

PREAMP/DIRECT BOX

Based on Aguilar TONE HAMMER

Congratulations on your purchase of the preamp/direct box so powerful it could only be called the Tone Mallet! Designed to be more than just a "preamp in a pedal" and with more functionality than a standard D.I, the Tone Mallet is an essential tool for every bassist's arsenal. Starting with the warm, the Tone Mallet adds fully sweepable midrange frequencies in addition to treble and bass controls for maximum tonal sculpting. Separate Gain and Master controls allow you to dial in just the right gain structure for any instrument.

To give this tone shaping unit the ultimate flexibility we are introducing our proprietary Adaptive Gain Shaping circuitry (AGS). AGS allows the player to kick in an additional gain structure and EQ curve with the "stomp" of a button. You can now easily go from modern slap sounds to vintage warmth or overdriven tones. The Tone Mallet has plenty of headroom due to its 18 volt operation and will reproduce the most dynamic playing styles. With the Tone Mallet's pristine D.I. you are set to hit the studio or the stage.

- 3 Band EQ with fully sweepable midrange
- Adaptive Gain Shaping circuitry (AGS)
- D.I. with selectable pre/post operation

I. Features and Functions

A. Top Panel

GAIN: Controls input sensitivity level

TREBLE: +/- 18 dB @ 4 kHz

BASS: +/- 18 dB @ 40 Hz

MID FREQ: 180 Hz to 1 kHz

MID: +/- 17 dB of cut or boost

MASTER: Controls output level

ENGAGE FOOTSWITCH: toggles between on/bypass (blue LED indicates on)

AGS FOOTSWITCH: toggles AGS on/off (red LED indicates on)

Adaptive Gain Shaping (AGS)

-AGS changes the gain structure and EQ interactively with the gain knob position. This produces a "vintage voiced" EQ that adapts as you adjust the gain knob.

The lower the gain knob setting, the "flatter" the EQ applied. The higher you set the gain knob, the more saturated the gain structure becomes, and the more the bass is tightened and the treble smoothed.

-AGS provides a continuously variable boost depending on the position of the gain knob. The higher the gain setting, the more boost you will get.

-The AGS circuitry surrounds the midrange controls, enabling you to get a huge variety of tonal characteristics by simply adjusting the gain and midrange controls. What this gives you is a flexible control to get a wide range of tonal colors.

-With the Gain knob set from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock, AGS gives up to 12dB of clean boost with warm, glassy, vintage EQ. -With the Gain knob set from 11 o'clock to 1 o'clock, AGS gives up to 15dB boost, with a little vintage growl as the EQ tightens up the bass.

-With the Gain set from 1 o'clock to maximum, AGS gives up to 16dB boost full of warm, vintage saturation. The EQ tightens up the bass even more for a smoother response.

B. Side Panel

IN: ¼" input, 1 mega Ohm input impedance.

DC IN: This is a standard 2.1mm DC jack. The center terminal polarity is negative. Compatible with 9-18 VDC regulated power supplies.

PRE/POST: This will place the direct signal either pre or post EQ.

Pre: Your signal goes to the D.I. XLR output before your Gain, AGS and EQ settings

Post: Gain, AGS, EQ and Master settings will be sent to the D.I. XLR output jack.

DI: balanced output, maximum output level 8 VRMS.

GND/LIFT: If there is a hum when using the D.I, there may be a ground loop. In many cases, pushing in the Ground/Lift button can fix this problem.

OUT: ¼" output, maximum output level 4 VRMS

C. Specifications

II. Getting Started

D. Basic Setup

1. Plug in your instrument, the footswitch, and your amplifier. With Master volume down, bring the Gain control to 12 o'clock.
2. Turn on your amplifier and engage the Tone Mallet.
3. While playing, turn up the Tone Mallet's Master control until you reach your normal playing level.
4. Adjust tone controls to taste



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