Audile

TOAD

TONE OVERDRIVE AND DISTORTION

OWNER'S MANUAL

CONTENTS

Thank you for purchasing the TOAD Tone Overdrive And Distortion, by Audile.

TOAD is made in Australia and has been designed for maximum reliability and long service life. Please be sure to follow the instructions in this manual to get the best out of your new equipment.

If you require assistance at any stage, please contact your Audile Authorised Dealer.

WHAT IS TOAD?

TOAD - Tone Overrdrive And Distortion.

TOAD is more than just an overdrive pedal—it's a versatile tone-shaping tool. While it excels at delivering rich overdrive, its capabilities extend far beyond. With the **GAIN** control dialled back and the appropriate **TADPOLE** installed, **TOAD** can subtly sculpt your clean tone, adding clarity, warmth, or other desired characteristics. This allows you to fine-tune your clean sound for any musical context.

With these low **GAIN** settings, TOAD can introduce just a touch of harmonic richness or a subtle bite to your signal, enhancing your tone without necessarily pushing it into overdrive. Alternatively, you can leave the gain completely untouched for a clean boost. This dynamic range makes the **TOAD** an invaluable asset for any guitarist seeking precise control over their sound, regardless of whether they're aiming for overdrive or a refined clean tone. This tonal flexibility might not be immediately obvious, so experiment and discover the **TOAD**'s full potential!

The **PRE TONE** control changes the high and low frequency contour of the signal before it hits any gain or distortion stages. This allows you to change the natural tone of the guitar before applying any effect.

The **GAIN** section has 2 stages of overdrive with the option for selecting Symmetrical (**NATURAL** setting) or Asymmetrical clipping (**DARK** setting). Symmetrical clipping exhibits similar characteristics to tube/valve pre-amplifiers. Asymmetrical clipping is more reminiscent of vintage transistor saturation.

After the distortion stages, the **POST TONE** and **CHOKE** controls allow you to tailor the high and low frequency content of the modified signal.

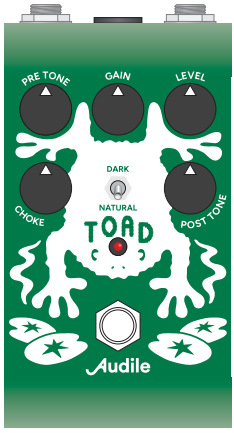
The **LEVEL** control adjusts the final output level of your sound.

TOAD ILLUSTRATION

PRE TONE
Controls pre-gain tone, influencing the tonal character of the overdrive circuit.

GAIN
Controls the amount of amplification, determining the intensity of the effect.

CHOKE
Implements a high-pass filter applied after the overdrive circuit, interacting with the **POST TONE** control for refined tonal shaping.

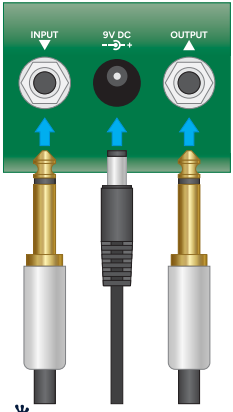


LEVEL
Adjusts the overall output level of the effect when engaged.

POST TONE
Provides a dynamic low-pass filter control after the overdrive stage, working in tandem with the **CHOKE** control for broad tone manipulation.

NATURAL / DARK
Selects between symmetrical and asymmetrical clipping modes, offering distinct tonal characteristics.

POWER AND AUDIO CONNECTIONS



9V DC . . . . . Power in, 9 V DC, Negative Tip. **TOAD** draws a maximum of 15mA.

INPUT . . . . . Audio input from guitar or previous pedal in chain.

OUTPUT . . . Audio output to amplifier or next pedal in chain.

