

## USER MANUAL & SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

# CINNAMON DRIVE

Welcome to a new level of  
tube-like overdriven tones



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[www.aclamguitars.com](http://www.aclamguitars.com)

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[www.aclamguitars.com](http://www.aclamguitars.com)

## Overview

The Cinnamon Drive pedal is a new kind of dual stage overdrive pedal featuring a combination of soft and hard clipping circuits.

It has been designed to cover a wide range of sounds, from a clean boost to a lightly crunched rhythm guitar sound to finally becoming the ultimate riff machine with plenty of gain and rock tone.

The goal in its creation process was to capture the essence of the 60's and 70's tube amps when pushed to max volume, which creates naturally open and super dynamic overdriven tones. Some of the greatest players from that era, such as Clapton, Page and Hendrix, relied on this technique to get their distinctive sound.

# Features

## DUAL STAGE CLIPPING CIRCUITS:

The first stage uses a custom soft clipping circuit voiced to cover clean to mid-gain overdrive with independent gain and volume knobs.

The second stage builds upon the first stage and stacks a hard-clipping circuit to add gain and tightness. It also features an independent volume control and a hard-clipping gain control named "Boost".

## HIGHEST VERSATILITY WITH THE FEWEST CONTROLS POSSIBLE:

This design allows you to dial in two totally different overdrive tones with independent volume controls. For example, you could set a light preamp as the main sound and add gain and volume when hitting the boost switch.

## A LOT OF DYNAMICS AND A NATURAL TONE:

Both stages share the same passive tone control, which retains the bottom end and mid-range and softens the high frequencies.

All this with the highest headroom and dynamic range possible due to its specially designed power supply circuit to increase internal voltage.

## TRUE BYPASS RELAY SWITCHING:

We've designed an intelligent true bypass relay switching system which constantly monitors voltage supply (both battery or DC jack input) and switches itself to true bypass when it detects a drastic drop in voltage.

This way you'll never get any signal interruption even if your power supply or battery fails.

It also tells you when the battery is close to completely draining by making both the Boost and Bypass LED's (depending on your current setting) blink. So, you have at least 2-3 hours to replace the battery before the pedal goes into self-bypass.

## SMART TRACK FASTENING SYSTEM:

All our pedals use a custom enclosure designed to match perfectly our Smart Track pedalboards. Using the side thumb screws you'll be able to lock safely the stompbox into one of our pedalboards.

It also was designed with the other pedalboard options in the market in mind. (see page 18)

# Specs & Material included

DIMENSIONS: 13,6 x 8,7 x 5,5cm (5.4" x 3.4" x 2.2") with knobs

WEIGHT: 415g. (0.91 lbs)

BYPASS: Relay True Bypass

POWER REQUIREMENTS: 9V DC Center Negative 100mA minimum or a 9V battery

## DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY:

This product complies with the requirements of



MADE IN SPAIN

## MATERIAL INCLUDED

1 x Cinnamon Drive pedal

1 x Anti-sliding rubber pad

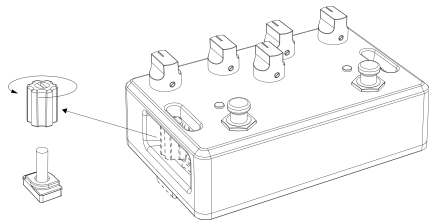
1 x Velcro® pad

# Power requeriments

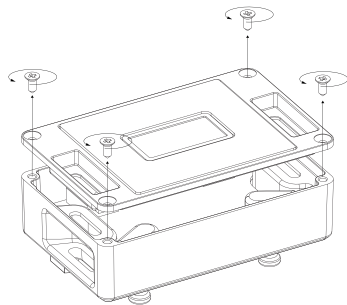
## 9V BATTERY

To operate the Cinnamon Drive with a 9V battery you'll have to follow the next steps:

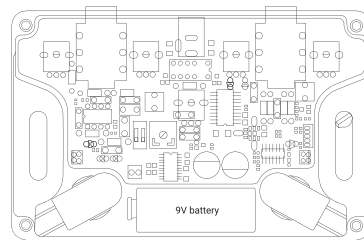
- 1 Loosen the side thumb screws and disassemble the Smart Track system of both sides of the pedal.



