

STONEWALL



"The pinch of salt that turns a good tone into the perfect one"

The *Stage One* is a pure class-A transistor-based gain stage that provides the characteristics and saturation of the input section of a valve amplifier.

Designed specifically to add harmonic richness and liveliness in the same way a triode does, the *Stage One* is the hard-to-find "extra bit" that a clean tone needs to shine, and a crunch tone to become the lead. Extends the inherent character of your tone, without excessively colouring it.

The gain knob provides between 12 and 30 dB of amplification, varying as well the frequency response to produce an increased treble boost as the gain is raised, just as a valve-based gain stage does.

The two toggle switches are not simply an EQ to tweak the bass (thick / tight) and treble (normal / bright), but actually alter the amplification capabilities, which shapes the response of the complete stage. This means that the transient characteristics and overtones produced change, and so will the interaction with your amp (or the next effect in your signal chain).

The *Stage One* is true bypass and built around a carefully designed single board with four layers that eliminates all internal wiring and provides double shielding to reduce noise and preserve signal integrity. The *Stage One* has been engineered using only discrete components of the highest quality, with special attention to ruggedness and thermal stability, to insure that its great tone is preserved for many years. Each unit is assembled by hand and acoustically and electronically tested.

The *Stage One* runs on a 9V battery or with an external power supply (center negative).

Technical specifications

Input impedance

$\geq 200 \text{ k}\Omega$ ($f < 6 \text{ kHz}$)

$\geq 400 \text{ k}\Omega$ ($f < 1 \text{ kHz}$)

Output impedance

$\leq 6 \text{ k}\Omega$ ($f > 1 \text{ kHz}$)

Gain range

12 dB to 30 dB

Bandwidth *(switches at "normal" and "thick")*

100 Hz – 6 kHz *(minimum gain setting)*

750 Hz – 10 kHz *(maximum gain setting)*

External power supply

9 – 27 Volts

Different supply voltages within this range produce slightly different compression characteristics and harmonics content.