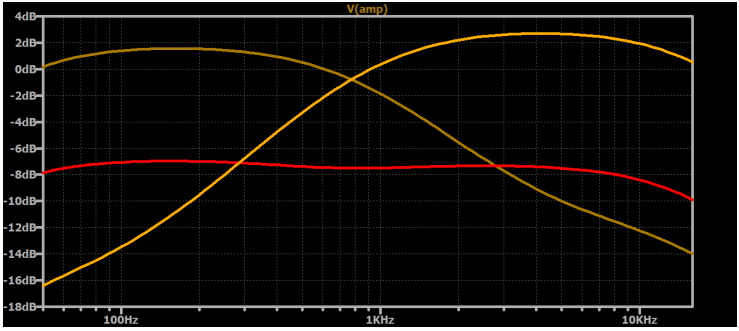
NOTE: Gain effects pedals such as Overdrive and Distortion are normally connected to the input of an amplifier, rather than the effects loop, due to the pedal's interaction with the pre-amplifier section.

PRE TONE

The **PRE TONE** is a "tilt tone" control used to either boost the low frequencies while cutting the high frequencies when set fully counter-clockwise, or boost the high frequencies and attenuate the low frequencies when set fully clockwise. The centre position yields a flatter response depending on which **TADPOLE** is fitted (see page 11).

A typical response curve with Neutral **TADPOLE** fitted is shown below.

- The brown trace is with **PRE TONE** fully counter clockwise.
- The red trace is with **PRE TONE** set to the centre.
- The orange trace is with **PRE TONE** set to fully clockwise.
- **CHOKE** is set to fully clockwise, **POST TONE** is set to the centre.

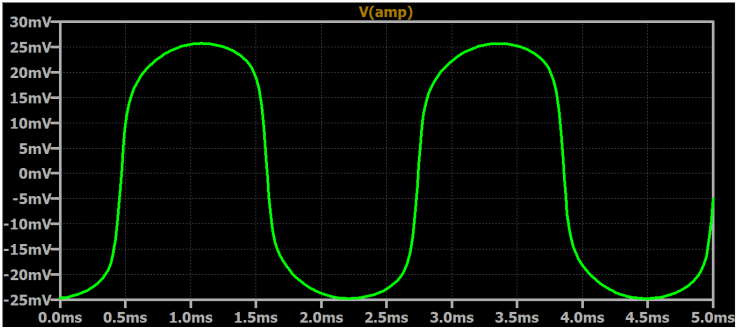


GAIN

The **GAIN** control adjusts how much amplification is applied to the overdrive module. This in turn adjusts the amount of distortion present in the signal. This control works in conjunction with the **NATURAL / DARK** switch.

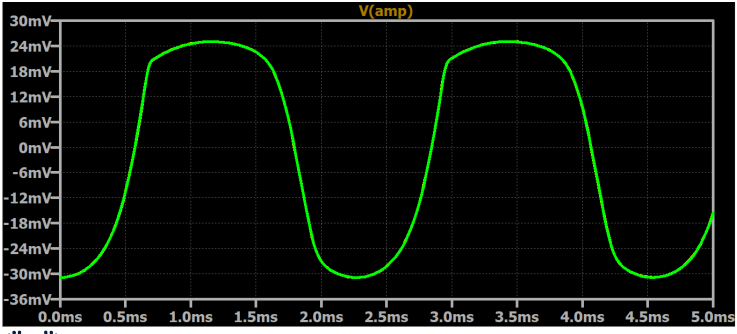
NATURAL MODE

In this position, the signal peaks will be limited to the same extent on both the positive and negative cycles. With a pure sine wave input, the output signal will approximate the following:



DARK MODE

In this position, the signal peaks will be limited on one half cycle to a greater extent than the other. This results in a different series of harmonics to the **NATURAL** position. With a pure sine wave input, the output signal will approximate the following:



