

POWER REQUIREMENTS

*Utilizes standard 9V alkaline battery (not included). NOTE: *Input* jack activates battery. To conserve energy, unplug when not in use. Power Consumption: approx. 5mA, for battery life of approximately 100 hours.

*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.

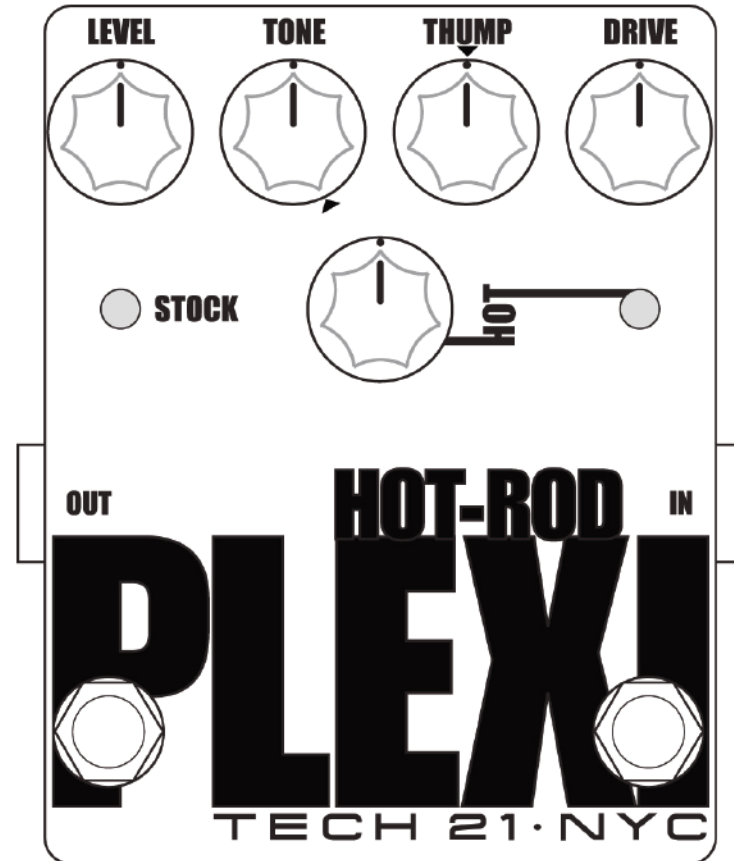
ALL REPAIRS for residents of U.S. and Canada: Call Tech 21 for **Return Authorization Number**. Manufacturer will **not** accept packages without prior authorization, pre-paid freight (UPS preferred) and proper insurance.

FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANCE & SERVICE:
Contact Tech 21 weekdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, EST.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.



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OWNER'S MANUAL

TECH 21, THE COMPANY

Tech 21 was formed by a guitarist possessing the unusual combination of a trained ear and electronics expertise. In 1989, B. Andrew Barta made his invention commercially available to players and studios around the world. His highly-acclaimed **SansAmp™** pioneered Tube Amplifier Emulation in professional applications for recording direct and performing live, and created an entirely new category of signal processing. There have since been many entries into this niche, yet SansAmp continues to maintain its reputation as the industry standard.

With a full line of SansAmp models, Tech 21 also offers effect pedals and MIDI products, as well as “traditional” style amplifiers for guitar and bass. Each product is thoughtfully and respectfully designed by B. Andrew Barta himself with the player in mind. Our goal is to provide you with flexible, versatile tools to cultivate, control, refine and redefine your own individual sound. Tech 21 takes great pride in delivering consistent quality sound, studio to studio, club to club, arena to arena.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Hot-Rod Plexi is inspired by vintage amps of the same nickname. While those hulking stacks are known to sound best at ear-bleed levels, this pedal can painlessly transform your existing amp without pulling a muscle or mandatory rig cranking. With the Hot-Rod Plexi, you can completely change the personality of a clean amp or use it as an instant mod to a dirty amp.

Portions of our all-analog SansAmp technology have been incorporated into the Hot-Rod Plexi to generate the organic tube amp distortion characteristics. In Stock mode, it's as if you have the signal path from the input jack to the speaker jack (without the speaker emulation) of a stock '68 Plexi. Hot engages an extra “12AX7” pre-amp gain stage. With its own level control, Hot can kick in up to 28dB of pre-amp boost --a pretty insane amount of gain.

