

Dirty Little Secret

RED

MANUAL



EFFECT OVERVIEW

If the classic Dirty Little Secret MKIII is your war-tested Marshall Plexi sidearm, Catalinbread's DLS Red is a finely-tuned and well-oiled (figuratively, of course) gain machine that we distilled into a more potent and volatile formula. Featuring a more refined set of gain stages that cuts through the low-mids of the original and brings you an extended barrage of punch and clarity, the DLS Red calls shotgun in the truck that is your pedalboard's dirt section. Catalinbread's flagship DLS circuitry has been modified to give you more of everything you love about the original with a touch more blistering, amp-smashing gain across both modes, as well as a more hi-fi EQ section and a fully-balanced—yet still very much Marshall—tonal profile.

CONTROLS

MIDDLE

Controls the mid frequencies. Clockwise for more; counter-clockwise for less. This frequency gives energy to the guitar's sound.

TREBLE

Controls the higher frequencies. clockwise for more; counter-clockwise for less. Acts like a 'mixer' control between the treble side and the middle/bass side.

MASTER

Controls the overall volume of the pedal. Clockwise for more; counter-clockwise for less. For the best response out of your DLS, you should set the Master volume so that the sound with the DLS engaged is a bit louder than your bypassed sound.

*SL/SB MODE SWITCH

Two distinct voicings: "Super Lead" and "Super Bass" are switchable via an internal slider switch. The mode switch can be accessed by removing the four screws of the bottom plate. It is located up at the top left corner of the pedal.

* INTERNAL CONTROLS

BASS

Controls the lower frequencies. Clockwise for more bass; counter-clockwise for less. Don't feel like you're doing something wrong if you find yourself wanting to run the Bass control at a very low setting as there is plenty of low-end on tap.

PRE-AMP

Determines how much gain or overdrive. Clockwise for more; counter-clockwise for less. The lower you have the Pre-Amp knob, the higher you'll want to have the Master control, and the higher you'll be able to get away with setting the Bass knob.

*PRESENCE TRIMPOT

There is a trimpot (accessible by removing the bottom plate) that allows you to fine-tune the amount of presence or high treble frequencies that the pedal produces. It is factory set to provide the best tone in most circumstances.





INSPIRATION

The Dirty Little Secret (DLS) was designed to be the secret weapon in your tone arsenal. Want to get cranked amp tones at bedroom rocker levels? Playing gigs but have to use whatever amp is provided as the back-line? Like your clean amp sound but don't care for its overdrive channel? Love your fuzz pedal but it needs to be plugged into a cranked amp to sound good? Enter the Dirty Little Secret!

Designed to bring you the sound and response of a classic Marshall amplifier, the DLS is designed to be a "foundation" pedal—it is your "always on" pedal that forms the core of your guitar sound which you can enhance and embellish by adding boosters, fuzzes, filters, and other overdrives in front of it—just like you would in front of a real amp. And the reason you can leave it always-on is that you can get a great clean sound just by rolling your guitar's volume knob back! That's the way the old-school Marshall players did things!

FEATURES

- Two distinct voicings: **"Super Lead"** and **"Super Bass"** switchable via an internal slider switch.
- A full three-knob "treble-middle-bass" tone control complement that reproduces exactly the tone circuits of the Super Lead and Super Bass amps.

MODES

The **"Super Lead"** mode gives you the great rock sound of a Marshall Super Lead amp with awesome harmonics, touch sensitivity, cab thumb, and kerrang. Higher gain than the Super Bass mode, Super Lead mode is perfect for use with humbucker-equipped guitars. Its gain range goes from classic Plexi all the way to modified JCM800 levels. And, just like a great Plexi, you can go from clean to scream with just a twist of your guitar's volume knob. Like a Super Lead, its voice is all about thump and upper-midrange kerrang. This is THE rock sound!

The **"Super Bass"** mode gives you the tone and gain structure of a Marshall Super Bass (which is very similar to a JTM45, JTM50/100, or very early Plexi). This mode was voiced to really hone in on that elusive in-between "not quite clean, not quite dirty" response that old tube amps were so good at getting. And it was specifically voiced to make fuzz pedals sound great (especially two-transistor based fuzzes like the Fuzz Face). Plug a Strat into a Fuzz Face into the new DLS in SB mode and you'll see what we mean! Its voice is deeper bass, and an emphasis on the lower midrange band (in contrast to the Super Lead mode's upper mid-range emphasis) and sounds especially great with Fender style guitars and basses.

POWER SUPPLY

You can power your DLS with any quality power supply designed for use with effects pedals. The output should be a negative tip DC from 9 to 18 volts. If you want more volume, headroom, and percussive attack, try running an 18-volt power supply. A nine-volt power supply will have a slightly softer sound that saturates more easily—it's sort of like the difference between a 50 watt and 100 watt amp!

MEASUREMENTS

Dimensions: 1.96" X 2.36" X 4.33"

Weight: 0.40 lbs.

Current Draw: 5mA at 9V and 7mA at 18V

Input Impedance: 10M

Output Impedance: 90K