

# TWA®



**SH9™**

Scott Henderson signature distortion

IN-FLIGHT MANUAL

**TWA<sup>®</sup>**  
**SH9<sup>™</sup>**

## **SCOTT HENDERSON SIGNATURE DISTORTION**

Thank you for purchasing the **TWA SH9<sup>™</sup>**!

The **SH9** marks two milestones for **TWA** – In addition to being our first ever “signature” model, it is also our first ground-up design collaboration with Tube Screamer inventor **SUSUMU TAMURA**.

With the **SH9**, **MR. TAMURA** has taken the basic Sonic Distortion circuit architecture that he invented in **1981** and re-worked it to meet **SCOTT HENDERSON**'s exacting performance standards.

The center frequency of the **SH9**'s **TONE** control has been shifted and focused in the lows and lower-mids. The **SH9** retains this low-end response even as the **TONE** control is turned up, allowing notes to “speak” properly in the higher registers on the guitar. This increased note girth combined with the **SH9**'s inherent compression allows **SCOTT** to effortlessly articulate the fluid, horn-like lead tones that he is known for.

Another useful improvement to the **SH9** circuit is an increased output level that helps the pedal to be heard clearly in a full band context. **MR. TAMURA** also designed the **SH9** to operate with **9-** or **18-VOLT** power for increased headroom with less compression and a slightly different character to the distortion.

The **SH9 SCOTT HENDERSON SIGNATURE DISTORTION** is a masterful creation, manifested by two masters of their crafts.

We hope you enjoy the **SH9** as much as we enjoyed developing it!



## OPERATING THE SH9™

- Before making any connections, set **LEVEL** and **DIST** controls to their lowest (full CCW) positions. We find it best to start with the **TONE** control at 10 o'clock. Make sure pedal is bypassed (**LED** dim).
- Make all the appropriate power and audio connections. The **SH9™** draws approx. 7mA of current when engaged.
- Engage the pedal and slowly turn up the **LEVEL** and **DIST** controls to achieve desired effect. Tune **TONE** to taste!

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pedal will not make you play like Scott Henderson. However, we sincerely hope that his signature pedal will bring you many years of inspired riffs and solos; and if you practice really hard, you may have a signature pedal of your own in the next 30-40 years.



1. **INPUT** – 1/4” unbalanced audio. Connect input signal here.
2. **DC In** – Connect to tip-negative 9VDC regulated power source via a 5.5mm O.D. tip-negative male barrel plug with a minimum of 7mA of current available. (**PA-9 POWER-ALL® ECO-DAPTER®** recommended)
3. **OUTPUT** – 1/4” unbalanced audio. Connect to amplifier, recording equipment, or other effects.
4. **LEVEL** – Controls output level of effect. Turn clockwise for more.
5. **DIST** – Controls amount of saturation. Turn clockwise for more.
6. **tone** – Controls the amount high frequency content. Turn clockwise for more highs.
7. **ENGAGE SWITCH** – Engages or disengages the effect. The **SH9™** features Mechanical True Bypass switching.
8. **POWER LED** – Lights brightly when the pedal is engaged, completely dim when bypassed.

The **SH-9™** is covered by a 3 year parts and labor warranty.

For more information and to register your warranty,  
please visit our website:

**[WWW.TOTALLYWYCKEDAUDIO.COM/WARRANTY](http://WWW.TOTALLYWYCKEDAUDIO.COM/WARRANTY)**

The **SH-9™** is made in the USA.

For more info on **TOTALLY WYCKED AUDIO** products,  
please visit our website:

**[WWW.TOTALLYWYCKEDAUDIO.COM](http://WWW.TOTALLYWYCKEDAUDIO.COM)**

**GO GIT SUM!!!**

**SH9™**

## THE HISTORY:

“It was **DAVID JENKINS** from **TRUETONE MUSIC** in Santa Monica who first told me that **SCOTT HENDERSON** was using the Maxon **SD-9 SONIC DISTORTION** while we were hanging at a **NAMM** show in the mid **2000**'s.

I knew of **SCOTT** from his work with **TRIBAL TECH**. I also knew that **ANALOG MIKE** was offering a **SCOTT HENDERSON** mod for the **SD-9**, so I was a little skeptical about **DAVE**'s report.

However, **DAVE** confirmed that **SCOTT** had actually bought the *stock SD-9* from him directly at the store! Apparently, he felt that the stock version sounded better than **MIKE**'s mod (sorry **MIKE** – his words, not mine).

