

VETTA DIGITAL INTERFACE

Installation Guide

by
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Introduction

Its here, hooray!!! After 2 years of being Line 6's flagship item, we finally get a digital out option on the Vetta Digital Interface (VDI) upgrade card. Why did it take 2 years for Line 6 to decide to simply install a digital out on their digital amp??? I guess we will never know, but thank goodness they finally did. So now Line 6 early adopters, the players on the final frontier of guitar tone, we finally get what the PODxt Pro users have had for years to use in studios.

Perhaps to many folks and even better then getting a digital out on our amps, we now have direct Variax connectivity. I really cannot elaborate on this as I have not yet purchased a Variax, but man I would melt for the chance to plug my own V700 into my Vetta and enjoy the greatest digital guitar setup ever conceived. So I envy every owner that contains both parts of this digital equation. To find out more about the VDI to Variax connectivity check out the digital interface page at www.vettaville.com or Line 6.com

Whats in the Box

Let me start out by saying, if you have not yet upgraded your amp to at least v 2.0, you need to do that in order to take advantage of the VDI board. If you have been too intimidated to upgrade your OS, then installing the VDI board is definitely not for you. I am not at all saying that it is difficult to install the VDI board by yourself, but it is not for the weak at heart. In addition, it will probably take the better part of an hour to complete this procedure. It wouldn't hurt to have an extra set of hands around (I did most of it with one hand but a couple parts I had to put the camera down and wished I had help). I will denote the parts that could use an extra set of hands.

First of all lets look at what comes in the Box.



As you can see, you get the VDI board, the Upgrade manual from Line 6 (for technicians), a Variax to

Vetta ether-net cable with XLR style connections, and a bag. What's in the bag...well a data ribbon cable, an inline power adapter (power supply/extender), an allen wrench and 6 screws.



In addition to install the cable you will need a couple of strong arms, a clear area to work, and a good Phillips head screwdriver (electric or drill with adapter would work best!!!!). Lets get to work

Lets get our hands dirty

Line 6 Disclaimer which can be found in the included installation manual.

DISCLAIMER:

This accessory should be installed by an authorized service center. There are no user serviceable parts and there is potential for personal injury by unauthorized personnel disassembling the unit. Line 6 does not recommend installation of this device by anyone other than Line 6 or an Authorized Service Center. If you need help finding an Authorized Service Center, please go to www.line6.com or call 818-575-3600 in the US and Canada or 011 44 1788 821 600 for Europe. For all other areas of the world, please find our distributor finder in the Support section of www.line6.com or feel free to call either of the numbers above. Any disassembly of your amplifier can result in your warranty being voided and any damage caused by installation of the end user will not be covered under any warranty.

First it would be best to save all of your patches, just in case something happened. My patches where okay after the install but this would be a good idea. Next you need to unplug the amp from the power cable, heck any cable because they will be getting in the way really soon. Next unplug the speaker cable from each speaker. Take note of which cable came from where if your cabling looks different from mine otherwise you can always check out the pics.





Now we need to remove the 6 screws that holds the head to the cab. Make sure that you support the bottom of the head as you do this because the head can fall out once the screws are removed. An extra set of hands would be great for this part. (or you can turn the amp on its side so that the chassis is not dangling from above).





These screws are long and the electric screwdriver or drill would be put to nice use here. If the head does not come out easily it could be because the adhesive strips are still working fairly well. I had to do a little bit of gentle wiggling in order to get the head out of the cab.



Now that you have your head out of your cab (couldn't help myself), put it on an area where you have plenty of room to work. Now use the allen wrench to remove the screws around the top of the back panel

