

About your Phat Phuk...

Your Phat Phuk is a buffered germanium transistor-based booster. Germanium transistors were used in the 60's as a compact cheap replacement for the vacuum tube. Those in electronics rejoiced when they came out because it allowed them to create smaller radios, lower maintenance, and cheaper parts. Remember radios bragging about being "solid state"?

There was one catch to these fantastic "new" devices: Temperature sensitivity. The gains on the germs could vary greatly depending on the outside/room temperature. Old Fuzz Faces for instance were notorious for quitting when a band would play an outdoor gig. The metal enclosure would heat up, the gains on the germs would get whacky, and the pedal would stop working or turn sputtery. The musician would later be very puzzled to find his pedal working just fine later on.

Those in electronics rejoiced again when in the seventies someone came up with the silicone transistor. They were reliable, tough, consistent, and temperature was almost a non-issue. But the catch for us musicians was that they could be a bit harsh and spiky in certain situations.

Your pedal has a genuine new-old stock transistor at it's heart. No reissue germs with famous model numbers printed on them like some companies use. That means you've got a 25-40+ year old component creating that dirty goodness and clipping that germs are famous for. That's why we musicians love em' while others hate em'. Call it a pain in the butt or call it character but bottom line is that the germs have a much smoother and pleasant break-up.

Why the history lesson? Because I want you to know that your pedal may react differently in cold or warm conditions. In any average room the sound will be consistent. The pedal was biased in a room around 75-80 degrees Fahrenheit. I like the temp on the warmer side anticipating stage lights and sweaty rehearsal rooms. But don't worry about all this too much. In any normal situation these characteristics will only yield a slightly dirtier or cleaner sound but most likely it will only be different shades of good!

Your pedal is biased for a bit of grit and goodness but rather than biasing by voltage like we do with our Fuzz Faces, the Phats are biased by ear. Why? Because I've found that the sweet-spot tends to not always be at the same voltage for each pedal. So please, give your pedal a chance as it is but if you need to adjust the trimmer, do it carefully and know that it will change the pedal's response. See the instruction sheet on the back of this sheet for info on how to do this.

Again, please don't let all this worry you too much. Most likely you'll use your pedal like any other and hardly notice anything changing. I set my own Phat Phuk once and have felt no need to change it since. However, I did feel the need to mention this because those who care enough about the nuances of their tone to go out of their way to purchase a boutique stompbox often pay attention to subtle characteristics, and I appreciate that.

But above all, enjoy your pedal and know that no two are exactly the same! One more caveat: If you just yanked your package out of a hot or freezing-cold mailbox, go grab a cup of coffee, watch some reality TV for a few, and let your Phat Phuk get used to it's new home before you plug it in.

Thanks again for your purchase,

Sincerely,

Matthew Holl & Wren and CuffCreations

Due to the germanium transistor's response to large changes in temperature (small temp changes make little to no difference) and individual tastes, we have changed our trim-pots to a more user friendly type and have started marking them to indicate the original setting.

If you want to experiment with different settings, then decide to go back to the original setting, simply line up the black mark on top of the trimmer and you're all set.

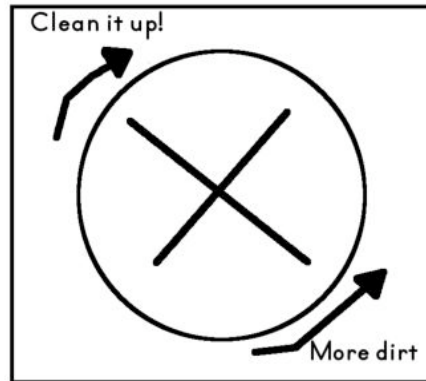
Please keep in mind however that the trim-pot inside isn't meant to be tweaked repeatedly. Try to find a setting that is best for your needs, and leave the trim-pot alone after you set it.

Two or three tweaks are no problem but don't go crazy here!

Feel free to email any questions you may have and we'll be happy to help!

Sincerely,

Wren and Cuff



Use a small screw driver to adjust