POWER REQUIREMENTS

*Operable with phantom power supply, minimum 24V DC regulated, however, 48V DC regulated is recommended in order to illuminate LED.

*Utilizes standard 9V alkaline battery (not included). To install, simply remove door cover. (NOTE: The *Input* activates battery. To conserve energy, unplug when not in use.) Power Consumption: approx. 6mA.

*USE **DC** POWER SUPPLY **ONLY!** Failure to do so may damage the unit and void warranty. DC Power Supply Specifications:

-9V DC regulated or unregulated, 100mA minimum;

-2.1mm female plug, center negative (-).

Optional factory power supply is available: Tech 21 Model #DC2.

WARNINGS:

* Attempting to repair unit is not recommended and may void warranty.

* Missing or altered serial numbers automatically void warranty. For your own protection: be sure serial number labels on the unit's back plate and exterior box are intact, and return your warranty registration card.

ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY. PROOF OF PURCHASE REQUIRED.
Manufacturer warrants unit to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for one (1) year from date of purchase to the original purchaser and is not transferable. This warranty does not include damage resulting from accident, misuse, abuse, alteration, or incorrect current or voltage. If unit becomes defective within warranty period, Tech 21 will repair or replace it free of charge. After expiration, Tech 21 will repair defective unit for a fee.

ALL REPAIRS for residents of U.S. and Canada: Call Tech 21 for **Return Authorization Number**. Manufacturer will **not** accept packages without prior authorization, pre-paid freight (UPS preferred) and proper insurance.

FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANCE & SERVICE:
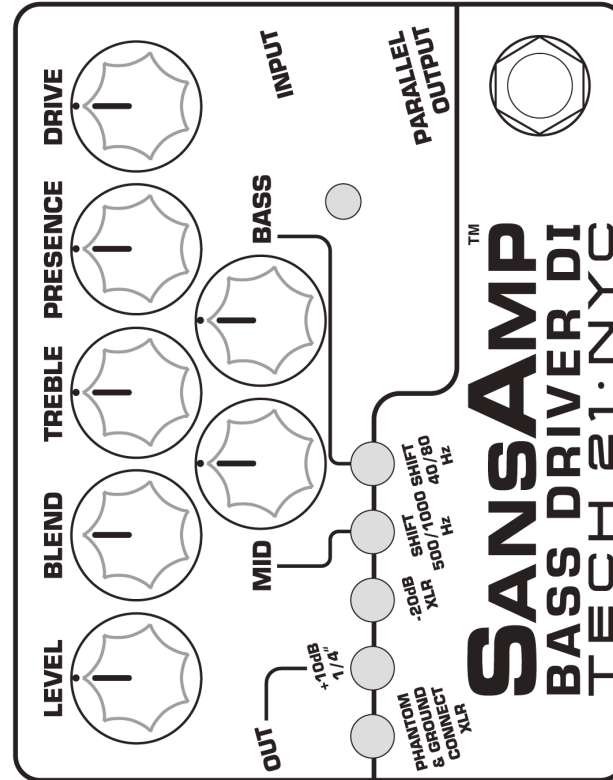Contact Tech 21 weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, EST.

Hand-built in the U.S.A. using high-quality components sourced domestically and around the globe.

TECH 21

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CE

DRIVE PRESENCE TREBLE BLEND LEVEL

INPUT BASS MID

PARALLEL OUTPUT

SHIFT 40/80 Hz

SHIFT 500/1000 Hz

-20dB XLR

PHANTOM & GROUND CONNECT XLR

+10dB 1/4"

OUT

™

SansAmp BASS DRIVER DI
TECH 21·NYC

SansAmp Bass Driver DI (v2)
Owner's Manual

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The SansAmp Bass Driver DI has been an arsenal staple for players and studios almost since the day it was introduced in 1994. This multi-function, multi-application pedal dials up big vintage tube tones, bright modern slap sounds, gnarly distortions, and all in between. So, after all these years, why change it now?

We thought it was time for a little modernization. Since the popularity of 5- and 6-string basses has gone beyond fad status and become mainstream, we added a switch to adjust the bass frequency to extend into those lower registers. We also added a mid-range control and a switch to adjust its frequency. The core of the SansAmp Bass Driver and all of its tones remain true to its original design.