- 2 Unscrew the four bolts of the baseplate using a pozidriv screwdriver to access the inside of the pedal.



- 3 Put the 9V battery in the position showed in the diagram. Make sure to use a good quality alkaline battery to ensure the longest time of operation.



- 4 Tight back the lid with the 4 screws and reassembly the Smart Track system.



## CAUTION:

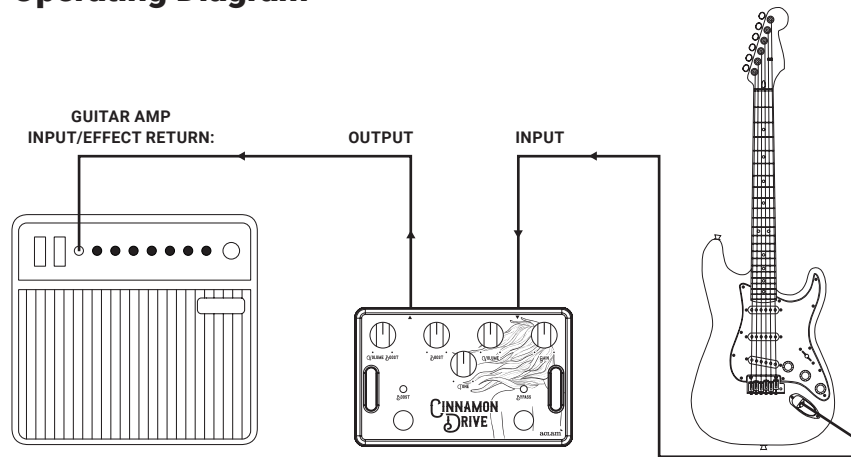
If used improperly, batteries may explode or leak and cause damage or injury.

- The use of an incorrect type of battery can void the safeguard mechanisms of the device (for example, in the case of some lithium battery types)
- Batteries must never be recharged, heated, taken apart, or thrown into fire or water.
- Do not expose the unit to extremely high temperatures, direct sunlight or other devices that radiate heat, as it may lead to an explosion or leakage of flammable liquid or gas.

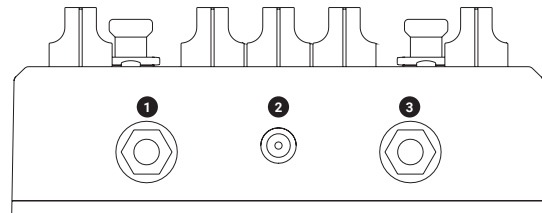
## POWER SUPPLY

This unit can be powered with a 9VDC negative tip power supply with the standard Boss type 2.1mm connector. Current supply should be a minimum of 100 mA just to leave a safety margin for the DC adapter. Make sure you use a good quality power supply and avoid using generic SMPS type adapter which can induce high pitched noise to the audio.

## Operating Diagram



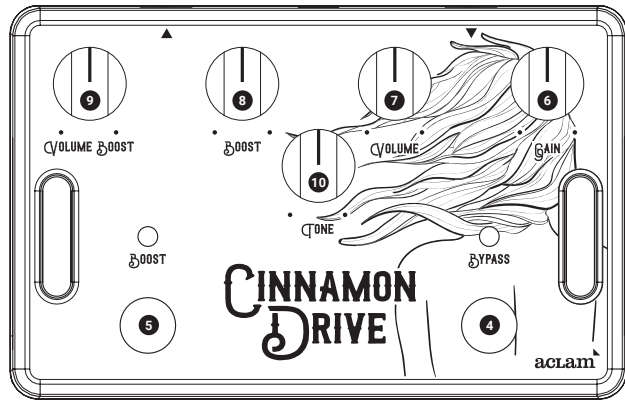
## Controls



1 INPUT JACK

2 POWER JACK

3 OUTPUT JACK



**REMEMBER:** The Cinnamon Drive is not a dual, independent channel overdrive pedal. The Boost section is not a clean boost - even though it can serve as one - it's a second gain stage that gets stacked with the main overdrive circuit. Even though there are independent volume controls for each stage, the "Gain" knob will always affect the "Boost" setting.