At some point **SCOTT** dropped by our booth and we got to be on semi-regular speaking terms. **SCOTT** would always ask to try out various Maxon overdrives, and then he'd ship them back to us if he didn't like them – which was most of the time!

**SCOTT** did wind up using the Maxon **VOP-9** for several years along with the **SD-9**, and he was a big advocate for that pedal as well. We even had **MR. TAMURA** do some prototype **VOP**'s for him with different voltage configurations, but he always settled on the stock model as the best-sounding one for his needs.

Eventually **SCOTT** swapped his **VOP** out for the **RC BOOSTER**, and he eventually wound up doing a limited-edition signature version of that pedal with **XOTIC**.

Seeing an opportunity, I asked **SCOTT** if he would be willing to do a signature **SD-9** model for Maxon. He graciously declined, stating that he didn't really like signature gear and he only did the **XOTIC** as a special favor to them.

We finally got **SCOTT** on video using the **SD-9** at the **IRIDIUM** in **NYC** in **2012**, and over the years he continued to lavish praises on the pedal, but insisted that he wasn't comfortable with the idea of a signature version.

When we partnered with **MR. TAMURA** on the **MAXON CUSTOM SHOP** models in **2019**, one of the first things I thought of was **SCOTT**'s love for the **SD-9**. I knew that **MR. T** was an avid fan of **SCOTT**'s playing, and that if we could get the two of them together, something great might come from it.

I reached out to **SCOTT** and we started talking about the **SD-9** – at this time, **SCOTT** appeared to be more open to the idea of a signature model, but explained that if we were to do one, he would want there to be some specific improvements to the circuit to address the shortcomings of that pedal that he had discovered over the years.

**MR. T** spent a good portion of the following year working on modifications for the **SD-9** in hopes of realizing **SCOTT**'s vision and getting him on board for a custom-shop signature model.

We sent a prototype to **SCOTT** in late **2019** and got to the point where his only issue was a slight loss of low-end on high notes. **MR. T** was able to solve this issue as well, and **2020 NAMM** was right around the corner so we planned to tease the release of a signature **SCOTT HENDERSON** custom-shop model at the show.

However, **SCOTT** wanted to sign off on the circuit prior to the announcement, so we wound up aborting the **NAMM** mission.

Shortly after that the pandemic hit, and we spent a few months just regrouping and stabilizing the business.



During this downtime, **MR. T** decided to take a different approach to the **SD-9** modifications and he developed a completely new prototype. **SCOTT** shot down this new version, so we had basically hit a roadblock and weren't sure how to move forward.

In the meantime, **MR. T** had been letting players in Japan hear the first **SD-9** mod, and we had also let a bunch of our guitarist friends hear that pedal. Everyone thought that the mod sounded fantastic, so we decided to release it as the **SSD-9 SUPER SONIC DISTORTION** mod in the fall of **2020**.

The **SSD-9** was received very warmly, in part because many people knew that this mod was based on **SCOTT**'s requests!

We were just starting to gain some traction with the **SSD-9** when **MAXON** ceased communications with us and stopped filling our orders in early **2021** (see video).

Once again, we spent the early part of **2021** regrouping and stabilizing the business, with plans to offer **TAMURA**-designed **TWA** pedals put into the works.

Sometime in June I got a phone call from **SCOTT HENDERSON** – he had heard about our parting of ways with Maxon, and just wanted to check in on us to see how we were holding up.

During our chat, **SCOTT** mentioned that several people had told him about the **SSD-9** mod and how great it sounded, and he asked if he could check one out. Even though we were no longer working with Maxon at that point, we still had some **SD-9**'s lying around so I figured it couldn't hurt – I modded one and sent it out to **SCOTT**.

As fate would have it, **SCOTT** LOVED the **SSD-9** mod and proclaimed that this was the sound that he had been after for all these years.

My first thoughts were “Of course, now that we no longer work with Maxon we have the opportunity to do a **SCOTT HENDERSON** signature pedal.” Figures.

And then I thought – “Waiddaminnut – NOW that we are no longer working with Maxon, we have the opportunity to do a **SCOTT HENDERSON** signature pedal!” Yeah!

I then asked **SCOTT** if he would consider doing the pedal under our **TWA** house brand of pedals – **SCOTT** had tried the **HOT SAKÉ** in the past (didn’t have enough low-end for him) and had asked for a **DYNAMORPH** (I was too afraid to send it to him!), so he had some awareness of the brand.