As with each SansAmp model, the controls are designed to give *you* the flexibility to customize your own sound. After all, the greatest inspiration comes from having the sound that's right for you.

APPLICATIONS

WITH A BASS AMP RIG:

-As a Pre-Amp: Run the 1/4" *Output* of the SansAmp Bass Driver DI directly into the power amp input, a.k.a. "effects return" (if applicable), of an amp. This will bypass the tone-coloring pre-amp section of the amp rig.
-As a Stomp Box: Run the 1/4" *Output* into the front input of an amp. For best results, keep the SansAmp Bass Driver's *Level* close to unity gain so as not to overload the amp's input, which could yield undesirable distortion.

TO DRIVE A POWER AMP: Run the 1/4" *Output,* or the *XLR Output* to the corresponding input of a power amp, and adjust your stage volume with the *Level* control of the SansAmp Bass Driver DI.

NOTE: When running into the power amp input of an amp or a power amp alone, make sure to set the *Output Level Switches* as follows:
   If using 1/4-inch: +10dB engaged (in position).
   If using XLR: -20dB disengaged (up position).
Then adjust *Level* as needed. If you are so inclined, this is the time to crank it!

TO RECORD DIRECT: Plug the *XLR or 1/4" Output* directly into the input of a mixer/recorder. Work with the input trim control on the mixer/recorder and be sure not to overload its input. If the *Level* on the SansAmp Bass Driver is below 12 o'clock and is overloading the board, use the respective output level switch to reduce the output:
   If using 1/4-inch: +10dB disengaged (up position).
   If using XLR: -20dB engaged (in position).
Bear in mind full-range systems yield a wide frequency response. Therefore, we suggest you start with the EQ levels at 12 o'clock and then increase/decrease to taste.

GUIDE TO CONTROLS

PRESENCE: brings out the upper harmonic content and attack. For a smoother high end and for clean settings, decrease to taste.

DRIVE: adjusts the overall amount of gain and overdrive, similar to when the output section of a tube amp is being pushed.

MID, BASS & TREBLE: Unlike passive controls that only cut, these **active** tone controls cut or boost ±12dB from unity gain (12 o'clock). NOTE: The overall output level will change relative to your EQ settings. Simply adjust the *Level* control accordingly.

MID SHIFT switch changes the frequency from 500 Hz (up position) to 1000 Hz. **BASS SHIFT** switch changes the frequency from 40 Hz (up position) to 80 Hz to accommodate 5- and 6-string basses that extend into the lower registers.

BLEND controls the ratio of SansAmp Tube Amplifier Emulation circuitry and your direct instrument signal. In most cases, you will probably have this set at maximum (100% SansAmp). For certain applications, however, such as an ultra-transparent sound or for use with piezo pickup-equipped instruments, you may want to blend-in the direct signal to achieve your desired sound. While the SansAmp Tube Amplifier Emulation circuitry is bypassed when *Blend* is at minimum, the *Mid, Bass, Treble* and *Level* controls remain active.

LEVEL adjusts the output level of both the 1/4" and XLR outputs.

THE INS AND OUTS

Follow *Standard Audio Procedure* to avoid unwanted and potentially speaker-damaging "pops" when connecting or disconnecting any equipment:

Always mute mixing board and/or turn down amp volume before plugging or unplugging!

IMPORTANT: TURN ON FIRST. TURN OFF LAST.

INPUT: 1/4", 1megOhm, instrument level. Switches battery power on/off. To avoid battery drain, **unplug when unit is not in use. AND... DON'T FORGET TO MUTE!**

PARALLEL OUTPUT: 1/4" unbalanced direct output is "hard-wired" parallel with input jack. Instrument signal passes through, UNEFFECTED, to the input of your stage amplification system.

BALANCED XLR OUTPUT: Balanced low Z output. Sends effected or uneffected signal to mixing console/recorder, depending on the orientation of the *Footswitch*.

> **XLR Output Level Switch:** -20dB pad to match the output to equipment with different input level requirements. Disengaged (up position), the output is 0dB. Engaged (in position), the output is -20dB.

