

SONICAKE QDS-04

SONICAKE A-Factory Acoustic Guitar Preamp and Reverb Pedal

Model: QDS-04 | Brand: SONICAKE

INTRODUCTION

The SONICAKE A-Factory is a versatile acoustic guitar effects pedal designed to enhance your instrument's tone with an analog preamp and digital reverb. It features a built-in notch filter for feedback suppression, high impedance input, and a balanced XLR output, making it suitable for various performance and recording setups. This manual provides detailed instructions for setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting to ensure optimal performance of your A-Factory pedal.



Image: Front view of the SONICAKE A-Factory pedal, showcasing its controls and footswitches.

KEY FEATURES

- **Analog Preamp and Digital Reverb:** Combines essential acoustic guitar tone shaping with lush digital reverb effects.
- **Built-in Notch Filter and MUTE:** Features adjustable gain and frequency range to quickly eliminate whistling feedback, along with a MUTE function for silent tuning or instrument changes.
- **High Impedance Input and XLR Balanced Output:** Ensures signal integrity from your instrument and provides professional connectivity to mixers or PA systems.
- **Specially Designed Buffer Bypass Circuit:** Maintains the pristine quality of your instrument's signal when the effect is bypassed.
- **9V Center Negative Power Supply:** Compatible with standard pedal power supplies (not included).

CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



Image: Labeled diagram of the A-Factory pedal's controls and connections.

Control Knobs:

1. **TREBLE:** Adjusts the high-frequency content of your tone.
2. **VOLUME:** Controls the overall output volume of the pedal.
3. **N.FREQ (Notch Frequency):** Sets the frequency point for the notch filter to target and reduce.
4. **NOTCH:** Adjusts the depth of the notch filter, used to eliminate feedback.
5. **GND LIFT (Ground Lift Switch):** Helps eliminate hum caused by ground loops.
6. **R.DECAY (Reverb Decay):** Controls the length of the reverb tail.
7. **R.MIX (Reverb Mix):** Adjusts the blend of the dry signal with the reverb effect.
8. **BASS:** Adjusts the low-frequency content of your tone.
9. **MIDDLE:** Adjusts the mid-range frequency content of your tone.

Footswitches:

10. **REVERB Footswitch:** Toggles the digital reverb effect on or off. Hold down to activate the MUTE function.
11. **PREAMP Footswitch:** Toggles the analog preamp section on or off.

Input/Output Jacks:

- **INPUT (1/4-inch):** Connect your acoustic instrument here.
- **OUTPUT (1/4-inch):** Connect to your amplifier or next pedal in the signal chain.
- **XLR OUT (Balanced XLR Output):** Provides a balanced signal for direct connection to a mixer or audio interface.

- **DC 9V:** Power input for a 9V DC center-negative power supply.

Solid and Sturdy

Aluminium-alloy casing keeps weight light while withstanding wear and tear.



Image: Close-up views of the pedal's input, output, and power connections, highlighting its robust aluminum-alloy casing.

SETUP

1. **Power Connection:** Connect a standard 9V DC center-negative power supply (not included) to the DC 9V input jack on the pedal. Ensure the power supply meets the specified voltage and polarity requirements.
2. **Instrument Connection:** Plug your acoustic guitar or instrument into the 1/4-inch INPUT jack on the pedal using a standard instrument cable.
3. **Output Connection:**
 - For connection to a guitar amplifier or other effects pedals, use a 1/4-inch instrument cable from the OUTPUT jack.
 - For direct connection to a mixer, PA system, or audio interface, use an XLR cable from the XLR OUT jack.
4. **Initial Settings:** Before powering on, set all control knobs to their middle (12 o'clock) position. Ensure both footswitches are disengaged (LEDs off).

A-FACTORY

A-FACTORY pedal is a powerful acoustic instruments preamp with high impedance input and XLR balanced output.



Image: The A-Factory pedal illustrating the 9V DC center-negative power input requirement.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Engaging the Preamp:

Tap the **PREAMP** footswitch to activate the analog preamp section. The corresponding LED will illuminate, indicating the preamp is active. This provides tone shaping capabilities via the BASS, MIDDLE, and TREBLE controls.

Using the Reverb and Mute Function:

Tap the **REVERB** footswitch to engage or disengage the digital reverb effect. The LED will light up when the reverb is active. To activate the **MUTE** function, press and hold the REVERB footswitch for approximately 2 seconds. This will silence the output, useful for silent tuning or instrument changes. Press and hold again to unmute.

