



### **The TONE HAMMER Preamp/DI**

Congratulations on your purchase of the preamp/direct box so powerful it could only be called the TONE HAMMER! Designed to be more than just a preamp and with more functionality than a standard DI, the TONE HAMMER is an essential tool for every bassist.

In addition to the warm, organic sound that Aguilar is known for, the TONE HAMMER provides three bands of EQ with fully sweepable midrange frequencies for maximum tonal sculpting. Separate GAIN and MASTER controls allow you to dial in just the right gain structure for any instrument.

To give this tone shaping unit the ultimate flexibility we are introducing our proprietary Adaptive Gain Shaping circuitry (AGS). AGS modifies the gain structure and EQ, making it easy to go from modern slap sounds to vintage warmth or overdriven tones at the stomp of a button. 18-volt operation gives plenty of headroom to reproduce the most dynamic playing styles. With all this and the TONE HAMMER's pristine DI you are ready to hit the studio or stage.

- 3-band EQ with fully sweepable midrange
- Adaptive Gain Shaping circuitry (AGS)
- DI with selectable pre/post operation
- 18-volt operation via batteries, phantom power or optional power supply

## **Owner's Manual**

Manual Version 3.1

## **1. Top Panel Controls and Functions**

GAIN: Controls input sensitivity level

TREBLE: +/- 18 dB @ 4 kHz

BASS: +/- 18 dB @ 40 Hz

MID FREQ: 180 Hz to 1 kHz

MID: +/- 17 dB of cut or boost

MASTER: Controls output level

ENGAGE footswitch: toggles between on/bypass (blue LED indicates on)

AGS footswitch: toggles AGS on/off (orange LED indicates on)

## **2. Side Panel Controls and Functions**

IN: 1/4" instrument input

DC IN: Input for external power supply

PRE/POST: This will place the DI signal either pre or post EQ.

- Pre: Your signal goes to the DI XLR output before your GAIN, AGS and EQ settings. Leave the switch out for this function.
- Post: GAIN, AGS, EQ and MASTER settings will be sent to the DI XLR output jack. Push the switch in for this function.

DI: Balanced XLR output

GND/LIFT: If there is a hum when using the DI, there may be a ground loop. In many cases, pushing in the GND/LIFT button can fix this problem.

OUT: 1/4" instrument output

## **3. Specifications**

Input impedance: 1meg Ohm

1/4" output level: 4VRMS maximum

XLR output level: 8VRMS maximum balanced

1/4" output noise: -95dBu 'A' weighted

XLR output noise: -98dBu 'A' weighted

Current consumption: 7mA

Power Requirements: Two 9-volt batteries, phantom power or an external DC power supply: 18-20V 0.3A, 2.1mm plug, center terminal polarity is negative. We recommend the Aguilar PSU2 for best results.

## **4. Basic Setup**

1. Plug in your instrument, the TONE HAMMER, and your amplifier. With MASTER volume down, bring the GAIN control to 12 o'clock.
2. Turn on your amplifier and engage the TONE HAMMER.

3. While playing, turn up the **MASTER** control until you reach your normal playing level.
4. Adjust **GAIN** and EQ controls to taste.

## **5. Adaptive Gain Shaping (AGS)**

AGS changes the gain structure and EQ interactively with the **GAIN** control position. By modifying the circuit structure, AGS gives a "vintage voiced" EQ and gain structure that adapts to how you set the **GAIN** control. The lower the **GAIN** control setting, the "flatter" the EQ applied. The higher you set the **GAIN** control, the more saturated the gain structure becomes, and the more the bass is tightened and the treble smoothed.

AGS provides a continuously variable boost depending on the position of the **GAIN** control. The higher the gain setting, the more boost you will get.

The AGS circuitry surrounds the midrange controls, enabling you to get a huge variety of tonal characteristics by simply adjusting the **GAIN**, **MID LEVEL** and **MID FREQ** controls. What this gives you is a flexible control to get a wide range of tonal colors.

With the **GAIN** set from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock, AGS gives up to 12dB of clean boost with warm, glassy, vintage EQ.

With the **GAIN** set from 11 o'clock to 1 o'clock, AGS gives up to 15dB boost, with a little vintage growl as the EQ tightens up the bass.

With the **GAIN** set from 1 o'clock to maximum, AGS gives up to 16dB boost full of warm, vintage saturation. The EQ tightens up the bass even more for a smoother response.

## **6. Sample Settings**

Please see our website, [www.aguilaramp.com](http://www.aguilaramp.com), for sample settings from some of the world's greatest bass players.

## **7. USA Warranty Information**

Please register for your warranty at [www.aguilaramp.com](http://www.aguilaramp.com). The **TONE HAMMER** is under warranty to the original owner for a period of three years against manufacturing defects. If you experience a problem with the unit, please contact [techsupport@aguilaramp.com](mailto:techsupport@aguilaramp.com) to receive a Return Authorization number or for information on the nearest authorized repair center. A copy of your original receipt must be included with all warranty repairs.

You are responsible for all shipping charges. The unit must be shipped to us freight prepaid. We will return the unit freight collect. Aguilar Amplification LLC is not responsible for shipping damage either to or from our service center. Claims must be filed with the carrier.

## 8. Repairs outside USA

Please contact your local dealer or distributor for your country's specific warranty period and repair procedures.

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