CHOKE

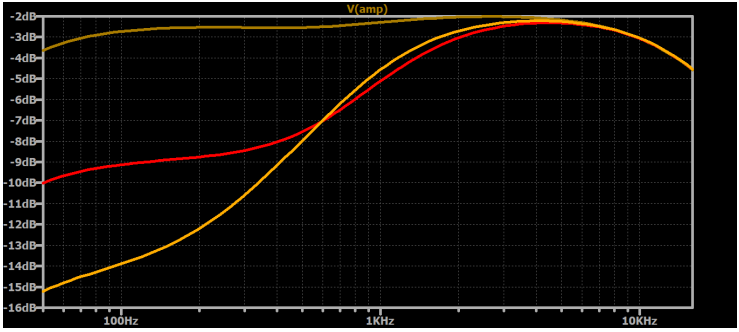
The **CHOKE** control is a post distortion control, which is used in conjunction with the **POST TONE** control. It is effectively a High Pass Filter.

When set fully counter-clockwise, it allows all the low frequencies to pass, effectively turning the **POST TONE** control into a Low Pass only filter

When set fully clockwise, it progressively limits the low frequencies as the **POST TONE** control is turned clockwise.

A typical response curve Neutral **TADPOLE** is shown below.

- The brown trace is with **CHOKE** fully counter clockwise.
- The red trace is with **CHOKE** set to the centre.
- The orange trace is with **CHOKE** set to fully clockwise.
- **PRE TONE** is set to centre, **POST TONE** is set to fully clockwise.



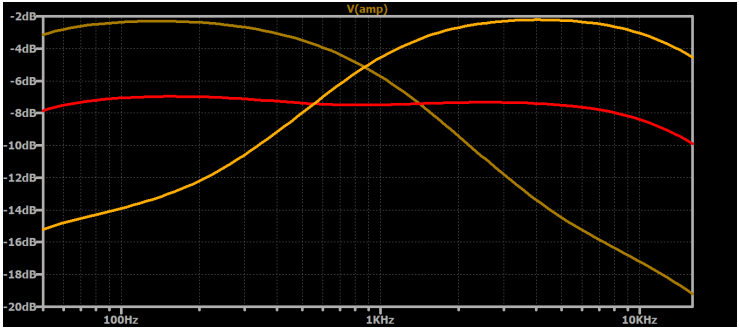
POST TONE

The **POST TONE** control is an adaptive Low Pass Filter control, used in conjunction with the **CHOKE** control. With **CHOKE** set fully counter-clockwise, the **POST TONE** control reacts as a traditional Low Pass Filter. With **CHOKE** set fully clockwise, the **POST TONE** control reacts like a "tilt tone" control.

Frequency range affected by these controls can be varied by interchanging the **TADPOLE** fitted internally (see page 11).

A typical response curve with Neutral **TADPOLE** fitted is shown below.

- The brown trace is with **POST TONE** fully counter clockwise.
- The red trace is with **POST TONE** set to the centre.
- The orange trace is with **POST TONE** set to fully clockwise.
- **CHOKE** is set to fully clockwise, **PRE TONE** is set to the centre.



LEVEL

This will adjust the overall output level when the effect is on and not bypassed. The level control does not affect the output of the bypassed signal.

TOAD SETTING EXAMPLES

HARD ROCK

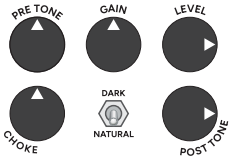
Recommended **TADPOLE**: Mid Scoop

BRIGHT CRUNCH

Recommended **TADPOLE**: Bright

FUZZ

Recommended **TADPOLE**: Mid Scoop



CLIPPING

Recommended **TADPOLE**: Neutral

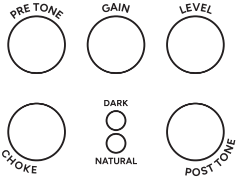
TWANG

Recommended **TADPOLE**: Neutral

TUBE

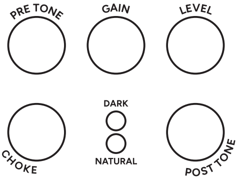
Recommended **TADPOLE**: Neutral

SAVED USER SETTINGS



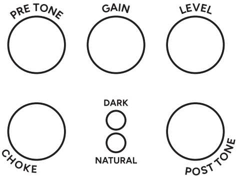
DESCRIPTION

TADPOLE used:



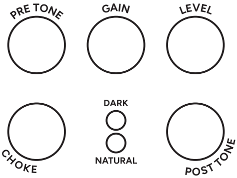
DESCRIPTION

TADPOLE used:



DESCRIPTION

TADPOLE used:



DESCRIPTION

TADPOLE used:

TADPOLE MOD SYSTEM

"**To Each Their Own Tone**" is the **Audile** motto, and also the philosophy behind **Audile** effects pedals. Whilst we believe that your **TOAD** pedal offers a very broad set of tones, we also know that some players may want to personalise the pedal to their exact flavour.

In the past, this could only be done with an internal mod which can be difficult and ultimately void your warranty.

TOAD changes all of that with the **TADPOLE** mod system. **TADPOLE**s are small interchangeable circuit boards, each of which give the **TOAD** pedal a different tonal characteristic.

This section of the instruction manual details how to interchange the **TADPOLE** boards. For those players who want even more control of their tone, we also provide details on how to mod the **TADPOLE** board itself and the resultant tonal variations to expect.

A note about the Warranty before you proceed:
Simply opening the **TOAD** and interchanging **TADPOLE**s according to these instructions will not void your warranty. We encourage owners of **Audile** pedals to explore and experiment to find their own signature tone.

Even if you accidentally damage the **TADPOLE** or main board while interchanging or modifying the **TOAD** according to these instructions, we may supply you with replacement parts at no charge at our discretion. Contact us and let us know what happened, and we will do our best to take care of you.

So please go ahead and enhance your **TOAD** experience with the **TADPOLE** system, safe in the knowledge that you will be supported by **Audile**.

TADPOLE TONAL FLAVOURS

In addition to the Neutral **TADPOLE** that is fitted into **TOAD**, the **TADPOLE** mod system pack contains two **TADPOLEs** loaded for Mid Scoop and Bright tone. Three blank **TADPOLEs** are also included, for those users who wish to customise them for their own unique tonal flavour.

Neutral ..... The Neutral **TADPOLE** is engineered for maximum versatility. This **TADPOLE** offers the broadest spectrum of overdrive and tonal shaping capabilities, making it idea for users who play a wide range of musical styles.

Bright ..... The Bright **TADPOLE** is designed to accentuate high-frequency content while attenuating low-frequency response. This configuration is optimized for applications requiring enhanced clarity and a lighter distortion characteristic, particularly suited for musical styles emphasizing an open, bright tonal profile.

Mid Scoop ... The Mid-Scoop **TADPOLE** is engineered to produce a frequency response characterized by significant mid-range attenuation, resulting in a darker, more aggressive tonal profile. This configuration is particularly well-suited for high-gain, heavy styles.

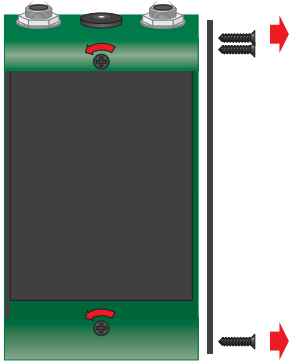
Instructions for interchanging **TADPOLES** are on the following pages. Please read through these instructions fully before attempting the mod to ensure that it is within your capabilities.

For owners who would like to make their **TOAD** tones even more personal, the blank **TADPOLE** boards can be modified with custom capacitor value selections. Instructions for this can be found on page 15.