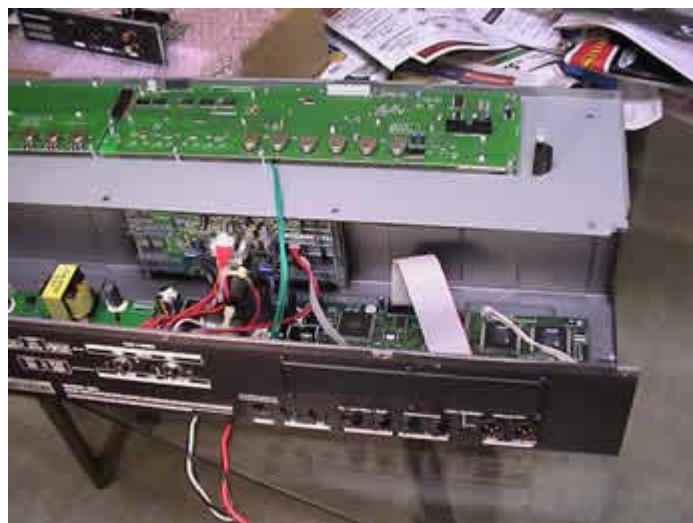


After you have taken out the screws and removed the black trim piece, gently and slowly raise/rotate the faceplate from the rear towards the front. You will notice one data cable, and one signal cable that limit continued movement. Disconnect these 2 cables from the faceplate.





Now lay the faceplate down carefully trying not to scratch it. I used the box that the VDI was shipped in to rest the faceplate on, this was perfect height. Simply place the box behind the front part of the head and lay the upside down faceplate on it. This should allow some give on the cables that are still connected.



Now you can see what makes the Vetta tick. This picture is the computer part of the amp. The two big chips on the right are the sharc processors. You can also see the battery on the top left. I cannot

identify the other chips but probably most are memory chips.



Now I will reveal Vetta's big secret. Why it has such great tone. Check out this picture.



That's right you heard it hear first...these are Vetta's 2 power tubes. Actually I am **just kidding** =). Okay back to work.

Unscrew the screws around the expansion port, and remove the metal plate. Once completed this plate is no longer necessary, so let's have a competition to see who can come up with the most creative thing to do with it.

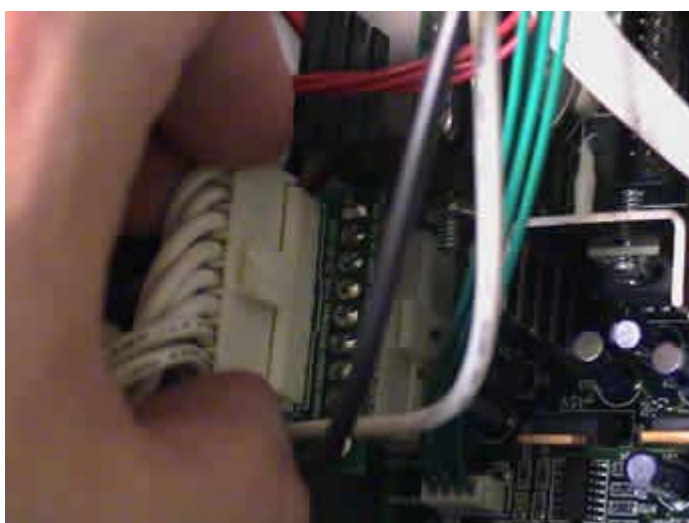
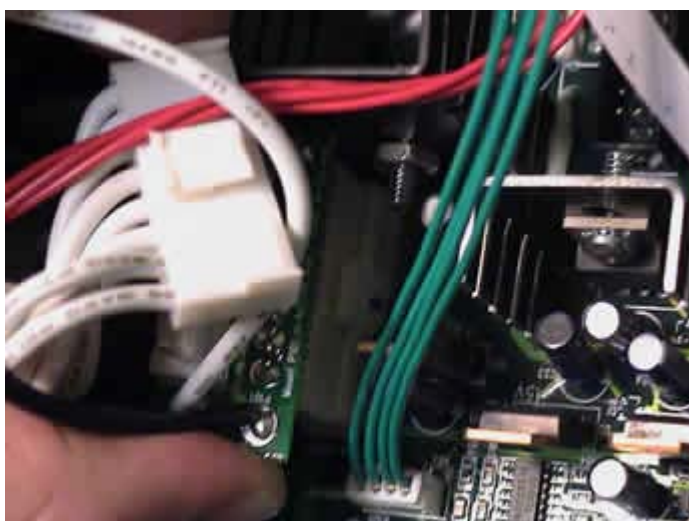


