

Tone King IMPERIAL PREAMP PEDL

Tone King Imperial Tube Preamp Pedal with IR and MIDI Instruction Manual

Brand: Tone King

Model: IMPERIAL PREAMP PEDL

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Tone King Imperial All-Tube Preamp pedal is designed to deliver the legendary tones of Tone King's MKII amplifier, encompassing '50s tweed, '60s blackface, and vintage British rock sounds. This compact pedalboard-friendly unit integrates the exact preamp section and phase inverter circuitry of the Imperial MKII amp. It also includes onboard Reverb, Tremolo, and Attenuation, providing a rich harmonic sound and responsive touch. Powered by three 12AX7 preamp tubes operating at high voltage, the pedal ensures authentic amplifier sound and interaction with your pickups and effects. Advanced features include a low-latency impulse response (IR) loader per channel, headphone output, and MIDI capabilities for seamless integration into modern guitar setups.

Key Features:

- Independent power amp simulation with HF Comp and Low-Pass filters.
- Access to 15 included OwnHammer IRs.
- Ability to load custom IRs and manage your IR library.
- Six assignable IR slots (three per channel).
- Comprehensive control over reverb, reverb tails, tremolo, and effects loop bypass settings.

2. SETUP AND CONNECTIONS

Proper setup ensures optimal performance and sound quality. Follow these steps to connect your Imperial Preamp Pedal:

Power Connection:

- Connect the provided 12V DC power adapter to the '9-12VDC 9W' input jack on the rear panel. Ensure the correct voltage and polarity to prevent damage.

Audio Connections:

- **Input:** Connect your guitar to the 'INPUT' jack on the rear panel.
- **To Amp In:** For connecting to the input of a guitar amplifier.
- **From Amp Send:** For connecting from an amplifier's effects send.

- **To Amp Return:** For connecting to an amplifier's effects return.
- **Send (Line Out) / Return:** These jacks form an effects loop, allowing you to integrate external effects pedals. The 'Send' jack can also function as a line out.
- **Cab Sim (Headphones):** Connect headphones to this 3.5mm jack for silent practice with cabinet simulation.
- **Speaker Output (8Ω / 16Ω):** Connect to a speaker cabinet. Ensure the impedance matches your cabinet (8 or 16 ohms).
- **Balanced Out (Left/Right XLR):** For connecting to a mixing console, audio interface, or PA system.
- **GND Lift:** Use this switch to eliminate ground loop hum when using the balanced outputs.

MIDI and USB:

- **MIDI In:** Connect MIDI devices for external control.
- **USB:** Connect to a computer for IR management, firmware updates, and deeper editing.



Angled view of the Tone King Imperial Preamp Pedal, highlighting the front panel controls and the comprehensive rear panel connections.



Detailed view of the rear panel, illustrating all available input and output jacks, including MIDI, USB, and power input.

3. OPERATING THE PEDAL

The Imperial Preamp Pedal offers intuitive controls for shaping your tone. The front panel is divided into sections for Reverb, Tremolo, Rhythm Channel, and Lead Channel, along with footswitches for various functions.

Front Panel Controls:

- **Reverb:** Adjusts the overall reverb level.
- **Dwell:** Controls the decay time of the reverb.
- **Tremolo Depth:** Sets the intensity of the tremolo effect.
- **Tremolo Speed:** Adjusts the rate of the tremolo effect.
- **Attenuation (Rhythm/Lead):** Controls the output level of each channel, simulating power amp attenuation.
- **Bass (Rhythm):** Adjusts the low-frequency response of the Rhythm channel.
- **Treble (Rhythm):** Adjusts the high-frequency response of the Rhythm channel.
- **Volume (Rhythm/Lead):** Sets the overall output volume for each channel.
- **Mid-Bite (Lead):** Shapes the mid-range character of the Lead channel.
- **Tone (Lead):** Adjusts the overall brightness of the Lead channel.

Footswitches:

- **Reverb:** Toggles the reverb effect on/off.
- **Store:** Used to save custom presets and IR assignments.
- **Channel:** Switches between the Rhythm and Lead channels.
- **Loop Bypass:** Engages or bypasses the effects loop.
- **IR Bypass:** Toggles the Impulse Response loader on/off.



Front panel layout with clearly labeled controls for Reverb, Tremolo, Rhythm Channel, Lead Channel, and footswitches.

4. ADVANCED FEATURES

Impulse Response (IR) Loader:

The Imperial Preamp Pedal features a powerful, low-latency IR loader. It comes pre-loaded with 15 premium OwnHammer IRs, offering a variety of cabinet emulations. You can also load your own custom IRs via the USB connection and assign them to the pedal's six available slots (three per channel) for quick recall.

Reverb and Tremolo:

The onboard Reverb and Tremolo effects are designed to emulate classic amplifier effects. Adjust the 'Reverb' and 'Dwell' controls to fine-tune your reverb sound, and use 'Depth' and 'Speed' to customize the tremolo effect. The 'Store' footswitch allows you to save your preferred settings.