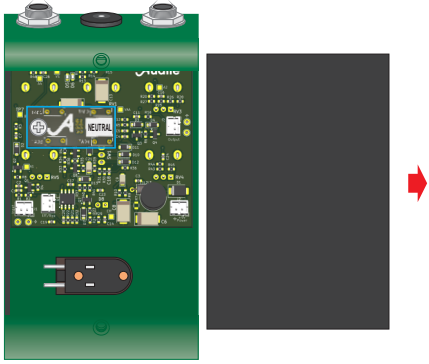
INTERCHANGING TADPOLE BOARDS

Please use a hand tool screwdriver when interchanging TADPOLE's. DO NOT use a powered driver, as this could cause damage to the screw threads or circuit boards.

1. Remove one side panel from either side of **TOAD**. There are three self-tapping screws per side. Remove the two bottom screws also.

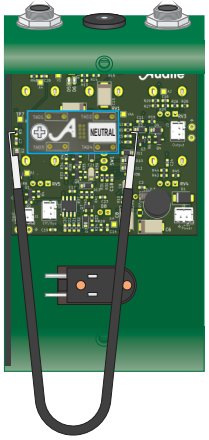


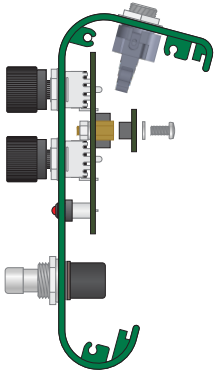
2. Slide out the bottom panel.



3. Locate the **TADPOLE** board, and unscrew the retaining bolt. The **TADPOLE** board is highlighted with light blue borders in the diagram below.

   Gently pull the **TADPOLE** board off the main circuit board. An IC Extraction Tool has been provided with your **TADPOLE** kit for this purpose. **DO NOT** use a screwdriver to pry off one side of the **TADPOLE** board, as this could bend the pins of the header connector.





4. Fit an alternative **TADPOLE** board, taking care to correctly align the header pins of the PCB connectors. Re-fit the retaining bolt and spring washer to a moderate tightness. Do not over tighten.

5. Replace the bottom panel before testing the tone of the newly fitted **TADPOLE**.

   Replace the side panel when you have settled on the **TADPOLE** that you wish to keep in your **TOAD**. Do not over-tighten the self tapping screws.

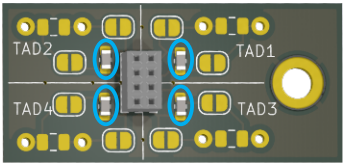
MODIFYING A TADPOLE BOARD

Your TOAD is supplied with a Neutral TADPOLE fitted inside. Bright and Mid-Scoop and three blank TADPOLES are supplied in the kit.

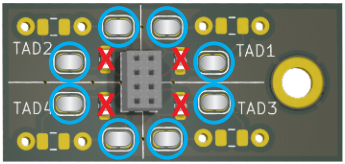
Modifying a TADPOLE board involves removing and fitting electronic components. This should only be attempted by someone with experience in de-soldering and soldering components, preferably to surface mount level.

We recommend that you do not modify at least one TADPOLE to ensure that you have a baseline to work from if your mods to other TADPOLEs produce unexpected results.

1. See page 13 for instructions on how to interchange **TADPOLES**.
2. Locate the four capacitor zones on the component side of the **TADPOLE** board. They are labelled TAD1, TAD2, TAD3 and TAD4. Three capacitor footprints are provided - 0603 SMD, 0804 SMD and 5.0mm / 0.2" through-hole. 0603 SMD capacitors can simply be fitted to the 4 locations shown below, with no further soldering.



3. In case 0603 SMD size is not available to you, use the 0804 SMD or 5.0mm / 0.2" through-hole footprints. In this case, apply a solder bridge in the locations shown.



The capacitors should be metalised polyester, metalised polypropylene or NPO multilayer ceramic.

PRE TONE MODS

- **TAD1** affects the roll-off frequency for the **PRE TONE** at maximum treble.
- **TAD2** affects the roll-off frequency for the **PRE TONE** at maximum bass.

Having **TAD1** as a lower value than **TAD2** will result in a mid scoop with the pot in the centre position. The amount of decibel scoop will depend on the difference in the values.