- 4 BYPASS FOOTSWITCH:** Engages the unit and lets the signal flow through the Cinnamon Drive clipping circuit. It also light up the LED above it.
- 5 BOOST FOOTSWITCH:** Activates the second gain stage (Hard Clipping) and will light up the LED above it.
- 6 GAIN:** Controls the amount of gain in the first clipping stage (Soft Clipping). In the counterclockwise position it acts as a clean preamp, and as it is increased it builds into a light crunch to finally producing a rich and dynamic overdrive.
- 7 VOL:** Sets the volume of the soft clipping section. Tip: set the Gain knob at minimum and adjust the Volume knob to get a fat and nicely colored boost. This is really useful if you want to add some character to a flat-sounding amp or to push your tube amp into its sweet spot. Be careful! This pedal can be EXTREMELY LOUD.

- 8 BOOST:** Set the amount of signal boost before reaching the hard-clipping circuit. This way the guitar signal is affected by the two circuits (Soft and Hard Clipping) at the same time and you can control how much of each type of saturation you want.  
At minimum setting it adds a subtle effect to the first stage, but as you increase the knob it starts to add compression and distortion, a desirable effect when you need a defined and tight tone to cut through for riffs or solos.
- 9 VOL BOOST:** Sets the volume of the Boost section. Its purpose is to have separate levels for each gain section so for example, you can pre-set a rhythm tone on the first stage and a more aggressive sound with a volume increase for solo work or parts where your guitar needs a bit more of presence.
- 10 TONE:** A simple but super effective passive treble cut control affecting both sections. Turn it clockwise to soften treble frequencies.

# Advanced Internal Controls

These controls are intended to help adequate you Cinnamon Drive to your playing requirements and/or your particular rig.

## HOW TO ACCESS THE INTERNAL CONTROLS:

Just follow the same steps described on the 9V battery replacement instructions. To adjust the internal controls grab a small flat screwdriver :)

### 1 BASS DIP SWITCHES:

These switches can increase or reduce the amount of bass content passing through the Cinnamon Drive saturation engine. This feature is useful to adjust the pedal to amps with a lack or excess of low frequencies. They also change the overdrive's character and gain structure as follows:



**Both switches down:** You'll notice a drop in the low frequencies. This is especially useful when playing with small-sized amps or guitars with a lot of low end. The tone will be more focused on the midrange.



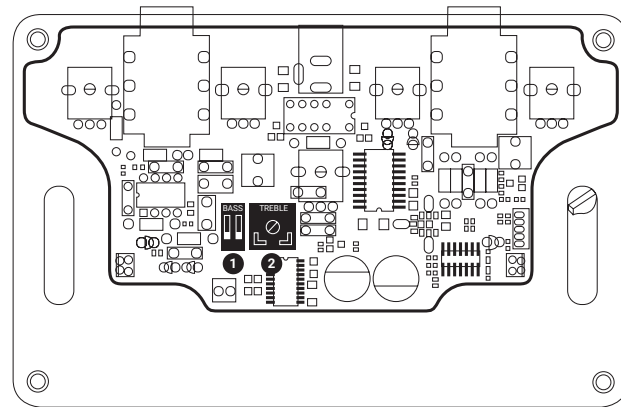
**Switch 1 in the up position:** The Bass content is almost the same as the bypassed tone. The frequency response will be flat. This is the factory default setting.



**Both switches up:** This option increases bass content, ideal for a single guitar player band. With both Gain and Boost engaged all the way up the pedal will turn into a high gain fuzz type distortion. We encourage you to experiment with it!

### 2 TREBLE TRIM POT:

Unlike the external Tone control, the Treble Trim Pot controls the final presence of the Cinnamon drive. Settings can vary from super dark dialed counterclockwise to sparkly bright and mid scooped tone in the clockwise setting. Factory setting is at 12 o'clock.



