



Tube Zone

Overdrive



Owner's Manual

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Introduction

Hi there! Congratulations on purchasing one of the sweetest overdrive pedals available today, the *Tube Zone Overdrive* by **MI Audio**.

The Tube Zone is the culmination of over a decade's worth of pedal design experience. The Tube Zone design itself was first conceived in 1995, and has been optimised and seriously road tested since then. Since the inception of the original Tube Zones, the pedal's designer, Michael Ibrahim, has been working on and off building these pedals. Word of these little gems spread among the musician in Sydney, Australia, and by the beginning of 2002, the pedal had developed a bit of a cult following among Sydney's guitarists.

So taking the plunge in 2002, Michael formed **MI Audio**, in order to make his creations available to the public at large. The company is dedicated to the highest quality of design, construction and assembly,... the kind of quality you can only get from a hand-made manufacturer.

Features

Drive Control

The **drive** stage of the Tube Zone is the real secret to its sound. In order to mimic the signal flow of a tube amp, the Tube Zone was designed with multiple gain stages. Each gain stage has its own unique frequency response designed to approximate the frequency responses of a preamp and power amp section of a tube amp. The drive control controls the amount of gain in all gain stages. The resulting tone is very touch sensitive. Attack is quite complex and focused, and sustained notes 'bloom'. All these features are very reminiscent of a good tube amp.

With the drive turned down low, you can get some beautiful warm blues tones, without the buzziness that a lot of pedals seem to suffer from. Turn the drive up a bit and this thing starts to seriously bite. With the drive turned up high, this pedal gets brutal! One of the most impressive aspects of this pedal is that it stays tight and focused like a good tube amp. Back off the volume on your guitar, and the sound cleans up beautifully. But perhaps the most impressive feature is the pedal's tonal integrity. Each guitar, and each pickup on the guitar retains its own character, no matter how much gain you dial up.

Tone Control

Despite the straight forward useability of the single knob tone control, there's a lot more going on than meets the eye.

Unlike most overdrive and distortion pedals whose tone control is generally nothing more than a basic low pass filter, the Tube Zone utilises a complex circuit which controls both the high and low frequency content of the signal. With the tone control turned fully anti-clockwise, the lower frequencies are boosted, whilst the higher frequencies are attenuated. As the tone control is turned clockwise, the low frequency content begins to decrease, whilst the high frequency content begins to increase. With the tone control turned fully clockwise, the high frequency components dominate.

This design provides the effective flexibility of a multi-band EQ in a single control. It will by no means replace the EQ on your amp, but it will certainly help you get quite close to the tone you're after, which you can then tweak with your

amp's tone control. The range of the tone control has been carefully tuned to be useable over the whole range of settings. This flexibility, coupled with the extra range of tones available from the tone mode switch gives the Tube Zone the ability to cover almost all styles of music.

Volume Control

The classic class A output stage of the Tube Zone is not only designed for low impedance output, but also for high output levels. In fact, when the volume is turned up full, the output signal can swing over a 2.6V range. This makes the Tube Zone useable not only as an overdrive pedal in its own right, but can also be used as a booster pedal to overdrive the input stage of a guitar amplifier.

Tone Mode Switch

The tone mode switch, which is located on the audience side of the pedal, toggles between two modes. This creates extra versatility, allowing the Tube Zone to cover almost all styles of music. One mode has a boosted midrange response for the classic overdrive sound, whilst the other has a reduced midrange response for more of a 'scooped' sound.

Other Features

- High quality, heavy duty diecast metal casing.
- Heavy duty footswitch with true bypass.
- 9 volt battery operated.
- 9 volt DC port (which accepts a standard barrel jack with a *Negative centre pin.*)

Note. The circuit is protected against reverse polarity connections. If you plug in the power and the input jack and the LED does not switch on when the footswitch is engaged, you need to reverse the polarity of your power source.

And the Coolest Feature

- High intensity blue LED (well, we think so at least!)

Sample Settings?

Where are they? Well we've decided not to include sample settings for a few reasons:

1. The beauty of the Tube Zone overdrive is that it retains the tone and character of each individual guitar and amp. Therefore the settings will sound different with different guitars and amps.
2. Our customers are generally experienced or professional musicians, and therefore don't require sample settings.

3. Who reads them anyway?

BUT,... just as a general rule, the first time you use the pedal, start with all the controls at 12 o'clock. Adjust the drive control to give you the desired amount of overdrive. Next adjust the tone control to give you the desired balance of high/low frequency content. Don't forget to try both tone modes (toggle switch). Lastly, adjust the volume control to give you the desired amount of signal compared to the dry guitar signal.

To Change the Battery

To access the battery, unscrew the 4 rubber feet with your fingers or with a screwdriver and remove the bottom plate **slowly**, as the battery holder is attached to bottom plate. If you remove the bottom plate quickly, you could sever the battery wires.

Registration

To register your pedal, you can email your name, contact details, purchase date, and retailer details along with the pedal serial number to:

registration@miaudio.com

Alternatively, you can send the above information to the postal address on the front of this manual.

Warranty

This pedal carries a 5 year warranty that covers all repairs due to manufacturer error. It does not cover any damage due to user mishandling, shipping, acts of God, and abuse. The owner should contact MI Audio directly for all repairs, and any work done by anyone other than MI Audio voids the warranty. All shipping costs are the responsibility of the owner, and are to be paid in advance of any work performed on the pedal. The owner may be asked to provide a copy of the sales receipt for verification.

Disclaimer

The owner or user assumes responsibility for death, injury and/or damages relating to the operation of this device. MI audio assumes no responsibility for death, injury or damages relating from the operation of this device.

Have Fun!

Once again, we hope you enjoy your new gadget. Please feel free to contact us with product feedback (excuse the pun), or for any general enquiries.