1/4" OUTPUT: Unbalanced low Z output. Sends effected or uneffected signal to amp rig or power amp, as per the orientation of the *Footswitch*.

> **1/4" Output Level Switch:** +10dB boost to match the output to equipment with different input level requirements. Disengaged (up position), the output is -10dB. Engaged (in position), the output is 0dB.

FOOTSWITCH, with corresponding LED indicator: Engages/disengages SansAmp Tube Amplifier Emulation circuitry. *Active*, LED will be on. Tonality and gain structure are affected as determined by the setting of the controls. Delivers effected signal through the *XLR Output* and 1/4" *Output*. Inactive, LED will be off. SansAmp Bass Driver DI functions as an active *transparent* direct box and does not sonically alter the instrument signal.

PHANTOM POWER

Allows you to "tap into" the power of a suitably equipped mixer, which, today, most are. As the 3-conductor XLR sends the audio signal to the input of a mixer, the mixer sends voltage back to the unit via the same 3 wires, eliminating the need for an external power supply. Consult your mixer's owner's manual for set-up instructions. For live and studio use, let the engineer know your SansAmp Bass Driver DI is phantom power operable.

PHANTOM & GROUND CONNECT SWITCH: When engaged, the ground connects and unit will accept phantom power through the *XLR Output*. Disengaged, the ground of your stage system and other interconnected gear is lifted (isolated) from the ground of the mixing console.

With a mixer only: If you are plugging your bass into the Bass Driver and taking the *XLR Output* to a mixer **--and do not have any other grounded equipment connected in the setup--** you will have to push the switch in to connect the ground and engage the phantom power.

With a mixer and bass amp: If you are going to the mixer via the *XLR* and using the *1/4" Output* or *Parallel Output* to feed a bass amp (with its own AC ground), you should have the switch disengaged (in the up position) to be in "Ground Lift" mode. If you experience hum and/or buzz with the switch in either position, there is probably a problem with the AC outlets you are plugging into.

NOTE: If using vintage equipment without proper grounds, take extra care connecting it to modern grounded equipment. Any inadequacies of the ground in vintage gear could result in damaging anything it is connected to.

NOTE: While operating under phantom power, we recommend keeping a 9V alkaline battery installed at all times to avoid the previously mentioned "pops" when lifting the ground (see page 3).

SPEAKER SIMULATION

Speaker simulation is an integral part of the SansAmp Tube Amplifier Emulation circuitry. It is specifically designed for a smooth, even response as would be achieved by a multiply-miked cabinet --without peaks, valleys, and notches associated with single miking-- and will complement any type of bass speaker cabinet system.

NOTEWORTHY NOTES & CONSIDERATIONS

1) SansAmp Bass Driver DI is an interactive tool. It will react differently to various signal levels, as well as your individual touch. For instance, a hotter signal and a heavy hand will increase the gain structure and result in more overdrive. A cooler signal and a light touch decreases the gain structure for a cleaner sound. By using *Presence*, *Drive* and the EQ controls, you can achieve the proper mix of tonality and gain structure that best suits your style. For instance, if you want the high end to be cleaner and smoother, increase *Treble* and decrease *Presence*. If you want more overdrive, increase *Presence* and decrease *Treble*. This will bring out the upper harmonic content and attack. As you increase *Treble*, the high frequency content increases without changing the harmonic content.

2) The noise level of SansAmp Bass Driver DI is exceptionally low. However, it may amplify noise emanating from the input source. Bear in mind that SansAmp Bass Driver DI's controls are unusually sensitive and do not require maximum levels of input to achieve high levels of output. To minimize noise going into SansAmp Bass Driver DI, we recommend the following:

> **a) Active electronic instruments** should have tone controls positioned flat. If you need to boost, do so slowly and sparingly.
> **b) Passive electronic instruments** should have volume and tone controls set at maximum.