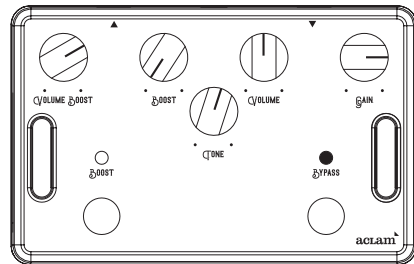
1 BASS DIP SWITCHES

2 TREBLE TRIM POT

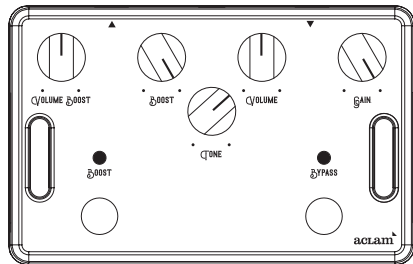


# Setting Examples

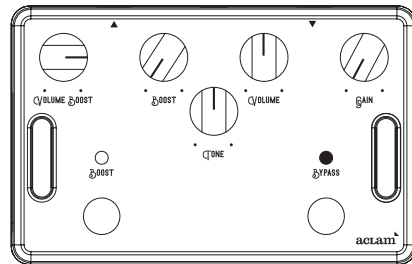
To show you the immense potential of the Cinnamon Drive, we recommend you to try the following setting examples. You can hear them at [www.aclamguitars.com](http://www.aclamguitars.com)



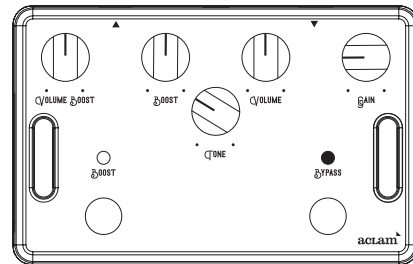
**MID GAIN OVERDRIVE + VOLUME BOOST**



**CREAMY SOLO TONE**



**DUAL CHANNEL CLEAN BOOST**



**BRIGHT SOFT OVERDRIVE + EXTRA GAIN STAGE WITH INDEPENDENT VOLUME**



# Setting up on a pedalboard

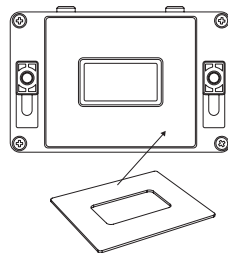
All our effect pedals use a custom light aluminum enclosure specially designed to fit our Smart Track pedalboards. We incorporated a proprietary locking system which allows the user to fasten the pedal without the need of using the typical hook and loop method. This custom fastening system follows the same philosophy behind the Smart Track fasteners but integrated in the enclosure reducing the space occupied by each pedal.

That translates into more pedal density for the same space, and who doesn't want that?

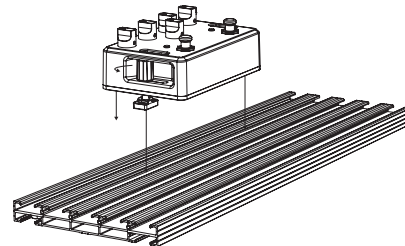
We strongly recommend you to take a look at our line of pedalboards, which are the best complement to our pedals!

## HOW TO MOUNT IT ON A SMART TRACK PEDALBOARD:

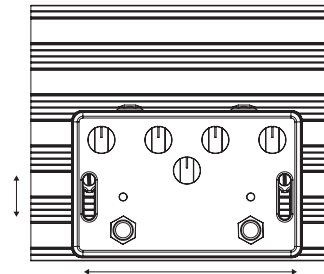
- 1 Add the anti-sliding rubber pad at the bottom of your pedal, specially shaped for this unit.  
⚠ Surface must be clean and dry before applying adhesive pad.



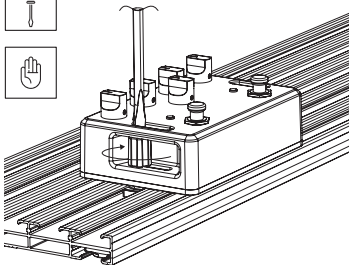
- 2 Loosen the 2 thumb screws to unlock the bottom pieces out of the pedal.
- 3 Place the pedal, inserting the bottom pieces inside the grooves.



