



30 years of experience culminate in the new XB Driver signed Tech 21, a Swiss knife for bassists looking for sound of quality, efficiency and high versatility of use.

Since its presentation, the Tech 21 SansAmp XB Driver has captured the attention of a large number of bassists thanks to the combination of versatility, tonal/sound quality, reliability and design, which it provides. Representing the culmination of 30 years of Tech21 NYC's experience in designing electric bass-based devices, the new XB Driver condenses the real market elements that have made SansAmp Bass Driver DI, Para Driver DI, Q-Strip and dUg Pinnick Ultra Bass 1000, the real best sellers of the market to which they belong.

100% analog and equipped with two independent yet-mixable channels, the SansAmp XB Driver is a real set of bass sounds. Its operation could be defined as that of a sophisticated dual-amp toolbox and DI, whose arrangement of controls, similar to that of a traditional amplifier, is designed to ensure a simple but still very detailed user experience.

FRONT PANEL

The Clean and Drive channels are independent and can be used individually or blended thanks to the footswitch Mix.

It features two more footswitches, the first dedicated to the pedal On/Off, and the second to channel selection.

A Master Volume adjusts the output volume of the XLB Driver, while each of the two channels is equipped with Level, Treble, MidShift and Bass controls. The Mid Shift control, which is located on both channels, works on a specific frequency range ranging from 100Hz to 2kHz with a cut/boost of +/-16dB. The two channels are also equipped with specific features, such as the compression circuit dedicated to the Clean channel (this is a compressor based on FET technology, which recalls the one used mainly in the 50s and 60s). The compression circuit offers a comp knob that allows you to adjust the intervention of the compressor on the Clean channel.

Switching to the Drive channel, the additional features are varied. Beyond a set of controls identical to that of the Clean channel, the second channel offers a Drive control dedicated to saturation, of course, but also three different switches. The first is called Bite and takes care of activating a boost on the high frequencies, a sort of Bright that allows you to make the sound brighter and more performing in piercing the mix; the second switch is called Pre/Post and allows you to choose whether the equalization section dedicated to medium frequencies goes to act before or after the saturation stage; the third switch is called Crossover and is operated only when the footswitch is activated.

In Mix mode, in fact, not only do the two channels work in parallel, but the Crossover switch allows you to take advantage of the Passa Alto and Passa Basso filters so as to further sculpt the bass sound.

Inspired by the sound of dUg Pinnick, it is clear that the SansAmp XB Driver also pays tribute to other innovative bassists, such as Geddy Lee, John Entwistle and Chris Squire, famous for the use of complex and separate amplification systems for clean and drive sounds.

REAR PANEL

Despite its small size, the XLB Driver manages to incorporate a very articulated set of connections. In addition to input and output for bass connection, the XLB Driver has an effect loop, as well as an output specifically designed for a tuner. Also on the rear panel there is a Pad switch with attenuation of -10dB, a switch for the activation of a +10dB boost associated exclusively with the output in jack format. Obviously the XB Driver is governed by Tech 21's SansAmp technology and this means that it can provide a balanced XLR output with cabinet simulation. The XLR output also includes two switches, one for the Line Level and a Ground Switch.



SANSAMP

The emulation technology of the SansAmp is 100% analog and reproduces the entire signal chain, from the preamp section to the end of power, to the simulation of the speakers. The latter is an integral part of the circuit and is well blended with any type of cabinet system for guitar or bass, but the New York brand specifies that it is also possible to take advantage of external IR (Impulse Response) positioned after a SansAmp, so as to obtain further nuances. The simulation of the SansAmp speakers is individually designed and calibrated for each Tech 21 home product, so as to ensure a uniform response, as close as possible to that obtained by a microphone cabinet with multiple microphones (avoiding peaks, depressions and irregularities often associated with single microphonation and low-quality IR).

SCONOM AND APPLICATIONS

From a sound point of view, the Tech 21 SansAmp XB Driver stands out for its ability to adapt to a wide range of musical genres. Whether it's rock, funk, jazz or metal, this pedal offers a versatile and easily malleable sound palette. The distortion section is remarkable: the Drive control allows you to switch from a light and warm overdrive to an aggressive and scratchy distortion, without ever losing definition. The Mix function is a crucial strength, since thanks to the introduction of the Clean signal allows you to keep intact the presence of all frequencies in play even in the most saturated contexts.

In clean mode, however, the pedal behaves like a transparent preamplifier, offering a dynamic response that enhances the natural characteristics of the connected bass. A point in favor of the XB Driver is undoubtedly also in the two filters, Passa Alto and Passa Basso, which, in Mix mode, allow the bassist to find the balance suitable for the musical context in which you find yourself playing.

Finally, versatility is the strongest quality of the XB Driver. Thanks to the XLR output with SansAmp simulation, the pedal can firmly replace an amplifier both in the studio for live recordings and live venues. In this second case, it can also play the role of main preamplifier or backup in case of problems with the main amplification system.

Given its flexibility, the XB Driver is designed for bassists who frequently alternate musical contexts of a different nature, in which it is necessary to be able to count on a quality sound as much as on an agile and at the same time reliable pedal.

Compact, robust and able to adapt to a large number of contexts, both in the studio and in the live venue. Two separate but mixed channels complete with a refined equalization section. SansAmp technology, of course. Tech 21 has designed the XB Driver to be the perfect companion of bassists who seek application flexibility and the ability to always have a tool with you able to fulfill the role of amplification sector.