3) When you push SansAmp Bass Driver DI to saturation, you get enhanced harmonics, just as you would with an overdriven tube amplifier. Depending on the setting, the unique circuitry limits transient peaks for an even meter reading, so that **outboard compressors or limiters may not be necessary.**

4) Using effects. One of the key attributes of SansAmp is the responsiveness to the dynamics and nuances of your playing technique. Therefore, your bass should be plugged directly into SansAmp and effects should be placed *after* SansAmp. If, however, you prefer to place an effect before SansAmp, be sure to set the output level of the effect at unity gain with the output level of the instrument.
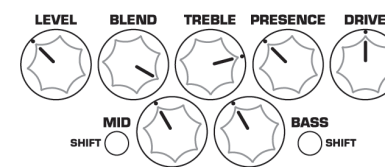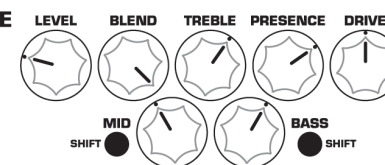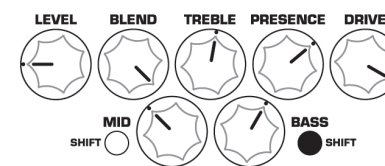
SAMPLE SETTINGS

SHIFT IN ● SHIFT OUT ○
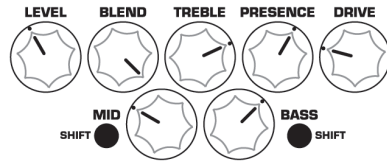
FAT TUBE
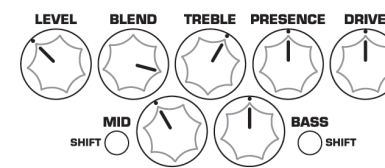
BASSMAN® STYLE

SVT® STYLE

KING'S X STYLE

®Registered trademarks of their respective companies.
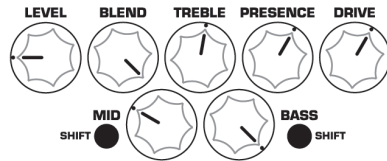**Names of sample settings are intended for descriptive purposes only.**
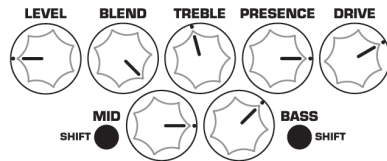
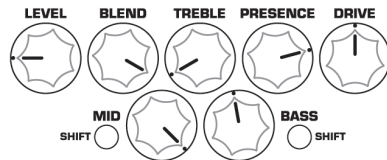# SAMPLE SETTINGS

SHIFT IN ● SHIFT OUT ○

SLAP

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ● MID BASS ● SHIFT

REGGAE

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ● MID BASS ● SHIFT

YES STYLE

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ● MID BASS ● SHIFT

JACO

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ○ MID BASS ○ SHIFT

SAMPLE SETTINGS

SHIFT IN ● SHIFT OUT ○

FULL RANGE/ CLEAN

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ○ MID BASS ● SHIFT

ACOUSTIC BASS

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ● MID BASS ○ SHIFT

'80s STYLE

LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE

SHIFT ○ MID BASS ○ SHIFT

ACTIVE BASS EMULATION
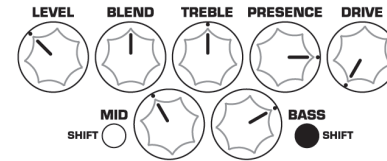
LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
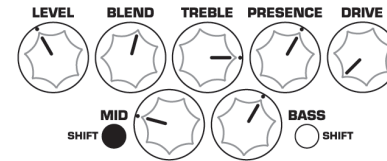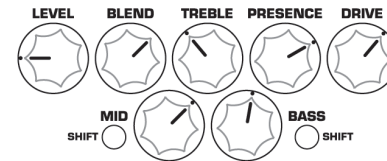
SHIFT ○ MID BASS ○ SHIFT
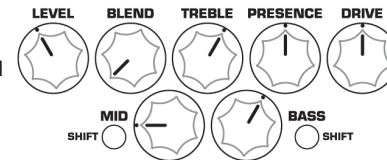
CUSTOM SETTINGS

SHIFT IN ● SHIFT OUT ○

_____
LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

_____
LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

SHIFT IN ● SHIFT OUT ○

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT

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LEVEL BLEND TREBLE PRESENCE DRIVE
MID BASS
SHIFT SHIFT