Les Boutiques

Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic

Manual v1.0

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Operating Power

Only use a regular **+9V DC Adapter (Negative center)**. Do not use a different adapter (12V/18V) as it will void any warranty.

Settings

The *Les Boutiques* effect consists of 3 separate pedals that can be individually switched and also have their own switching options. Be warned that turning all 3 effects to maximum gain may result in it squealing like a pig depending on how clean your DC adapter is (it will at best amplify all the noise in your signal chain for a hissing extravaganza). However, the effects are perfect for stacking and by doing so creating eternal feedback that Gary Moore and Billy Gibbons love(d) to ride like a wave.

The individual effects from right to left:

- ***Royal Tone***
  Based on the Prince of Tone (1/2 a King of Tone) by Analogman, which itself is based on the Marshall Blues Breaker.
- ***Horse Majeur***
  Based on the Klon Centaur by Bill Finnigan.
- ***Merlin***
  Based on the Tim(my) by Paul Cochran, which in essence is a stripped down and tweaked version of a Tube Screamer.

Besides external pots and switching options that are directly visible and accessible, you can open the lid by unscrewing the 6 screws, to reveal extra DIP switching options. A DIP switch has 2 positions. Up = On, Down = Off, but that is also marked on the switch itself.

Royal Tone

This is the lowest driving Overdrive of the 3 and is on the Green channel.

Volume, Drive and Tone are the same as in all other pedals. Presence can create some top end sparkle.

External switches

Headroom

The Headroom switch (+9V/+18V) gives the effect, at 18V, a longer breath before overdriving the signal. Some may perceive it as more transparent sounding.

Clipping

The clipping switch gives you the choice between 3 settings:

- **OD (OverDrive)** [1]
  This adds the 4 symmetrical soft clipping diodes to the feedback loop of the second opamp stage of the effect. Gives a warm overdrive.
- **None**
  No clipping diodes in the signal path of the effect, so all clipping comes only from the second opamp stage. Compares best to a clean boost.
- **Distortion**
  Adds 2 hard clipping diodes after the second opamp stage. Gives a bit harsher overdrive/distortion.

Internal switch 

- **Gain**
  Enables you to switch between the stock Drive potentiometer value (100k) and the High Gain potentiometer value (250k).
  Default = Off = High Gain
- **Symmetry**
  Enables you to switch between the stock symmetrical clipping and a-symmetrical clipping. Symmetrical will sound smoother and a bit more compressed, while a-symmetrical will be slightly louder and cleaner.
  This switch only functions if the external clipping switch is set to the OD mode!
  Default = Off = Symmetrical.

Note:

1. This is a low gain overdrive. Only with the drive at 3 o'clock (75%) and volume at around noon (50%) will you notice the signal breaking up. This is normal.
2. Adding too much presence can make the effect harsh sounding. By default turn the presence knob off and only add when needed.

[1] Default setting

Horse Majeur

This is best used as a Low to Mid Gain overdrive and is on the Orange channel.

Volume, Gain and Treble are the same as in all other pedal. The original Klon only has a Gain knob that actually is (internally) a stereo pot that controls both Gain and Blend at the same time. Turning the gain up results off course in more gain, but also turns down the overall added clean signal, while turning the gain down lowers the gain and also lets more of the clean signal remain.

In the *Les Boutiques* effect the pot is split into separate Gain and Blend. You can now determine in every Gain setting how much of the clean signal you want to let bleed through. If you turn the blend to the same position as the gain, it will act as the regular Gain pot on the Klon.

External switch

Diodes

The diode selection switch gives you the option between 3 flavors:

- **Germanium** [1]
  Warm vintage overdrive sound
- **None**
  More of a Clean boost setting. Notice the raised volume in this setting.
- **Silicon**
  Slightly compressed setting but still leaves enough top end.

Internal switch 

- **Extra gain**
  When switching this on, you will notice a little extra room in the gain.
  Default = Off = Stock Gain
- **Extra Bass**
  When switching this on, the treble knobs frequency operation range will shift a bit and leave more bass in the signal.
  Default = Off = Stock Bass

Merlin

This is best used as a Mid to High Gain overdrive and is on the Red channel.

Volume, Gain, Treble and Bass are the same as in all other pedals although Treble may work in a reverse order than you would expect.

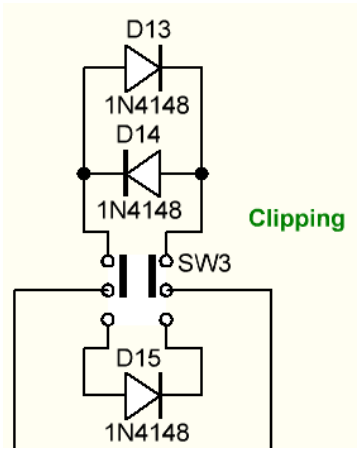
External switches

Headroom

The Headroom switch (+9V/+18V) gives the effect, at 18V, a longer breath before overdriving the signal. Some may perceive it as more transparent sounding.

Clipping Symmetry

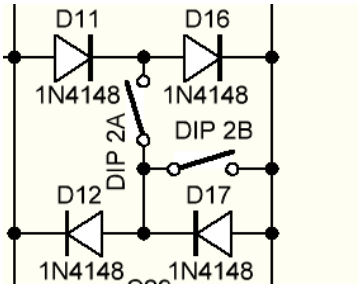
Enables you to switch between the normally internal switching options of the Tim(my). As this effect has a lot of diode switching options, here is a snippet from the schematic:



- **A-Sym(metrical)**
  Adds an extra single clipping diodes to the circuit. A-symmetrical will be slightly louder, cleaner and with a bit more headroom.
- **Stock** [1]
- **Sym(metrical)**
  Adds 2 extra clipping diodes to the circuit. Symmetrical will sound smoother and a bit more compressed, but less than the stock setting

Internal switch

This is quite geeky so if you are not interested in this, skip it and leave it on the default settings.
Here is another piece of the schematic:



Stock/BB style
In stock all 4 diodes are connected in the center, while in BB-style (Blues Breaker) they are not (DIP2A in the picture).
Default = On = Stock.
Sym/A-Sym
Default = Off = Sym
PS on the PCB the Sym/A-Sym are printed in reverse.
This has no negative effect on the workings of the pedal!

Default settings

On the footswitch PCB there are 3 more trimpots, for each effect 1. You should not need to use these unless you think the “pop” you hear when switching on an effect is too loud. If the pop is caused by the LED switching on, you can turn the trimpot of that effect to see if it goes away.

If you have any questions or requests, please contact me at arnold.dikstaal@gmail.com.