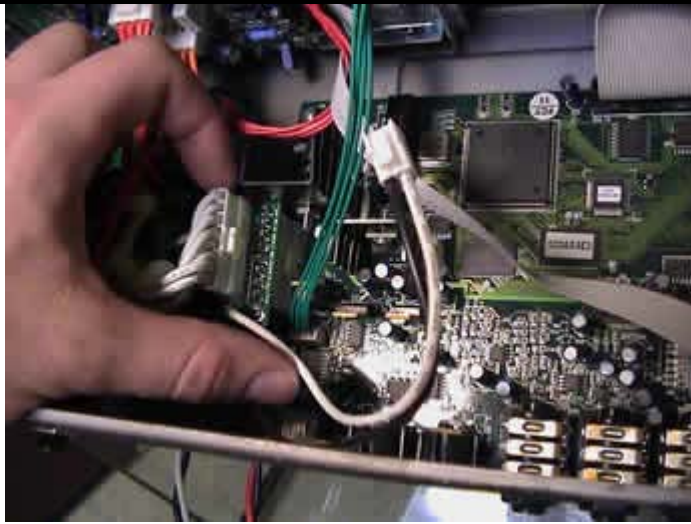
Now unplug the power cable. You will find this in the middle of the chassis and it looks a lot like the power supply connector on computer motherboards. Simply press in the lever and wiggle it out.





Now grab the inline power adapter and plug it into the slot where you just unplugged the main power cable. Make sure it goes in all the way, as it should click into place. Now plug the original power cable into the inline power adapter just like it was previously plugged in directly. Your amp should look like the last picture here.





Now grab the data ribbon cable that came with the package and plug it into the ribbon cable slot on the main board. It will only fit one way so make sure you check where the tab cut out is in order to plug it in correctly.





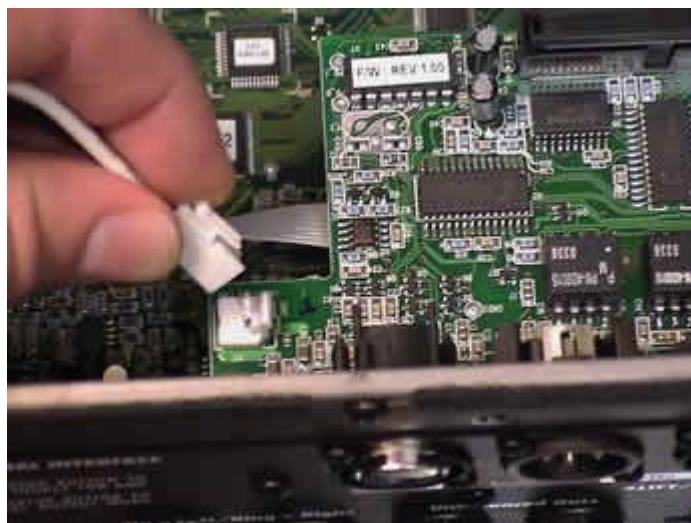
Now place the VDI board into place and use the 6 new screws to screw it in.

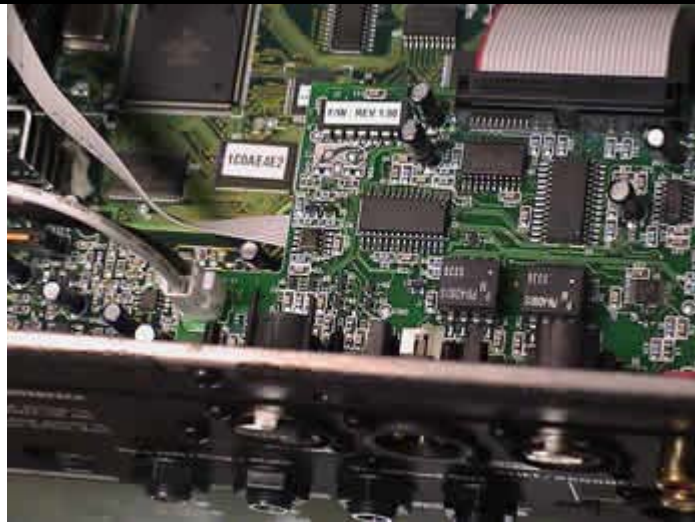


Now plug the data ribbon cable you just plugged into the main board into the VDI board. Again it only plugs in one way so make sure you pay attention to the tab.