**SCOTT** simply said “As long as it sounds exactly like this prototype, then I’ll do it.”

With this mission objective specified, I contacted **MR. T** and let him work his magic.

**MR. TAMURA** is already incredibly meticulous when it comes to circuit design, but with the **SH9** he truly went above and beyond even his own high standards.

Every aspect of the performance of the **SH9** was painstakingly dissected and intently analyzed, from the chassis material alloy down to the color of the **LED**.

**MR. T** incorporated identical components to those used in the **SSD-9**, including the same type of **ALPS** potentiometers, the same **MARUSHIN** audio jacks, and the same **WIMA** metal film capacitors that I had inadvertently selected when purchasing parts for the **SSD-9** production (I figured they were German so they had to be good).

**MR. T** finished up the prototype of what would become the **SH9** in October of **2021**, and I sent it out to **SCOTT** for approval. He quickly gave it the thumbs-up, and then proceeded to mount it to his pedalboard, where it has performed flawlessly for his recent South American and European tours.

**SCOTT** selected the name and color of the pedal, and although he actually didn't want to have his signature on the pedal, he did give us his blessing after **MR. TAMURA** specifically requested that it be screened on the pedal's face.

Since we figured there would be players who wanted “the pedal that **SCOTT** uses in his board” as well as those who would want a pedal with his signature, we decided to offer both versions for sale to make everyone happy.

That's the story of how the **SH9** came to be – it was really incredible to be a witness to this process, and I will never forget all the crazy twists and turns that this project took or the fascinating and often fun (and sometimes frustrating) conversations that I had with both **SCOTT** and **MR. T**.

I hope you all enjoy the **SH9** as much as I enjoyed being a part of its creation!”

Cheers,  
-**KEVIN BOLEMBACH**  
*President, TOTALLY WYCKED AUDIO*

# FLIGHT DATA

**CODE NAME:** SH9™ v1.0

**FUNCTION:** SCOTT HENDERSON  
SIGNATURE DISTORTION

**POWER:** Power Supply: 9V battery or external power supply 9VDC  
Power-All® ECO-Dapter® recommended  
9-volt DC, tip-negative polarity input  
2.1 mm ID barrel connector  
Battery life: Approximately 70 hours on a standard manganese battery  
(Panasonic 6F22) at 25°C / 77°F  
Current draw: 7mA at 9VDC

**AUDIO:** Input Impedence: 500k Ohms  
Output Impedence: 10k ohms or less  
Maximum gain: 35dB at 1Khz  
Equivalent Input Noise: Typical 108dB / A-wt.  
Controls: DIST / TONE / LEVEL  
Tone: High-cut filter, center frequency approx. 400 Hz. Full CCW = Full-cut / Full CW = flat

**SWITCHING:** Switch: True-Bypass switching, Bypass / Effect

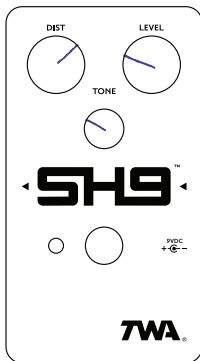
**INDICATORS:** Status LED

- On = bright LED
- Bypass = dim LED

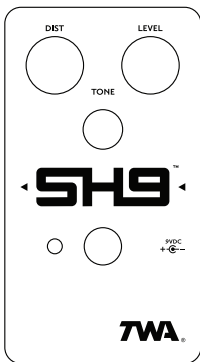
**CONNECTORS:** Input (1/4")

Output (1/4")

Power (2.1mm ID / 5.5mm OD Barrel)

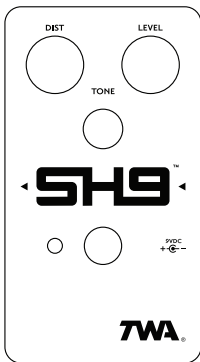


**USER SETTING:** Scott Henderson

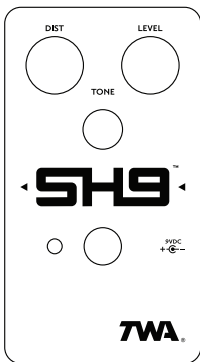


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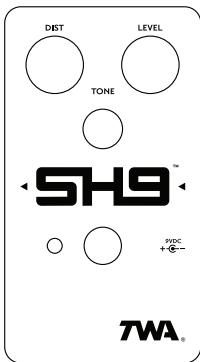


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*The way of the future...*