

*Van Weelden*

# *Royal Overdrive*

## **Owner's Manual**

(V1.1 - October 2014)

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Congratulations on your choice of the ***Royal Overdrive*** pedal and welcome to the world of Van Weelden Amplification.

Never before has a solid state overdrive pedal been so close in capturing the sound and dynamic behaviour of real tube amplifier circuits. Generally guitar players are musically inspired by the sound of well-designed tube amplifiers in terms of richness in harmonics, articulating, touch responsive, compression but still powerful tone and not altering the unique characteristics of your guitar. The Royal Overdrive features a combination of all these key tube sound aspects. Like good wine designing a new circuit takes some time to “age” (to become mature). That is why it took us 4 years to complete this unit for you.

The Royal Overdrive offers a wide range of overdrive tones for any style using either passive pickups (humbucking, single coil) or active pickups. Furthermore it features a more complete tone shaping network with individual tone controls. This architecture makes the Royal Overdrive a more complete preamp that has versatility to be combined with any guitar amplifier beyond that of the more classic Overdrive pedals.

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## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Read these instructions very well.
- Keep these instructions
- Take notice of all our warnings
- Follow all instructions
- Do not use this apparatus near water
- Clean only with dry cloth
- **Be sure to use only properly rated power adaptors or universal power supplies (pedal board power supplies) with appropriate attention paid to proper voltage, amperage and ground schemes. Improper voltage/amperage being provided to the pedal may cause poor tone, inconsistent performance, damage to the unit or all of the above. Proper voltage and amperage specs are supplied at the end of this manual.**

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- 11
- 1
- 9
- 8
- 2
- 7
- 4
- 6
- 3

MODE

A

B

MASTER

1

2

3

BRIGHT

ON

OFF

GAIN BOOST

T

T

T

T

T

PRESENCE

BASS

MIDDLE MB

TREBLE

GAIN

10

5

OUTPUT

INPUT

ON / OFF

MIDBOOST

13

14

15

16

Royal Overdrive

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10

13

14

16

15

12

### (1): MODE SWITCH

This switch is a two position switch to make a preset for the bright switch (2)

In combination with (2) you can make 6 different bright settings for the bright correction that you might need for your amp. It's a compensation for the high frequencies and was added for making the correct balance in tone on most popular amps. So these are **NOT** tone switches!

### (2): BRIGHT SWITCH

This is a three position switch for the bright compensation and works together with (1)

Check the preferred mode selection settings guide list below.

#### Mode and Bright switch settings guide:

Mode switch position	Bright switch position	Humbucking or Active pickups	Single coil pickups	Amplifier
A	1	X	x	no bright (for a Normal Input)
A	2	X		Most Fender amps, Plexi Marshalls
A	3		x	Most Fender amps, Plexi Marshalls
B	1	X	x	Twinkle land amps with bright ON
B	2	X		Marshall 70's / 80's - The brighter sounding models
B	3		x	Marshall 70's / 80's - The brighter sounding models

#### A short explanation on the mode and bright switches.

The mode and bright switches will give you 6 different settings for pre-shaping the tone balance for almost any amp and will have at least 1 setting that works fine for your amp. Because of this option the Royal Overdrive is what we call "amp friendly", and doesn't need an amp that is so called "pedal friendly". Try a Plexi 100W Super lead and compare it to a 70's Super lead. You'll notice that the 70's models can be very, very bright. With the bright switches and the regular tone controls you can make the Royal Overdrive sound basically the same on both amps. Please take a look at the "*Mode and Bright switch settings guide*" for some basic settings. If your amp is not in this chart you can tune it by ear with a little practice. Our advise is to make your clean sound settings first and than turn on the Royal Overdrive.

**(turn the master of your Royal Overdrive low when you switch on the unit because with the brighter settings you can have a high output signal to your amp)** You'll now hear if your tone balance is to dull or to bright compared to your clean sound and if you need a different setting for compensation. Together with the regular tone controls you should have enough range to create your sound.

We had questions about the switches from clients who thought that all settings would work on their amp and that there was something wrong with the pedal. We hope that the purpose of these switches is a bit more clear now.

