

Thank you for choosing the BlackBox Overdrive 2! Your pedal was handmade with excruciating attention to detail, and I hope that it gives you years of enjoyment. Should any problems, questions, comments, or concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at joshua@snoise.com.

The BlackBox Overdrive 2 features three switchable, 100% analog and completely hardwired modes - Standard Hi-Gain Boost, Classic Lo-Gain, and Clean Boost - making the new BlackBox three tone tools in one. In Standard mode, the BBOD2 employs a tube-emulating variable JFET clean boost up front, perfectly and precisely tuned to push the BlackBox drive circuit into high gear, like a dimed amp. Classic Mode hardwire-bypasses the variable boost circuit and offers the exact same gain and tone as our BlackBox Overdrive Classic, with significantly higher output volume. Clean Boost Mode completely bypasses the drive AND boost circuits, allowing you to use the BlackBox as a TRUE clean boost for lustrous, living analog tone enhancement with tons of output volume headroom - plenty to naturally saturate your amp's valves to clipping.

The BlackBox 2 also offers a powerful tone section. In addition to a standard full-spectrum low-pass Tone knob, the BlackBox 2 features a Presence knob to open up your tone and enhance breath and touch-sensitivity in a fashion similar to the presence knob on a JTM45 or tweed Bassman-style amp - without getting harsh - as well as an internal Bright/Smooth switch to help smooth out the drive section, tame overly bright rigs, or help your cleans ring bright and clear like a bell.

WARNING: NEVER DISCONNECT THE INPUT SIGNAL FROM THE PEDAL WHILE THE PEDAL IS SWITCHED ON, WITHOUT MUTING THE SIGNAL TO YOUR AMP OR SWITCHING YOUR AMP TO STANDBY. DOING SO MAY CAUSE FEEDBACK TO OCCUR AT HIGH GAIN SETTINGS. NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. PLEASE DO NOT EAT YOUR BLACKBOX.

The BlackBox Overdrive 2 loves a good buffer, especially at higher gain settings with single coils. If you experience noise artifacts or feedback going directly into the pedal at higher gain settings in Hi-Gain Boost mode, try using a buffer or a pedal with buffered bypass (e.g., most Boss or TubeScreamer pedals).

Power

Your BlackBox Overdrive 2 may be powered by a standard 2.1mm 9-18VDC center-negative regulated power supply.

Controls

GAIN: Controls clipping threshold/saturation. In Clean Boost Mode, controls input gain, which must be set low enough to prevent the op-amp from clipping.

TONE: Standard low-pass tone control.

VOLUME: Hoping you'll figure this one out on your own. Hint: There's lots of it.

BOOST: Only active in Standard Hi-Gain Boost Mode. Controls the amount of preamp boost that hits the input of the overdrive section like the input of an amp.

PRESENCE: Controls top end treble. This will give you a chunky, chompy, chimey, sparkling bite that works well with low-gain or clean tones, but feel free to experiment. Most rigs will do well with only a touch of Presence, but there's plenty of headroom.

BRIGHT/SMOOTH (Internal): Set to Smooth to smooth out upper midrange/lower top frequencies, and prevent overdrive fizz that may occur with brighter rigs. Set to Bright when playing SRV tunes in your underwear.

Gain/Boost Interaction

To prevent the overdriven signal from getting muddy, the drive circuit itself cuts a very slight bit of low end on the high side of the Gain sweep, and cuts some high and low end on the low side. Since the Boost is completely transparent and amplifies all frequencies equally, using more Gain and less Boost, you can use that low cut to tighten up your signal. Using more Boost and less Gain, you can set the pedal to have the same amount of drive as the former setting, while also increasing the amount of low end transparency and throughput. Max both Gain and Boost and throw your horns in the air for maximum overdrive.