

# Tonal Recall

Tech 21 American Woman overdrive and Snarling Dogs Very-Tone Dog pedals. By Eric Kirkland

## TECH 21 AMERICAN WOMAN

The sexy cellolike sustain guitarist Randy Bachman achieved on the Guess Who's 1970 rock anthem "American Woman" remains one of the most copied and sought-after sounds. Now, Tech 21's American Woman overdrive pedal makes those slippery tones possible with almost any amplifier.

Designed in association with Bachman, the pedal sports a peppered blue casing with gold leaf Lady Liberty graphics and script. Features include positive grip knobs for level, tone, gate and drive; high-quality jacks; a custom silent switch; a buffered bypass; and a low-impedance

output that can drive long cables with no high-end loss. The pedal can be powered with a standard 9-volt battery or an optional AC adaptor.

While lower drive settings produce British-type grind, dimming that control will deliver the classic tone—smooth and creamy, with complete saturation, clean attack and a trashy bottom—

for which the pedal is named. Let an open chord ring and enjoy the sputters and oscillations of multi-amp cascading gain stages. Best when used as a stand-alone distortion, the Tech 21 American Woman overdrive pedal is the final word in raunchy liquid sustain.

### List Price

Tech 21 American Woman, \$150.00

### Manufacturer

Tech 21 NYC, 790 Bloomfield Ave., Building B, Clifton, NJ 07012; (973) 777-6996; tech21nyc.com

BITCHES BREWS: Very-Tone Dog (left) and American Woman



## SNARLING DOGS VERY-TONE DOG

With their ferocious illuminated eyes and guard dog graphics, Snarling Dogs products are unmistakable. The lightweight Very-Tone Dog combines a powerful preamp with a variable tone circuit that transforms the core of your sound from round and fat to razor thin, and everything in between. The Very-Tone can be powered by a 9-volt battery or an AC adaptor, and its hardware bypass keeps your tone pure when the pedal is switched off.

The volume compensator boosts or cuts the signal level, and the tone selector offers five sound-altering positions, labeled A through E. The A set-

ting fattens your tone substantially, while subsequent tone positions render sounds that are thinner and sharper. If you just want more of your amp's sound, a bypass feature lets you cleanly boost your signal without altering its tone. In addition, the pedal has a two-position attack switch that delivers beefier "snarl" and brighter "bite" characteristics. By combining the attack settings with

the tone selector options, you can create up to 10 preset tones and enjoy unbelievably clean boost. This pedal could easily be your

ticket to best in show. Quite simply, it improved the tone of every amp I have.

### List Price

Snarling Dogs Very-Tone Dog, \$89.00

### Manufacturer

D'Andrea Inc., 115 Eileen Way, Syosset, NY 11791; (800) 554-1090; snarlingdogs.com