

3-MODE SELECTABLE WAH PEDAL

Owner's Manual



THE KILLER WAIL, AN OVERVIEW

A staple in the world of music since the '60s, the wah wah effect was made popular by some of the most influential guitar players in the world. Nostalgia, however, tends to make us forget some of the shortcomings-- excessive noise, tendency to be thin sounding with certain guitars/pickups, and general quality of the mechanics.

The Killer Wail preserves the original circuit design and overcomes its faults. Going a step further, we've incorporated new features to enhance its performance:

- **Mode selector switch** extends the variety of curves.
- **Humbucking Inductor:** custom wound and potted inductor coil cancels noise and reduces microphonics while faithfully reproducing the saturation and harmonics of vintage wahs.
- **Bypass switch** has an extra pole to remove the circuit load, which can muddy and weaken the signal.

Our goal is to provide 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.

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 incorporated Tech 21 and 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 maintains its reputation as the industry standard.

After developing a full line of SansAmp models, Tech 21 expanded its offerings to include effect pedals, as well as "traditional" style amplifiers.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Use a soft, dry cloth for external cleaning. Avoid chemical products, which may damage rubber and plastic parts.

This unit uses an internal long life potentiometer that controls the sweep of the wah wah filter. It may eventually present unexpected noises due to dust and dirt accumulation. A "scraping" sound will become audible through your amplifier. If you experience this problem, try cleaning the potentiometer. Just remove the back aluminum cover for access. Apply a fine spray of electronics contact cleaner with lubricant directly inside the potentiometer. Move pedal back and forth to ensure penetration of cleaner. **DO NOT USE ALCOHOL or WD40®.** If results are unsatisfactory, seek authorized personnel for potentiometer replacement.

WARNINGS

- Attempting to repair this unit is not recommended and may void its warranty.
- Missing or altered serial numbers automatically void the warranty. For your own protection, be sure the serial number labels on the unit and exterior box are intact.

ONE-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

Manufacturer warrants unit to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of purchase. 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 elect to repair or replace it free of charge. After warranty period expires, Tech 21 will repair defective unit for a fee.

PROOF OF PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR REPAIR

Residents of the U.S. and Canada: contact Tech 21's main headquarters for shipping instructions and Return Authorization Number. Tech 21 will not accept packages without prior authorization, pre-paid freight (UPS preferred), and proper insurance.

FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANCE & INQUIRIES

Contact Tech 21 weekdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, EST.

MADE IN BRAZIL

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POWERING UP

With 9-Volt Battery (not included): To install, simply remove plastic battery door from bottom of unit to gain access to battery compartment. For best results, use a high quality alkaline battery.

NOTE: Battery engages when plug is inserted into the Input jack. For longest life, always remove cable from Input when not in use. To avoid damage from leakage, remove battery if use is not planned for 30 days or more.

With Power Supply: For AC operation, use a regulated or unregulated 9-volt DC power supply with a 5.5 x 2.1 mm plug.

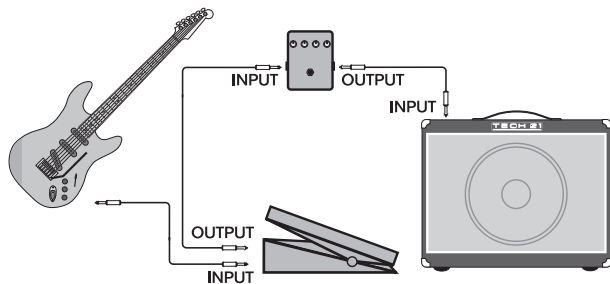
Out: DC 9V 100mA -  
Negative Center + 

**Optional Tech 21 power supply is available:
Model #DC2.** Contact your local dealer or Tech 21.

CONNECTING AN INSTRUMENT

1. Connect a cable from the instrument to the Input jack.
2. Connect another cable from the Output jack to your amplifier input jack. You can also connect the Output jack to your effects pedals, and then to your amplifier.

Typical Wah Wah Connection:



Tips:

1. Placing the wah before distortion will yield a traditional “rock” wah tone. Placing the wah after distortion will give you a very wide ranging “synth” type filtering effect.
2. The Killer Wail uses the same type of input impedance as ‘60s wah pedals. Buffering your guitar’s pickups (with a pedal that has electronic switching set to bypass) before the wah will increase the range of the sweep. Note: active pickups are already buffered.
3. Placing a very mild distortion before the wah, and more distortion after the wah (from a pedal or amp) will result in a very rich lead tone.
4. The inductor coil used in all wah pedals is capable of picking up hum just as a single coil pickup does. Therefore, placing the wah near a transformer may cause hum.

SELECTING A WAH WAH MODE

HIGH: This position moves the wah filter to the high range of the guitar. Notes on the G, B, and E strings will be accentuated. This setting is perfect for leads or funky staccato chords.



EXTENDED: Tunes the wah to cover the entire range of the guitar. In this mode, the filter is not so “peaky” and is a good choice with clean guitars when you want a smooth and wide sweep. This mode also works well with distorted rhythm chords and riffs.

DEEP: Moves the filter down to accentuate the lower strings of the guitar. This setting is perfect for use with 7-string guitars and bass guitars.

Experiment with the mode selector in each position to find a tone to your taste. Bear in mind that different pickups will respond in different ways in each mode setting.

When placing the pedal in a fixed position, you will get a boost in a particular frequency. You can use that to add sustain and create a feedback of a particular overtone.

Tip: To avoid unexpected mechanical “pops” when changing modes, switch the pedal to BYPASS position.

TURNING YOUR PEDAL ON AND OFF

Turn the pedal on and off by pressing the pedal forward. You will feel a little “click” to indicate that the pedal was turned on or off.

By moving the pedal back and forth, you will change the effect. The wah wah pedal effect is a sweepable bandpass filter foot controlled. Toe down will give you more treble. Heel down will give you more bass.

NOTE: When using the wah with a high gain amp, you may notice a slight “pop” when engaging the pedal. This is normal because the pedal employs a mechanical bypass footswitch.

ADJUSTING THE TREADLE TIGHTNESS

The action of the wah can be adjusted by the large bolt and nut on the side of the pedal. Loosen for a looser feel and tighten for a tighter feel.

THE KILLER WAIL WITH OTHER EFFECTS

In most cases, the best results will be achieved by putting effects in this order:

Before Killer Wail: Compression, overdrive or fuzz*

After Killer Wail: SansAmp, overdrive or fuzz*, chorus, delay, echo, reverb, flange, phase shifter

*Refer to Tips, #3 on opposite page.