



TONE HAMMER Preamp/D.I. Pedal

Congratulations on your purchase of the preamp/direct box so powerful it could only be called the Tone Hammer! Designed to be more than just a “preamp in a pedal” and with more functionality than a standard D.I., the Tone Hammer is an essential tool for every bassist’s arsenal.

Starting with the warm, organic sound that Aguilar is known for, the Tone Hammer 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 Hammer has plenty of headroom due to its 18 volt operation and will reproduce the most dynamic playing styles. With the Tone Hammer'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
- 18-Volt operation via batteries, phantom power or optional power supply

Owner's Manual

Manual Version 1.2

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 (orange 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, 1mega Ohm input impedance.

DC IN: This is a standard 2.1mm DC jack. The center terminal polarity is negative. Compatible with 18-20 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

Noise:

¼": -95dBu 'A' weighted

XLR: -98dBu 'A' weighted

Current Consumption:7mA

Power Requirements:The Tone Hammer can be powered by two 9-volt batteries, phantom power or the optional, Aguilar PSU-2 power supply.

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 Hammer.
3. While playing, turn up the Tone Hammer's *Master* control until you reach your normal playing level.
4. Adjust tone controls to taste

How to change the battery

This operation can be done quickly and easily with a standard, #2 Philips screw driver! The battery is easily accessible by loosening the screw on the bottom of the unit. The battery compartment will slide forward and you will be able to see the padded area to insert the battery and attach the battery clips. Once the battery has been replaced, simply slide the compartment back in and tighten the screw.

B. Sample Settings

Please see our website, www.aguilaramp.com, for sample settings.

III. Warranty Information

The Tone Hammer is covered under limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 3 years. This warranty is non-transferable.

The warranty period starts from the date of purchase from an authorized Aguilar dealer. Please retain your sales receipt, as it is necessary to obtain warranty service.

Before sending your unit to Aguilar for repair, you must receive a return authorization number from us. Please contact us via email (techsupport@aguilaramp.com). Do not send any products to us without first receiving a return authorization from Aguilar.

You are responsible for all shipping charges. You must ship the unit to us freight prepaid. We will return the unit to you freight collect. Aguilar Amplification LLC is not responsible for shipping damage, either to or from our service center. Claims must be filed with the carrier.

The only company in the US authorized to perform work under this warranty is Aguilar Amplification LLC of New York, NY.

Warranty service outside the USA: Warranty Service may be different in your country. Please contact the Aguilar distributor in your country for terms and procedures.

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