- 4 Move the pedal to its final position.



- 5 Tighten the two thumb screws with your hands or with a screwdriver.



#### USING OTHER PEDALBOARDS:

**Hook and Loop:** Take the included super strong Velcro® pad and stick it on the base plate. Again, make sure the base is clean of dirt and dust.

**Pre-drilled pedalboard:** Fix it with a bolt and a nut you could find at any hardware store or instead of passing the zip tie over the pedal you can take advantage of the Smart Track enclosure and put the zip ties over the holes.

**DIY woodboard:** You can screw the pedal directly with wood bolts through the enclosure side holes.

**No board:** If you use the pedals standalone make sure you place the included anti-sliding rubber pad on the baseplate.

## Trouble Shooting

#### SIGNAL PASSES THROUGH IN BYPASS BUT NOT WHEN ENGAGED:

Make sure you've connected the input and output jacks correctly.

#### PEDAL DOES NOT WORK WITH THE POWER SUPPLY:

Take a look at your power supply output voltage and polarity. Make sure it's 9V DC negative tip with a minimum output of 200 mA.

#### PEDAL WON'T ENGAGE WITH BOTH THE POWER SUPPLY AND BATTERY:

Check there's a plug inserted into the Input Jack.

#### THE LEDS ARE BLINKING:

If you're powering your Cinnamon Drive with a battery replace it with a fresh one. See page 9 for more info.

#### EVEN WITH GAIN AT MINIMUM, THE SOUND IS DISTORTED:

First of all, check that there aren't any pedals such as boosters, preamps or compressors before the Cinnamon Drive that could increase the volume of your guitar signal. When you put a Booster before an overdrive pedal and engage it you increase the amplitude of your guitar signal. This will hit the saturation section of the overdrive pedal harder, resulting in more distortion instead of increasing volume.

The same happens when the output volume is significantly increased on your Cinnamon Drive; the next pedal in the chain or your amp might not have enough headroom for the incoming signal and it'll clip.

So, in this case check the output volume and reduce if necessary.

# Security Instructions

- Read these instructions carefully.
- Keep them for future reference.
- Heed all warnings.
- Aclam Guitars shall not be held liable for any damage to persons or property caused by incorrect operation or installation.
- Use the product in accordance with the assembly instructions. Do not modify or operate the product incorrectly.
- Incorrect installation could result in serious damage to persons and property.

- Open the package and check that the assembly instructions and all the parts of the product are there. Check that none of the parts are defective.
- Keep out of reach of children. This product contains small parts that represent a choking hazard if swallowed.
- If you do not understand these safety instructions, or if you have any queries regarding the safety of the installation, please contact Aclam Guitars: [support@aclam.cat](mailto:support@aclam.cat)
- If you wish to contact Customer Services at Aclam Guitars, please write to [guitars@aclam.cat](mailto:guitars@aclam.cat)

# Warranty Terms

This product is covered by a two-year warranty from the purchase date, under the conditions and supporting evidence regulated by current Spanish Legislation. The product warranty will only be applicable by presenting the proof of purchase (which is the invoice or the receipt) and serial number. A product is covered under warranty if it presents lack of conformity because it does not correspond to the specified product characteristics, is defective which prevents its normal use according to its purpose, or does not function as described. The purchaser has the right to have the article repaired or replaced (either the product or the faulty component, at the discretion of the manufacturer.)

The warranty is not transferable and won't cover the following issues:

- Attempts of modifications or repairs by an unauthorized service center.

- Unsuitable use
- Incorrect storage
- Explosions or burns caused by incorrect power supplies.
- Other causes not attributable to the manufacturer.

To make a claim, the purchaser must return the product to the store where it was purchased within one month from discovering the fault, and report the nature of the problem, the time and the circumstances under which it occurred.

If the product was purchased through our website, the purchaser must refer to [www.aclamproductsforguitars.com](http://www.aclamproductsforguitars.com) and complete a RMA (Return to Manufacturer Authorization) form before returning the unit.

We strongly recommend looking at the "Troubleshooting" section of the manual before panicking!!

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[www.aclamguitars.com](http://www.aclamguitars.com)