpedals at no additional charge.

The TrueSoft PCB does require some through-hole component population. All the surface mount parts are pre-soldered to the bottom of the PCB.

NOTE: The VFE SPS effects are designed for the 1590BS enclosure. Since that enclosure type is not widely available, these projects are designated for 125B only. There are paper and Tayda drill templates available for the 125B in this document.

Controls

There is only one user control on the TrueSoft 3.4 PCB. It is a slide switch to select whether the effect is true bypass or buffered bypass. Enable buffer mode when required for your pedal chain. Usually one buffered pedal near the start and/or end of a pedal chain is enough to counteract any signal loss from using multiple pedals with patch cables inbetween.

ALL VFE projects have an alternate momentary bypass mode. When enabled, the effect is only active while the footswitch is pressed. To enable momentary mode:

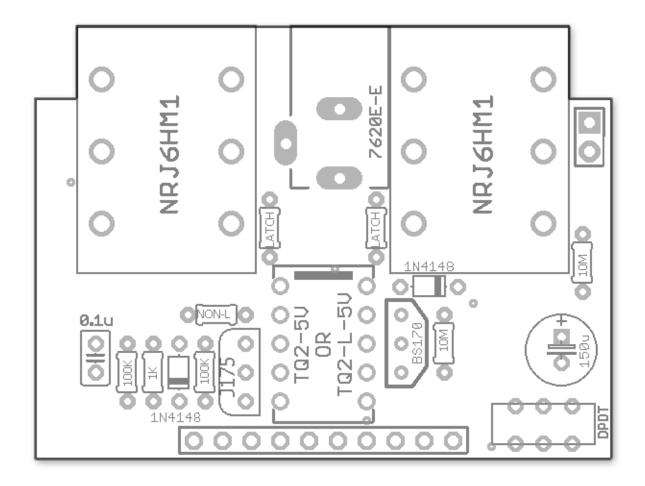
- 1. Wait 5 seconds after the last footswitch activation.
- 2. Tap the FS twice in quick succession then tap and hold. After a few seconds the bypass LED will blink rapidly to indicate momentary mode is enabled.
- 3. To go back to regular bypass mode, just repeat steps 1 and 2.

Terms of Use: You are free to use purchased TrueSoft circuit boards for both DIY and small commercial operations. You may not offer TrueSoft PCBs for resale or as part of a "kit" in a commercial fashion. Peer to peer re-sale is fine, though.

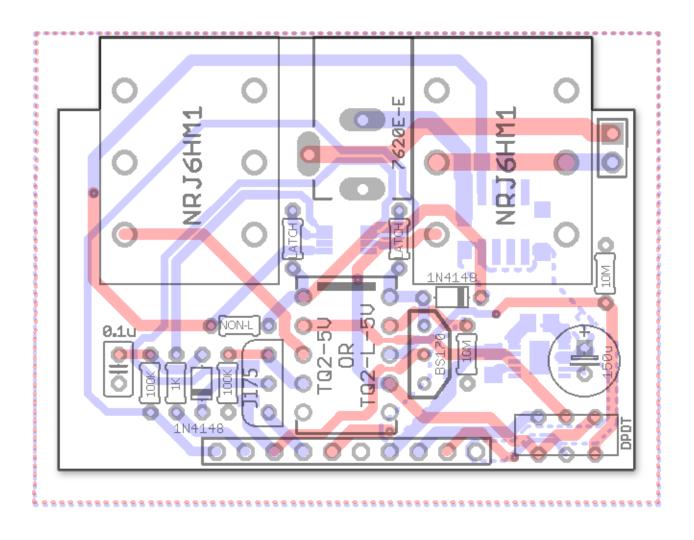
Technical assistance for is available via the <u>madbeanpedals forum</u>. Please go there rather than emailing me for personal assistance. This is because (1) I'm not always available to respond via email in a timely and continuous manner, and (2) posting technical problems and solutions in the forum creates a record from which other members may benefit.

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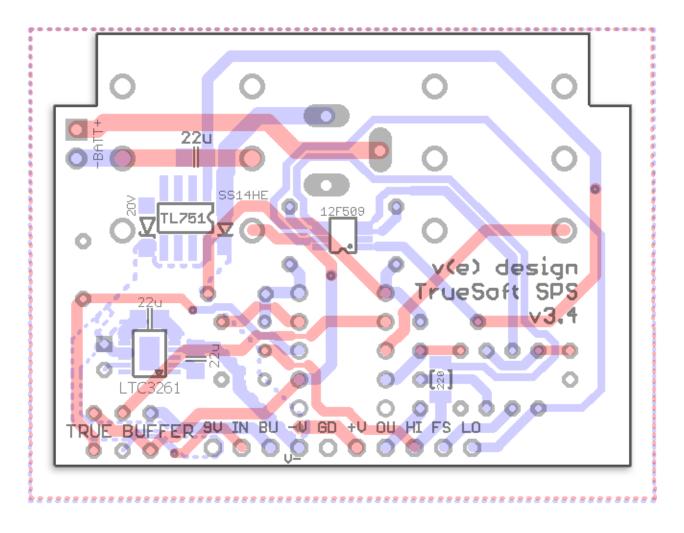
Parts Layout



