Treble EQ and you

by **sclitheroe** » 07 Dec 2013, 01:33

The thread about tone caps got me thinking about how treble is EQ'ed...

I think, and maybe I'm wrong about this, that most guitarists run their tone knobs at 10 most of the time, and use the tone knob to take the edge off as needed depending on the song, effects in use, rhythm vs lead, etc, and leave the bulk of the treble EQ work to be done at the amp.

Does anyone here EQ their amp so that your "normal" guitar tone requires the guitar's tone knob to be closer to the middle of its sweep rather than 10? This would give you the ability to range downwards towards a bassier tone, as well as upwards into a tone that is brighter than what you'd use most of the time - maybe for specific tunes, a lead line, or something else. Accomplishing this would require EQ'ing treble at the amp to be quite a bit brighter than "normal". It would also make the tone control on the guitar work a lot more like a tone control on a simple radio - usually mid-way on the tone knob is a good baseline, and then you range upwards to downwards to taste.

The only reason I can think of that you wouldn't do this is that if you are bleeding off treble on the guitar most of the time, you're constraining the bandwidth of the signal, giving pedals and even the amp itself less to work with for all that harmonic goodness we like with overdrive and tube crunch, and for that reason it might be better to do most of your EQ'ing at the amp, rather than at the guitar, where you want maximum signal coming off the pickups.

Another possible reason this might not work is that the amp EQ is generally passive too - diming the treble on the amp won't put back what was already taken away. Maybe it wouldn't work as well in real life as I'm picturing in my head.

So how do you dial treble in on your rig?

sclitheroe

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **Laurie** » 07 Dec 2013, 05:07

The tone knob on a guitar is a "cut" control. At maximum there is "no" treble cut (actually, there will be some, but that's another discussion) - ie. at "10" on the tone control there is no EQ applied.

Laurie

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **Grenade** » 07 Dec 2013, 06:02

My amp is dimed and I ride the vol. and tones on my guitar all the time.

Grenade

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **DarrinPA** » 07 Dec 2013, 06:34

I do roll back the tone [treble] knob on my guitars a bit. Humbuckers are rolled back to '7' and single coils are around '5' or '6'. This allows me to turn up the treble on the amp to get a smoother response. I don't feel as if I lose any harmonics, it actually makes them fuller and pushes the harmonic content to the front a bit. I started doing this because my clean tone hurt my ears, but then I realized the benefits of making my distortion sound better so it all worked out.

DarrinPA

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **Pepe** » 07 Dec 2013, 09:36

I only roll off the treble from time to time when I'm using a fuzz pedal. Some fuzzes behave in a nice wicked way if you do so.

Apart from that I like a very clean and brilliant tone, that's why I also use D'Addario ProSteel strings. Through my tube amp it still sounds sweet and not a bit harsh.

Pepe

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **Dirk** » 07 Dec 2013, 10:10

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *Does anyone here EQ their amp so that your "normal" guitar tone requires the guitar's tone knob to be closer to the middle of its sweep rather than 10? This would give you the ability to range downwards towards a bassier tone, as well as upwards into a tone that is brighter than what you'd use most of the time - maybe for specific tunes, a lead line, or something else. Accomplishing this would require EQ'ing treble at the amp to be quite a bit brighter than "normal". It would also make the tone control on the guitar work a lot more like a tone control on a simple radio - usually mid-way on the tone knob is a good baseline, and then you range upwards to downwards to taste.*

I use this exact principle with my bass guitar, this works great!

With my guitar however I usually dime everything, except for the occasional "woman tone" on the neck PU.

Dirk

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **visserman** » 08 Dec 2013, 17:18

Set amp up for trebly sound simply because you can add bass from guitar---cut treble--- but not add bass. Most of the time I do not do anything at all, just leave controls as they are.

In band set-up and when it comes to playing solos, I will know beforehand what I need, but again, I will amp set up trebly.

I do not like too much of the notch-filter kind of treble, you know, add treble and then a whole lot more by opening up the notchfilters---often they sound artificial---

I have some Peavy amps which do have the notch, the Twin does have notch as well but is different---sometimes a Les Paul may like the notch, Strat probably not.

The amp-and treble thing also depends on your guitar pick-ups I believe: If your pick-ups are not too bright you may like some extra sparkle.

Sometimes treble can also be added by Compressor and some other effects, again, depending on sound you like.

Most basic form is to work with the amp, which I like most of all.

visserman

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **charmonder** » 08 Dec 2013, 17:51

Interesting, I think I would work like that, except it seems the overdrive/distortion pedals are not designed to work this way. having the treble cranked at the amp would make the distortion pedal too harsh

charmonder

Re: Treble EQ and you

by **visserman** » 13 Dec 2013, 17:23

> *DarrinPA wrote:*
> *I do roll back the tone [treble] knob on my guitars a bit. Humbuckers are rolled back to '7' and single coils are around '5' or '6'. This allows me to turn up the treble on the amp to get a smoother response. I don't feel as if I lose any harmonics, it actually makes them fuller and pushes the harmonic content to the front a bit. I started doing this because my clean tone hurt my ears, but then I realized the benefits of making my distortion sound better so it all worked out.*

I like this idea, it does make sense.
Overal it is a fine balancing act between being too loud, taking off too much treble and things starting to sound like a mess.

When you add pedals in the mix it makes matters more complex and harder to control.
Hendrix used to say that playing live is a comprise over sound and performance, in the studio (and at home) you can do anything to make your guitar sound as great as it can.

visserman