Effects Loop:

The dedicated 'Send' and 'Return' jacks provide a transparent effects loop, allowing you to insert your favorite modulation, delay, or other time-based effects into the signal chain after the preamp section but before the IR loader. The 'Loop Bypass' footswitch offers convenient control.

MIDI Capabilities:

The 'MIDI In' port enables advanced control over the pedal's functions. You can integrate the Imperial Preamp Pedal into a larger MIDI-controlled setup, allowing for remote switching of channels, effects, and other parameters.

Headphone Output:

The 'Cab Sim' output provides a convenient way to practice silently using headphones, delivering a fully processed and cabinet-emulated tone directly to your ears.

Power Amp Simulation:

The independent power amp simulation features 'HF Comp' and 'Low-Pass' filters, allowing you to fine-tune the high-frequency compression and overall tonal balance, mimicking the characteristics of different power amp sections.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Tone King Imperial Tube Preamp Pedal, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the pedal's exterior. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the pedal in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and humidity.
- **Handling:** Handle the pedal with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts.
- **Tube Care:** The pedal uses three 12AX7 preamp tubes. While designed for durability, tubes are delicate. If you experience a significant change in tone or excessive noise, a tube replacement may be necessary. Consult a qualified technician for tube replacement.
- **Power Supply:** Always use the specified 12V DC power supply. Using an incorrect power supply can damage the unit and void the warranty.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Imperial Preamp Pedal, try the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the 12V DC power adapter is securely connected to both the pedal and a working power outlet. Check the power outlet with another device.
- **No Sound:** Verify all audio cables are correctly connected. Check your guitar, amplifier, and other pedals in the signal chain. Ensure the 'Volume' knobs on both channels are not set to zero. If using headphones, ensure they are plugged into the 'Cab Sim' jack and the volume is adequate.
- **Hum or Noise:** Check all cable connections for proper seating. If using balanced outputs, try engaging the 'GND Lift' switch. Ensure your power supply is not faulty and is providing clean power.
- **Unexpected Tone:** Check the settings of all knobs and footswitches. Ensure the correct IR is selected and loaded. If using the effects loop, bypass it to determine if an external pedal is causing the issue.
- **Footswitch Malfunction:** Ensure the footswitch is clean and free from debris. If a footswitch is unresponsive, try restarting the pedal.
- **IR Loading Issues:** Refer to the detailed instructions in the full user manual for loading custom IRs via USB. Ensure the correct file format and size are used.

If problems persist, contact Tone King customer support or an authorized service center.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Item Weight	2.87 pounds (1.3 kg)
Product Dimensions	11.35 x 7.5 x 4 inches (28.8 x 19.05 x 10.16 cm)
Item Model Number	IMPERIAL PREAMP PEDL

Hardware Interface	1/4-inch Audio, 3.5mm Audio
Signal Format	Analog
Voltage	12 Volts
Audio Output Effects	Reverb, Tremolo, Effects Loop

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty claims and technical support, it is crucial to purchase your Tone King Imperial Tube Preamp Pedal from an authorized dealer. Warranties may be invalidated if the product is not purchased through official channels.







Tone King does not offer direct repair services. In the event of a malfunction, especially concerning internal components like the circuit board, you will need to rely on your warranty through an authorized dealer or seek independent repair services if the warranty is not applicable.

Always retain your proof of purchase from an authorized dealer to ensure warranty eligibility.



Important regulatory information and warnings are displayed on the bottom panel of the pedal.

Related Documents - IMPERIAL PREAMP PEDL

	<p>Tone King Imperial Tri Tube Preamp Instruction Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive instruction manual for the Tone King Imperial Tri Tube Preamp, detailing its features, operation, connections, and warranty. Learn how to use this high-voltage tube preamp for iconic '50s tweed, '60s blackface, and vintage British rock tones.</p>
	<p>Tone King Imperial Tri Tube Preamp Instruction Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive instruction manual for the Tone King Imperial Tri Tube Preamp, detailing its features, connections, operation, safety guidelines, and warranty information.</p>
	<p>Tone King Imperial MKII Preamp Module: Features & Synergy Warranty</p> <p>Detailed information on the Tone King Imperial MKII Preamp Module by Synergy, covering its vintage American tones, dual-channel design, bias tremolo, and Mid-Bite control. Includes comprehensive 3-year warranty terms, return procedures, and customer support.</p>
	<p>Tone King Falcon Grande User Manual: Specifications, Controls, and Operation</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Tone King Falcon Grande guitar amplifier. Details front and back panel controls, sound dialing tips for Rhythm, Tweed, and Lead voicings, Ironman II attenuator functionality, home acoustics, tube replacement guide, and warranty information.</p>
	<p>Tone King Gremlin Head User Manual: Features, Safety, and Warranty</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Tone King Gremlin Head 5-watt all-tube guitar amplifier, covering features, controls, safety instructions, tube replacement, and warranty information.</p>
	<p>Tone King Falcon Grande Guitar Amplifier User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Tone King Falcon Grande guitar amplifier, detailing specifications, controls, sound dialing, attenuator usage, home setup tips, tube replacement, and warranty information.</p>