Having **TAD1** as a higher value than **TAD2** will result in a mid boost with the pot in the centre position. The amount of decibel boost will depend on the difference in the values.

POST TONE / CHOKE MODS

- **TAD3** will affect where the roll-off frequency for the **CHOKE** control operates, as well as the **POST TONE** treble response.
- **TAD4** will affect the roll-off frequency for the **POST TONE** at maximum bass.

Having **TAD3** as a lower value than **TAD4** will result in a mid scoop with the pot in the centre position. The amount of decibel scoop will depend on the difference in the values.

Having **TAD3** as a higher value than **TAD4** will result in a mid boost with the pot in the centre position. The amount of decibel boost will depend on the difference in the values.

NOTES

In each case, lower value capacitors result in a higher frequency where the roll-off occurs. The relative difference will effect the range where the frequencies cross over. If they are the same value, the centre position of the pot should approximate a flat response.

As a guide, 15nF results is about 1KHz roll-off frequency.

We recommend a minimum of 2nF and a maximum of 100nF for any of the capacitor values.

FACTORY TADPOLE CAPACITOR VALUES

LABEL . . . **NEUTRAL**	LABEL . . . **BRIGHT**	LABEL . . **MID SCOOP**
TAD1. . . . . 15nF	TAD1 . . . . 12nF	TAD1. . . . 4.7nF
TAD2 . . . . 18nF	TAD2 . . . . 4.7nF	TAD2 . . . 22nF
TAD3 . . . . 15nF	TAD3 . . . . 12nF	TAD3 . . . 4.7nF
TAD4 . . . . 15nF	TAD4 . . . . 4.7nF	TAD4 . . . 22nF

CUSTOM TADPOLE CAPACITOR VALUES

LABEL _____	LABEL _____	LABEL _____
TAD1 _____	TAD1 _____	TAD1 _____
TAD2 _____	TAD2 _____	TAD2 _____
TAD3 _____	TAD3 _____	TAD3 _____
TAD4 _____	TAD4 _____	TAD4 _____
LABEL _____	LABEL _____	LABEL _____
TAD1 _____	TAD1 _____	TAD1 _____
TAD2 _____	TAD2 _____	TAD2 _____
TAD3 _____	TAD3 _____	TAD3 _____
TAD4 _____	TAD4 _____	TAD4 _____

WARRANTY

Avant Technik Pty Ltd (“Avant Technik”) guarantees the **TOAD Tone Overdrive And Distortion** effect pedal to be free from defects in material and workmanship when subjected to normal use and service. This is a 2 year limited warranty, whereby the faulty device is returned to Avant Technik, or Authorised Dealer, freight prepaid within two years from the date of purchase. The faulty device will be repaired and returned, free of charge.

There are no expressed or implied warranties which extend beyond the face hereof, and Avant Technik is not liable for any incidental or consequential damages arising from the use or misuse of this product. This limited warranty does not apply to any injury, loss, damage, defect or malfunction of the product or failure to function resulting from any failure to operate the product in accordance with the directions contained in the operating instructions, failure to function resulting from any accidents, acts of God, tampering, abuse, acts, omissions, or negligence by anyone other than Avant Technik.

This limited warranty shall apply only to the Customer as an original purchaser. It is the customer's responsibility to follow safety regulations and laws regarding electrical connections. Shipping damage is not covered by this warranty.

No claims will be recognised without the proof of purchase. This warranty becomes invalid if damaged is caused by an unauthorised person or persons attempting modifications or repairs.

Notwithstanding the above, Avant Technik may choose, at their discretion, to supply parts and/or labour at no charge where damage to the **TOAD** is caused accidentally while interchanging or modifying a **TADPOLE** PCB according to the instructions contained in this manual.

Any dispute between customer and Avant Technik must be conducted in Queensland, Australia.

CONTACT US

To Each Their Own Tone

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v1.0a, 23-Apr-2025


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