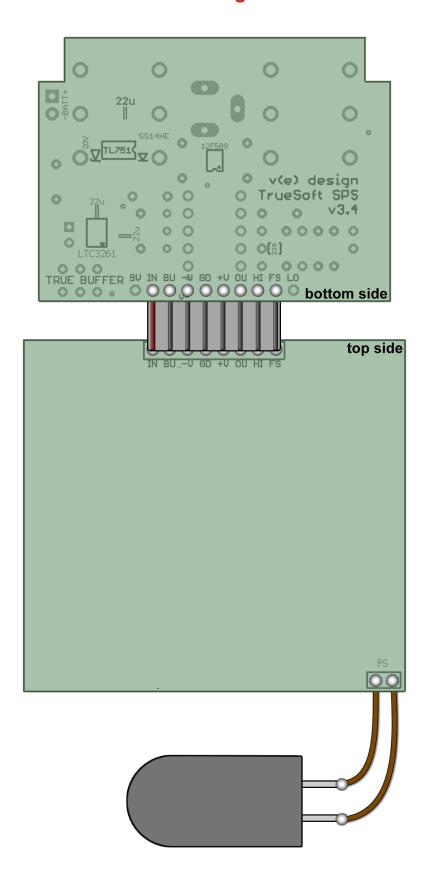
Trace Layout Top



Trace Layout Bottom



Wiring



Unless otherwise noted, all SPS projects are wired the same way, using the provided ribbon cable to connect the audio and I/O PCBs.

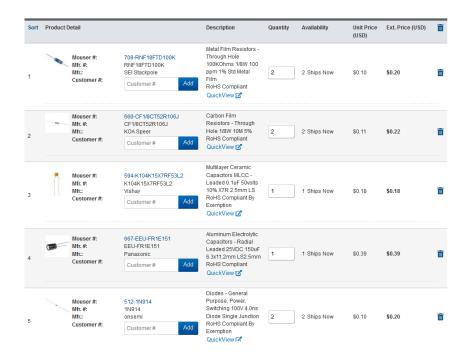
B.O.M.

Value	QTY	Туре	Rating
100k	2	Metal Film	1/8W
10M	2	Carbon Film	1/8W
100n	1	MLCC	25v min.
150uF	1	Electrolytic	25v min.
1n914	2		
J175	1		
BS170	1		
Relay	1	TQ2-5v or TQ2-L-5V (see notes)	
DPDT	1	JS202011AQN	
1/4" Jacks	2	NJR6HM1	
DC Jack	1	7620E-E	
Ribbon Cable	1	included	

Shopping List

For your convenience, I have created a Mouser project that includes all the through-hole parts needed for the TrueSoft 3.4. It includes both relay types (latching and non-latching) so be sure to remove the relay you are not using. The Neutrik jacks do not come with nuts, so those are included in the Mouser project, as well. The approximate cost is \$10 (ex. shipping)

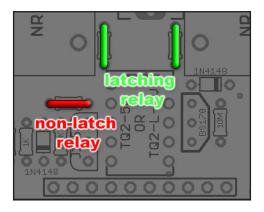
https://www.mouser.com/ProjectManager/ProjectDetail.aspx?AccessID=8d68234c06



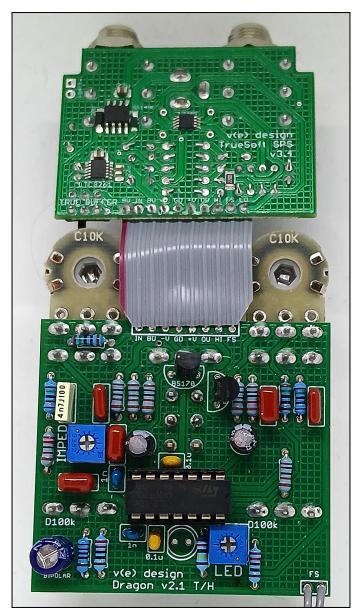
Build Notes

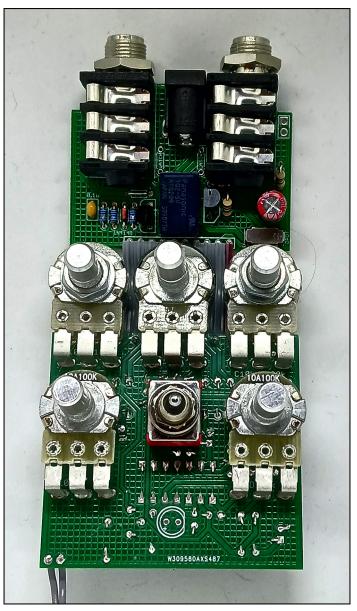
There are two options for the relay: latching and non-latching. The latching relay will save the last bypass state even when powered off. The non-latching will always initialize in bypass mode when powered on. The latching relay is cheaper (for whatever reason) and might be beneficial if you run a lot of pedals through a looper and want your pedals in an always on state when powered up.

