## DS-1 Tone Control

by **fenderjapan** » 04 Jun 2013, 20:05

First off my name is Sam and I'm a blues and blues influenced rock player.

The DS-1 is one of my most commonly used pedals. I've owned (and still own) plenty of boo-teek pedals but the DS-1 is the Distortion I use at least 50% of the time, the other 50% being my B.K. Butler Tube Driver.

And it is a Taiwanese DS-1, with the Mitsubishi M5223AL opamp.

The kicker is that I have found 100% of the usable settings on my DS-1 are found with the tone control set between 7:00 (0) and 10:00.

I'm wondering if all the hate for the DS-1 has anything to do with people trying it out with the tone control on half or higher and saying "man, this thing is too shrill".

Has anyone attempted to mod the tone control so that it allows for more high end to be cut, and for the higher settings to not be as shrill? In other words to make it so that when the tone control was all the way up, the sound would be similar to how it is stock at about noon? Not actually to change the sound of the pedal, just to change the dynamic range of the tone control.

fenderjapan

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **Pepe** » 04 Jun 2013, 20:33

Welcome to the forum!
Japanese Fenders are great! I have an '86 MIJ Stratocaster.

> *fenderjapan wrote:*
> *I'm wondering if all the hate for the DS-1 has anything to do with people trying it out with the tone control on half or higher and saying "man, this thing is too shrill".*

When the shop I work in still had a BOSS contract ten years ago, I always wondered why people should buy the DS-1. I found the noon position of the tone knob being way too shrill as you say it. I had less experience with pedals back then. But today the closest thing I have is the DF-2 and it does also only sound good with the tone knob set below 12:00h.

Pepe

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **Monotremata** » 04 Jun 2013, 21:11

The HM-2 is the same way at least as far as 'usable' tones go hehe. Both Color knobs like to be around 1:00. The bass you can cut or boost a tiny bit depending on your low end (itll also scoop the mids as well) but watch that treble side. Below 12:00 is too rounded, above 1:00 and youve just moved into Swedish Death Metal Chainsaw territory. As it is, the high knob after about 2-3:00 stops doing anything to the treble and does this super focused 'Im gonna cut your face open' midrange boost.

I didnt even think about getting out the DS-1 and trying it with my new Tele yet! Ive never minded the high end of the DS-1 but then again my tones always been pretty 'heavy' and full of lower mids so I welcome extra top end.

Monotremata

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **fenderjapan** » 04 Jun 2013, 23:56

Oddly enough, one of my favorite DS-1 sounds is with my Tele (its an H1 Texas Tele with Dimarzio Area T pickups) plugged into my DS-1 (Gain dimed, tone control off) and then into my Plexi Clone, relatively clean. You may have pleasant results.

fenderjapan

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 05 Jun 2013, 10:54

Welcome Sam

I would guess in theory a different taper pot/or value pot, that isolates that sweet spot and expands it to a 0-10 range would be easily do-able?

Yet to pick up a DS-1 for all of the normal reasons, metallic, shrill etc, but if I do I`ll try an MIJ for the mystical mojo

fuzzbuzzfuzz

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **visserman** » 05 Jun 2013, 12:03

The wider the range on any control, the better.

There are a lot of people who have issues with pedals that I really do not understand. The whole thing is really easy: Dial in the sound which you like and play. Sometimes you may need to adjust your playing to get the best results, sometimes you may need to spend some time tweaking but really.....it all should be easy really.

visserman

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **Laurie** » 05 Jun 2013, 12:59

> *fenderjapan wrote:*
> *Has anyone attempted to mod the tone control so that it allows for more high end to be cut, and for the higher settings to not be as shrill?*

Haven't done this...

Play around with C11 and C12, and R15, R16, and R17. Maybe short out C11 and see. Be careful... this will affect the audio level!