Now plug the 2 dangling power cables from the inline power adapter into the bottom left power prongs on the board. Pay attention to the tabs as it only plugs in one way, and these prongs are a little more susceptible to damage. It will clip on the board similar to the way the main power supply clicked on the inline power adapter.





We are almost done, but now we need to put the amp back together again. Start by grabbing the faceplate and rotating it back into place. Remember we have to plug 2 cables in so leave it open enough to get your hands inside. Now plug in the ribbon cable paying attention to the tabs.



Then plug the guitar signal cable back in. Pay attention to its orientation it also only fits one way.



Now we need to re-attach the faceplate to the rest of the head. Grab the black trim piece and put it back in place. Since Line 6 provided 6 new screws added to the likely hood of me not having an allen wrench when I may need one, I used the left over Phillips head screws instead. Line 6 may chime in on this one and recommend using the allen wrench screws, but I did not see any difference in them besides the head type.

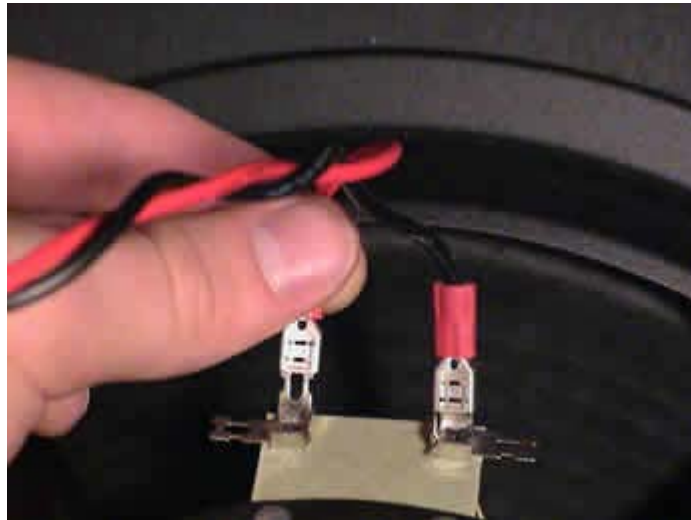


Now we need to reinsert the head back into the cab. This is again where the extra set of hands would

definitely come in handy (or turn the Vetta on its side). This time instead of just supporting the head, you have to line up the screws and actually screw it in. Here is how I did it. I pushed the screws all the way down on the cab. I then slid the head in as best I could. While supporting the head I lined up the bottom left screw with the screw hole and started to screw it in. I then did the same on the bottom right side and then on one of the front screws on the left or right side. I then felt it was secure enough to let it hang. Once you get it started its easy but getting it started was a little difficult.



Now just reconnect the speaker cables and you are good to go.





Congratulations,

You have just installed the VDI board into your Vetta I amp. Now you own a Vetta II (version 1.9 amp with OS 2.x). Don't you feel like a tech???

Anyway, I have not had time to do any recordings yet, and I don't have a Variax so other than seeing the VDI LCD screens, I haven't gotten to use it much. I plan on doing a couple of recordings both from the direct outs and digital outs to try to illustrate the difference in sound. I must first explain that if the direct outs and digital out do not sound the same its not necessarily the fault of the Vetta's DO's. The signal has to be converted to analog, out the preamp of the Vetta, into another A/D converter and possibly an additional preamp. The reason I mention that the signal may get run it into an additional preamp is because many DAW's (digital audio workstations) only provided inputs with pre's included. Either way folks will own pre's and converters of differing qualities all of which will either add to or take away from the signal you are trying to capture. I am planning on doing some tests both with an additional pre in-between and without, all to compare the signals and perhaps the best way to capture a guitar signal from the Vetta.

I would like to thank Nathan Shane, Line 6, AZ, and all the folks at ION for the opportunity to put this together. I hope that this will serve as an aid to all the pioneers that may have trouble using the tech oriented installation guide included in the VDI package or for those who just want prettier pictures =).

Good luck and happy playing over the holidays. See you back at ION.

Christian Summer