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Strymon El Capistan

Strymon El Capistan dTape Echo Pedal Instruction Manual

Model: El Capistan

INTRODUCTION

The Strymon El Capistan dTape Echo pedal is designed to emulate the natural warmth and unique sonic characteristics of classic tape delay units. Utilizing advanced SHARC DSP technology, it offers three distinct tape machine styles and a wide range of adjustable parameters, along with bonus features like onboard spring reverb and a sound-on-sound looper. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up and operating your El Capistan pedal.

KEY FEATURES

- Five tape adjustment and tone shaping knobs: Time, Mix, Tape Age, Repeats, Wow & Flutter.
- Ultra low noise, high performance 24-bit 96kHz A/D and D/A converters.
- 115dB typical signal to noise ratio.
- Super high performance DSP in a compact form factor.
- True Bypass (electromechanical relay switching).

SETUP

To set up your Strymon El Capistan pedal, follow these steps:

1. **Power Connection:** Connect a 9V DC power supply (center-negative, 100mA minimum) to the 9VDC input jack on the rear of the pedal. Ensure the power supply meets the specified requirements to prevent damage.
2. **Input Connection:** Connect your instrument (e.g., guitar) to the INPUT jack on the rear of the pedal using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable.
3. **Output Connection:** Connect the LEFT OUT and/or RIGHT OUT jacks to your amplifier or audio interface using 1/4-inch instrument cables. For mono operation, use the LEFT OUT jack. For stereo operation, use both LEFT OUT and RIGHT OUT.

4. **Expression Pedal (Optional):** An optional expression pedal can be connected to the EXP jack for real-time control over various parameters.



Figure 1: Rear panel connections of the El Capistan pedal, including INPUT, EXP, LEFT OUT, RIGHT OUT, and 9VDC power input.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The El Capistan offers a comprehensive set of controls to shape your tape echo sound. Familiarize yourself with the primary and secondary functions of each control.



Figure 2: Top panel controls of the El Capistan pedal.

Primary Controls

- **TIME:** Controls the delay time of the echo repeats.
- **MIX:** Adjusts the wet/dry ratio of the effect. Turn clockwise for more effect, counter-clockwise for less.
- **TAPE AGE:** Controls the bandwidth of the tape, simulating the degradation of older tape.
- **REPEATS:** Controls the feedback of the delay, determining the number of repeats.
- **WOW & FLUTTER:** Controls the amount of mechanically related tape speed fluctuations, adding vintage character.
- **TAPE HEAD Switch:** Selects between three tape head configurations: Fixed, Multi, and Single.
- **MODE Switch:** Selects between three different tape machine modes (A, B, C), each with unique characteristics.
- **TAP Footswitch:** Tap twice to set the delay time. Hold to engage the Sound-on-Sound Looper.
- **BYPASS Footswitch:** Engages or bypasses the effect.

Secondary Controls (Hidden Parameters)

The El Capistan features secondary functions accessible by holding both footswitches while powering on, or by holding the TAP footswitch and turning a knob. Refer to the full user manual for detailed instructions on accessing and adjusting these parameters.

- **TIME (Secondary):** Controls the spring reverb mix.

- **MIX (Secondary):** Controls a +/- 3dB boost/cut.
- **REPEATS (Secondary):** Controls the tape bias.
- **TAPE AGE (Secondary):** Controls the low-end contour.
- **WOW & FLUTTER (Secondary):** Controls the amount and severity of tape irregularities.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your El Capistan pedal:

- Keep the pedal clean and free from dust. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning.
- Avoid exposing the pedal to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.
- Do not attempt to open the enclosure or modify the internal components, as this will void the warranty.
- Always use the correct power supply (9V DC, center-negative, 100mA minimum) to prevent electrical damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or weak signal	Incorrect cable connections, faulty cables, incorrect power supply, pedal not engaged.	Check all cable connections (input/output). Ensure cables are not damaged. Verify power supply specifications. Press the BYPASS footswitch to engage the effect.
Unwanted noise or hum	Ground loop, faulty power supply, interference from other electronics.	Use an isolated power supply. Try a different power outlet. Move the pedal away from other electronic devices.
Effect not working as expected	Incorrect knob settings, secondary functions engaged unintentionally.	Review the operating instructions for knob functions and switch settings. Reset the pedal to factory defaults if necessary (refer to the full user manual for this procedure).
Footswitch unresponsive	Internal issue, debris under footswitch.	Ensure the pedal is powered correctly. If the issue persists, contact Strymon support.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Brand:** Strymon
- **Model Name:** El Capistan
- **Model Number:** Elcapistan
- **Style:** Delay, Looper, Reverb
- **Color:** Black, Gray, Silver
- **Voltage:** 9 Volts
- **Amperage:** 100 Milliamps
- **Audio Output Effects:** Delay
- **Controls Type:** Knob
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric

- **Hardware Interface:** 1/4-inch Audio
- **Signal Format:** Analog
- **Item Dimensions:** 8 x 8 x 5 inches
- **Connector Type:** 1/4 inch (6.35mm) audio jack
- **UPC:** 852636007232
- **Included Components:** Sound-on-Sound Looper, Onboard Spring Reverb

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Strymon products are designed for reliability and performance. For warranty information, product registration, or technical support, please visit the official Strymon website or contact their customer service department. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.