Why and how to add ambience to a Red Box signal using impulse response files for "Convolution Reverbs".

… sounds complicated, but it´s easy!

Since its release in the late 1980's, the Hughes & Kettner Red Box has been the standard tool for capturing the sound of guitar amps without using microphones. It delivers unvarying sound quality at every gig or recording session, putting an end to crosstalk with other instruments or hassles of experimenting with microphone placement. Thanks to this clear, direct sound, it will endear you to every seasoned PA tech and studio engineer.

The Red Box does not sound like a mic´ed cab, it sounds like the cab itself! This is crucial for live applications, but in a recording situation (especially with head phones), it sounds like putting your head right in front of a 4x12" cab.

This is great for clean sounds and modern distortion sounds with lots of attack. For classic overdrive sounds you´ll need some tweaking to emulate all the effects that happen on the way from the speaker to your ears.

The Red Box allows you to do this: The pure Red Box signal can be run through microphone- and room-emulating software plug-ins. This enables a perfect mix of ambience and ultra-direct attack. The best way to add ambience in a recording situation is the use of impulse responses (a real recorded wave-file of a mic´ed cab in a room).

We have designed an impulse response that matches perfectly to the Red Box 5 and to the

Red Box that is built into the Hughes & Kettner TubeMeister series. This IR-file can be used with all convolution reverb plug-ins such as Logic Space Designer, Cubase Reverence, Pro Tools TL Space and many others.
Just download the IR-file (www.hughes-and-kettner.com, in the download section of TubeMeister and Red Box 5) and then import it in your favorite plug-in.

Make sure to activate "latency compensation" if your plug-in does not do this automatically to avoid phasing effects, and finally, feel free to experiment with the "dry/wet" mix and add additional equalizing, reverb and delay effects.
The results will be superb!