REVERB and Fast MUTE

Tap to switch the REVERB on/off, hold for MUTE.



Image: Diagram illustrating how to tap the Reverb footswitch for reverb on/off and hold for the Mute function.

Adjusting Tone (EQ):

Use the **BASS**, **MIDDLE**, and **TREBLE** knobs to sculpt your acoustic guitar's tone. Adjust these to suit your instrument, playing style, and the acoustic environment.

Utilizing the Notch Filter:

The notch filter is crucial for feedback suppression. If you experience feedback, slowly turn the **NOTCH** knob while playing. If the feedback persists, adjust the **N.FREQ** knob to sweep through frequencies until the feedback is minimized or eliminated. The **GND LIFT** switch can also help reduce hum or noise from ground loops, especially when using the XLR output.

Notch Filter

Notch Filter with gain and frequency Range adjustment can quickly eliminate whistling feedbacks or help you shape your tone in detail.



Image: Diagram detailing the Notch Filter controls (NOTCH and N.FREQ) and their function in eliminating feedback.

Controlling Reverb Effect:

The **R.MIX** knob controls the amount of reverb blended with your dry signal. Turn clockwise for more reverb. The **R.DECAY** knob adjusts the length of the reverb tail; clockwise increases the decay time.

Setting Overall Volume:

The **VOLUME** knob controls the master output level of the pedal. Adjust this to achieve the desired loudness without clipping your amplifier or mixer input.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the pedal's surface. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, disconnect the power supply and store the pedal in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

- **Power Supply:** Always use a regulated 9V DC center-negative power supply to prevent damage to the unit. Unplug the power supply when not in use.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections for wear and tear. Ensure cables are securely plugged in to prevent signal loss or intermittent issues.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from pedal.	Incorrect power supply, loose cables, pedal bypassed, MUTE engaged.	Verify 9V DC center-negative power supply. Check all cable connections. Ensure PREAMP and REVERB are engaged (LEDs on). Disengage MUTE by holding REVERB footswitch.
Excessive hum or noise.	Ground loop, faulty cables, interference.	Engage the GND LIFT switch. Try different cables. Ensure power supply is isolated and regulated. Move pedal away from power sources or other electronics.
Feedback (howling) when playing.	Microphonic feedback from instrument, high volume.	Adjust the NOTCH and N.FREQ knobs to find and eliminate the problematic frequency. Reduce overall VOLUME. Move further from the amplifier/PA speakers.
Reverb effect is too subtle or too strong.	R.MIX or R.DECAY settings.	Adjust the R.MIX knob to control the blend of the reverb effect. Adjust the R.DECAY knob to control the length of the reverb tail.


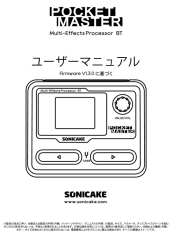


SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** QDS-04 (A Factory)
- **Item Weight:** 13.7 ounces (0.39 Kilograms)
- **Product Dimensions:** 4.72"L x 1.42"W x 3.43"H (12 x 3.6 x 8.7 cm)
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric
- **Voltage:** 9 Volts DC (Center Negative)
- **Signal Format:** Analog (Preamp), Digital (Reverb)
- **Hardware Interface:** 1/4-inch Audio, XLR
- **Connector Type:** 1/4" TS Input/Output, XLR Output

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

SONICAKE products are designed for reliability and performance. For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official SONICAKE website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

Related Documents

	<p>SONICAKE VolWah Wah/Volume Combo Pedal - Guitar Effects</p> <p>Discover the SONICAKE VolWah, a versatile wah and volume combo pedal for guitarists. Features include dual mode operation (Wah/Volume), intuitive footswitch control, and detailed technical specifications for optimal performance.</p>
	<p>SONICAKE Pocket Master BT Multi-Effects Processor User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the SONICAKE Pocket Master BT Multi-Effects Processor, covering panel introductions, menu navigation, effect editing, settings, troubleshooting, and technical specifications. Includes detailed explanations of various effects and MIDI control.</p>
	<p>Sonicake Matribox Multi-Effects Processor User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Sonicake Matribox multi-effects processor, covering features, operation, effects list, troubleshooting, and specifications for Firmware V1.0.4.</p>
	<p>Sonicake Matribox II Multi-Effects Processor User's Manual</p> <p>A comprehensive user's manual for the Sonicake Matribox II, a second-generation multi-effects processor. This guide covers panel introduction, main menu navigation, effects editing, global settings, troubleshooting, and technical specifications for guitarists and bassists.</p>