### **(3): GAIN BOOST**

The Gain boost switch gives you 6 db more input gain. Very useful for normal output single coil pickups to boost for more overdrive. You can use it for humbuckers as well if you like full gain overdrive. The Royal Overdrive can handle it all and will still be sounding very harmonic, dynamic and musical.

### **(4): MB indicator**

This led will light up when the mid boost footswitch (15) is switched on.

### **(5): GAIN**

This control is the input gain control and here you can adjust the amount of overdrive ranging from subtle overdrive up to smooth saturation. The Royal Overdrive retains a dynamic punch and great harmonic content over a wide range of gain settings.

### **(6): TREBLE**

This control adjusts the high frequencies of the overdrive sound.

The Treble control is part of the Royal Overdrives wide range active tone control circuit for maximum flexibility!

### **(7): MIDDLE**

This control adjusts the midrange frequencies of the overdrive sound. It's an active control so your sound will be louder when you turn it up!

The middle control is part of the Royal Overdrives wide range active tone control circuit for maximum flexibility!

### **(8): BASS**

The Bass control adjusts the amount of low end frequencies of the overdrive sound.

The Bass control is part of the Royal Overdrives wide range active tone control circuit for maximum flexibility!

### **(9): PRESENCE**

This control will adjust the top frequencies of your overdrive sound.

The presence control is part of the Royal Overdrives wide range active tone control circuit for maximum flexibility!

### **(10): MASTER**

This is the Master output volume control that adjusts the amount of overdrive signal that is sent to the host amplifier or any other effect in line. Set this control for the desired balance between your clean sound (bypass mode) and your overdrive sound. You could also use higher MASTER settings to purposefully send a hotter signal to the host amp and "slam" the input stage for increased clip, drive or gain.

This control can deliver a high signal so be careful with the amount of output you send into the host amplifier or other effects unit.

**(11): Power input connector**

To run the Royal Overdrive you need a 9 to 18VDC power supply. **(See the amperage specs at the end of this manual)**

The inner pin is negative and the outside of the plug positive.

You can find the specification for the connector and the power consumption in the specifications section of this manual.

**(12): INPUT**

This 1/4" phono jack is the instrument input for your Royal Overdrive.

Plug the output of your guitar - or the effects you want to have in front of the Royal Overdrive – into this input with a good quality shielded cable. The Royal Overdrive's input is really sensitive and can pick up noises that can penetrate through the shielding of a poor quality cable and will be audible in the end result.

**(13): OUTPUT**

This 1/4" phono jack is the output of your Royal Overdrive. You can plug this output into your host amplifier or any other device you would like to send it to on your pedal board. In case your host amplifier preamp stage fails you can hook up the Royal Overdrive output to the return of an effects loop or power amp input and finish your show!

Please make sure that you always use good quality cables for the best performance. If you are using very long cables from your guitar to the Royal Overdrive you will notice that there will be a slight high frequency roll off. If you like a bright sound you must not take a very long cable if not necessary, but hey... Hendrix, SRV, VH all had long cables and didn't we all like their sound?

**(14): ON /OFF**

This momentary switch will turn on your Royal Overdrive and will be reset to "off" when power is disconnected.

**(15): MIDBOOST**

This latching switch will engage the midboost function of your Royal Overdrive and will not be reset after the DC power is disconnected. It will give you a more focused midrange and adds some extra gain.

**(16): Pilot light**

This lamp will light up when the Royal Overdrive is switched on by the on/off switch **(14)**

## Specifications:

Power consumption guide:

- 9VDC @ 650mA
- 12VDC @ 450mA
- 18VDC @ 300mA

## Note:

You can use any voltage between 9 VDC and 18 VDC as long as your power supply has enough current. With improper power the unit will probably just switch off, lights can start blinking or shut down when the mid boost is turned on. So the lower the voltage the higher the current you need.

- Input impedance 1M Ohm
- Output Impedance: 2.5K Ohm
- DC Adapter outer plug dimension: Ø 5,5mm x Ø 2,1mm – Polarity : inner pin is negative and the outside of the plug positive
- High headroom buffered bypass mode
- Weight: 1.89 Kg - lb 4.16
- Dimensions (W/D/H): 8.66" x 6.1" x 2.76" (220mm x 155mm x 70mm)

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