Laurie

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **fenderjapan** » 05 Jun 2013, 21:14

> *Visserman wrote:*
> *The wider the range on any control, the better.*
>
> *There are a lot of people who have issues with pedals that I really do not understand. The whole thing is really easy: Dial in the sound which you like and play. Sometimes you may need to adjust your playing to get the best results, sometimes you may need to spend some time tweaking but really.....it all should be easy really.*

I'm not sure I agree. Yes, having the option to dial in a wide range of sounds is good. But when you are looking at a 1 knob tone control you really need to focus the range on the usable settings so that people can dial in their exact sound and tweak it as needed without worrying that trying to add a little treble is going to push it into bumble bee zone.

fenderjapan

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **Johnnyseven** » 06 Jun 2013, 12:54

I have a Jazzmaster, which I used to use it as my main guitar, and play it through vintage Fender Bassman. I used to find that a lot of dirt pedals (particularly vintage style fuzzes and overdrives) didn't have a wide enough range on the tone control and didn't have enough treble for my liking, as the guitar and amp combination is quite dark. Therefore having a pedal with a wide ranging tone control would have been perfect for me with that set up. Now if you're a pedal manufacturer and you want to sell lots of pedals it would be daft to restrict the market to whom you can sell by reducing the sweep of the tone control, better to give it a nice wide range so it can appeal to more guitar players with differing set ups - equalling more potential sales.

Johnnyseven

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **fenderjapan** » 07 Jun 2013, 03:12

Makes sense, I suppose. I guess maybe instead of giving the tone control a slimmer sweep it would be better to just make it a little bit more balanced and not so treble heavy.

fenderjapan

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **sclitheroe** » 27 Jun 2013, 05:01

I wonder if the entirety of the modern DS-1's reputation for fizziness is based on a reluctance to use the tone control below noon with brighter modern day amps? For a lot of people, noon or so is probably as bright as they want it, but it's not a super sensitive control - there's still lots of easy adjustability below noon to be had.

-Scott
sclitheroe

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **Monotremata** » 29 Jun 2013, 22:25

I finally broke out my DS-1 (bought in like 2004 or 5 or so) and plugged it into my Tele/Vox and now I see what you guys mean about the 'buzz' above 10-11:00. When I bought this pedal I actually 'retired' my HM-2 for a couple of years and relied solely on this pedal and with my JCM800 I didnt even have this 'effect' with it. But yeah like Sclitheroe said, with my brand new bright as hell chimey Vox, god that thing suuuuuuucks when you dont drop the tone control hehe. Unfortunately, when its lowered to the point it sounds like a good distortion, it kills all my Tele's natural brightness. Not bad but its not my sound anymore. Something about that lovely mushy Marshall sound that just loves the DS-1 added to it.

While I was at it I dusted off my Metal Muff and noticed its COMPLETELY worthless with the Vox hehe. It has that DS-1 bumblebee noise across its ENTIRE range. Once again, sounds awesome with my Marshall, Vox nope its HM-2 and Rat for that..
I wonder if this is why some folks feel the need to clip the bright caps in the AC15/30. I know its supposed to make dirt pedals 'sound better' but my Rat and HM-2 sound awesome already so maybe its just certain distortions/overdrives that dont get along with the front end of em..
Monotremata

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **fenderjapan** » 02 Jul 2013, 18:33

To help tame the treble I use the tone cut control all the way up on my AC-15 and another trick I use is to put an x-pattern with duct tape across the grille to help deflect some of the high end. I don't often use my DS-1 with my AC-15 though... I use it with a Marshall and Lab Series L5.
fenderjapan

## Re: DS-1 Tone Control

by **bob barcus** » 07 Jul 2013, 22:10

I didn't like my DS-1 until I modded it,changed some caps to "better"panasonic caps,and some pilfered green caps from a 85 Ibanez metal screamer and changed the diodes to GE..I lost a little volume but with a 100 watt Plexi Marshall no problemIt made it really smooth and warm...It is too bad the Old Boss Area forum is gone..I got all the info from there...

bob barcus