Tech 21's all-analog circuitry merges vintage sounds with modern dependability so you get the same consistent sound, all day and all night long.

As with each Tech 21 product, the controls are designed to give you the flexibility to obtain your desired sound. It is our hope that the Hot-Rod Plexi will be useful tools for stimulating your creativity and, ultimately, providing the inspiration to play your best.

THE INS AND OUTS

1/4” INPUT: 1megOhm instrument level. For normal operation, signal level to *Input* should be close to that of a standard electric guitar (approx -10dBm / 250mV). The input is designed with the same sensitivity and loading characteristic as a tube amp.

Also switches battery power on/off, so be sure to unplug when not in use.

1/4” OUTPUT: 1kOhm low impedance output drives long cables without loss of signal integrity, even in bypass.

APPLICATIONS and CONTROLS

Use with any amp --tube or solid state, vintage or modern. NOTE: You can also achieve the same results using the Hot-Rod Plexi in conjunction with our own SansAmp Tube Amplifier Emulators.

LEVEL: Adjusts the output level of the unit.

TONE: Very musical, specialized low pass filter that shifts the high cut from 10kHz to 1kHz. At maximum (note indicator at 5 o'clock), it's flat. As you reduce the setting, it will decrease the high end without losing mids or getting muddy.

THUMP: Controls the low end for the resonant frequency of a 4x12 cabinet. Cut or boost from the 12 o'clock position.

DRIVE: Adjusts the overall amount of gain and overdrive, similar to when the output section of a tube amp is being pushed. Highly interactive with the level of your guitar. For instance, you can clean up the amount of distortion by decreasing the guitar's volume (except in very extreme settings) without having to change the setting on the pedal. Conversely, you can increase the amount of distortion by simply increasing the guitar's volume.

HOT: The Hot function is like having an extra “12AX7” pre-amp gain stage. Activated via its own footswitch, you can kick in up to 28dB of pre-amp boost. The range allows you to go from a state of mild overdrive to insane gain.

MODES

STOCK / BYPASS: The left footswitch engages and disengages the pedal, as indicated by the corresponding LED. In Stock mode, it's as if you have the signal path from the input jack to the speaker jack (without the speaker emulation) of a stock '68 Plexi.

HOT: The right footswitch engages and disengages the Hot function. NOTE: the pedal must be activated (Stock engaged with LED lit) or there will be no effect.

NOTEWORTHY NOTES

- 1) Tech 21 controls are unusually sensitive** and tend to perform well beyond what would be considered “normal.” So you need not set everything at max to get maximum results.
- 2) To find the best settings** for interacting with your other gear, you may need to use radically different settings for each individual way you use it. You need not be discouraged or suspect something is wrong with the unit. If you've got your sound, you've simply found the right balance to complement each individual piece of gear. We recommend you start with the tone control at max and cut as necessary.
- 3) Tech 21 pedals have exceptionally low noise levels.** However, they may amplify noise emanating from the input source. To minimize noise, we recommend active electronic instruments have the volume set at unity gain/maximum and tone controls positioned flat. If you need to boost, do so slowly and sparingly. Also check for pickup interference by moving your guitar or turning the volume off. Be aware single coil pickups are more likely to generate noise.
- 4) Placement notes:** For best results, plug your guitar directly into the Hot-Rod Plexi. This will preserve the interactive nature of the unit. Otherwise, we recommend this basic guideline:
 - Place the following effects BEFORE the Hot-Rod Plexi:**
Compressor, Envelope Filter, Wah.
 - Place the following effects AFTER the Hot-Rod Plexi:**
Chorus, Distortion (other), Echo, Reverb, SansAmp, Volume Pedal.
- 5) Buffered bypass** eliminates the shortcomings associated with “true bypass” (pops and clicks, and high-end loss when multiple pedals are connected together), as well as signal loss associated with other types of switching circuits.
- 6) Custom actuators.** All Tech 21 pedals feature smooth, silent-switching actuators that are licensed by other major manufacturers.
- 7) LED indicator light.** When battery begins running low (around 6 volts), the LED will become noticeably dim.