

Finding That Tone

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Below we detail important information on the safe operation of the product. Please read and follow the safety advice and instructions given. Retain this manual for future reference. If you pass the product on to others please include this manual.

All our products are hand-built in Spain. Subsequently all our products are individually and specifically tested one-by-one, so its correct operation is guaranteed. However, feel free to contact us if there are any problem.

All our products are subject to a process of continuous development. We therefore reserve the right to make changes without notice.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

INTENDED USE: This device is designed for sound processing of signals from musical instruments with electromagnetic pickups. Any other use or operation under different conditions is considered improper and may result in personal injury or property damage. No liability will be assumed for damages resulting from improper use.

DANGER FOR CHILDREN: Ensure that children do not detach any small parts from the product (such as the knobs or any other components). These small parts could pose a choking hazard if swallowed. Never leave children unattended with electrical devices.

EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY: This device is powered by an external DC power supply unit. **Connect the pedal using a standard 2.1 mm connector with a negative center and a voltage of 9 V DC (only 9 V!!!).** Any other type may damage the pedal. Please only use a power supply made specifically for guitar pedals or you risk damaging the pedal. The use of a power supply with the wrong polarity or supplying the pedal with an over-voltage supply may cause severe damage to the pedal. We recommend using a power supply with isolated outputs for better tone quality and noise reduction.

DC connection
(9V)



Standard negative center

JAPAN 1986
CLASSIC OVERDRIVE

JAPAN 1986

In 1986, the very famous Japanese music company released the TS10. Like its predecessors, the TS808 and TS9, it shared the typical characteristics of a TS: selective midrange frequency clipping and a significant cut in high frequencies, resulting in its signature "mid-hump." However, the TS10 introduced three subtle differences in its audio circuit compared to earlier models, giving it a slightly more melodic and smoother tone. Although opinions about the TS10 vary, with some praising it and others criticizing it, it has been used by notable musicians such as Stevie Ray Vaughan in his later years and John Mayer today. Without a doubt, the TS10 is the final, lesser-known but prestigious link in the TS family.

As a tribute to this pedal, which has not yet been officially reissued, we present the JAPAN 1986 Classic Overdrive, available in a Limited Edition while supplies last. It is a faithful replica of the original circuit, with the addition of true bypass soft-switching and heavy-duty hardware. The exterior is hand-wrapped in authentic Japanese fabrics, and the craftsmanship includes being designed, soldered, and fully handcrafted in Spain.

DRIVE

This control adjusts the gain of the pedal. When turned clockwise, the DRIVE knob adds more gain, resulting in a thicker, more saturated sound. The TS10 circuit is known for producing a smooth overdrive that retains the dynamics of your playing. Unlike higher-gain pedals, it offers a more musical clipping that enhances sustain without becoming overly harsh. Conversely, turning the DRIVE knob counterclockwise reduces the gain, allowing for a cleaner tone with that signature mid-range. This versatility enables it to be used as a boost pedal to push your amp into a natural overdrive while maintaining clarity and definition.



TONE

This knob functions as a upper-mids and high frequency filter, enabling you to tailor the brightness of your sound. Turning the TONE control clockwise boosts the high frequencies, resulting in a sharper, more pronounced attack that can help your guitar stand out in a mix. This characteristic is particularly useful for cutting through dense mixes or when playing lead lines. Conversely, turning it counterclockwise softens the high-end response, producing a warmer, more rounded tone. This flexibility allows you to adapt the pedal's tone to different guitars, pickups, and musical styles, ensuring you can find the ideal tone for your needs. The TS10's tonal range is highly regarded for its ability to maintain musicality across various settings.

VOLUME

The VOLUME control adjusts the overall output level of the pedal. When turned clockwise, it increases the volume, allowing you to boost your signal when the pedal is engaged. This is particularly useful for soloing or for achieving a more prominent presence in a live setting. The TS10 is often praised for its ability to maintain a strong output without losing tonal integrity. Conversely, turning the VOLUME knob counterclockwise decreases the output level, providing greater control over your overall sound. This feature allows you to balance the pedal's output with your amp or other effects in your signal chain, ensuring a cohesive sound.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF JAPAN 1986

The TS10 is renowned for its distinctive midrange character, often described as the "mid-hump" (around 722 Hz), which allows it to cut through the mix effectively. This unique tonal quality results from the pedal's selective clipping, emphasizing midrange frequencies while reducing lows and highs. This midrange boost is particularly favored by guitarists

seeking a thick, creamy overdrive that enhances melodic lines and solos.

The TS10's sound is shaped by three key components which we use in the JAPAN 1986 as well:

- **NOS Toshiba 1S1588 Diodes:** Known for their smooth clipping characteristics, these diodes are essential for producing the warm, musical distortion that the TS10 is famous for. They contribute significantly to the pedal's overall tonal richness and sustain, allowing for a dynamic response that enhances the player's expressiveness.
- **Old-School Capacitors:** To ensure optimal performance and preserve the pedal's vintage tone, the JAPAN 1986 Classic Overdrive incorporates high-quality old-school capacitors. These include electrolytic, and non-polarized capacitors from Nichicon along with NOS polyester Nichicon capacitors, providing stability, clarity and reliability in the signal path. Additionally, 220 nF tantalum capacitors are used to ensure the pedal retains its vintage character, further enhancing its sonic heritage.
- **JRC4558D Chip:** The JAPAN 1986 utilizes the renowned JRC4558D chip, a critical component in shaping its tonal characteristics. This dual operational amplifier is celebrated for its warm, rich sound, contributing to the creamy overdrive that TS pedals are known for. The JRC4558D chip offers low noise and high output, preserving the instrument's natural tone while adding creamy harmonic richness and enhancing sustain.

With this combination of components and thoughtful engineering, the JAPAN 1986 Classic Overdrive faithfully recreates the legacy of the TS10, providing guitarists with a vintage soul and expressive tool for their tone.