You will need to solder some jumpers depending on which relay you choose.



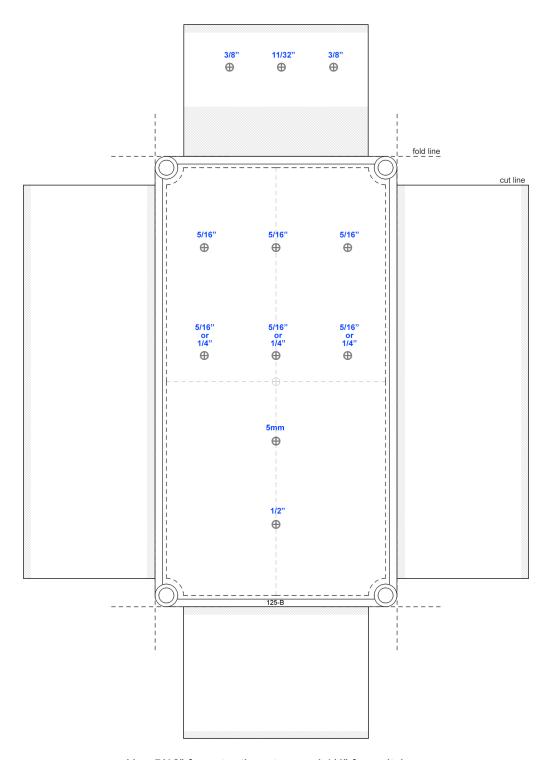
Build Pic





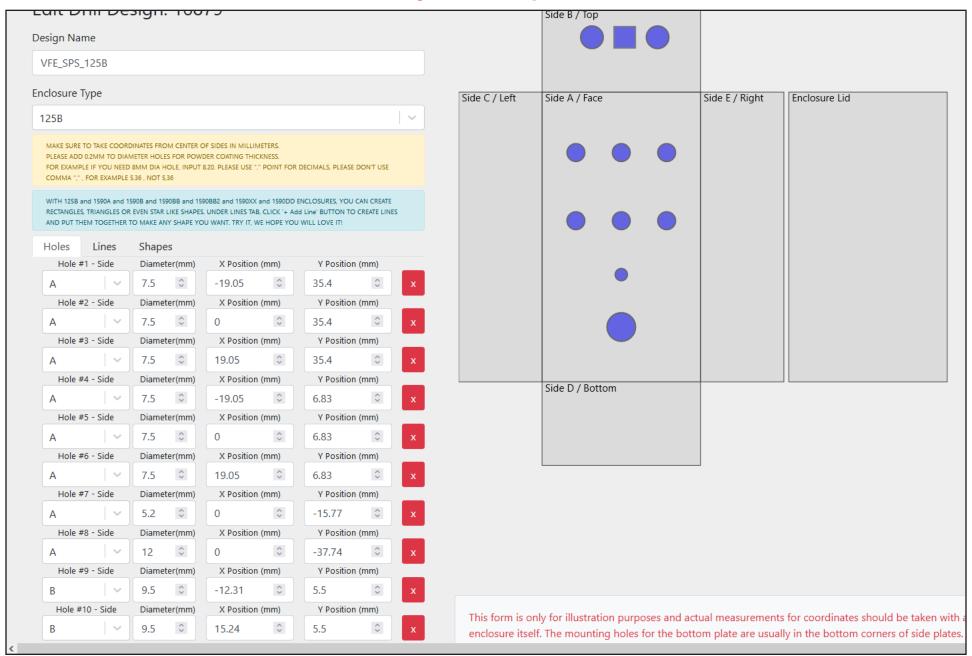
The ribbon cables that come with the TrueSoft PCB have 10 wire leads instead of the required 8. Trim the 2 outer wires back at an angle, as shown above. Or, use a utility knife and cut the last two rows on the cable to make a 8-pin.

125B Drill Template



Use 5/16" for potentiometers and 1/4" for switches.

Tayda Drill Template



Tayda 125B drill template: https://drill.taydakits.com/box-designs/new?public key=Tllyajl4TFqwNDZGcG1XL1EyVjNDZz09Cq==

Note: I have not tested this Tayda drill template but should be accurate. You can use a round hole instead of square for the DC Jack, if you prefer. Use either 8 or 9mm for the size.

Schematic

