

Smooth & Slim

Owner's Manual

Introduction

Thanks for choosing an Ayan Enterprises *Smooth & Slim* (S&S) signal conditioner! We are really excited at the prospect of being able to share our concept of good tone with you and hope S&S fulfills its mission in your rig. From time to time, you may want to check the ***Frequently Asked Questions*** (FAQ) section of our web site for continuing updates on the most commonly asked questions about the S&S.

As you have already found out, the S&S is a very straightforward unit with very simple, but effective, features. You'll also remember that you decided to purchase a S&S to get a better tone from you amp, just like you would buy a new set of good tubes to improve your sound. The analogy works very well in the following sense: once you drop a set of tubes in you amp, you leave them there until they die, right? Much in the same way, once you make S&S a part of your setup it should remain there, only requiring setting adjustments if you switch guitars or amplifiers. The S&S is not something you will want to be switching in and out of a given signal chain on the fly. We sincerely believe that if you do not feel the S&S deserves to *be on all the time*, it was not intended to be used by you in the first place. If this is the case, and provided you purchased your S&S directly from Ayan Enterprises in the United States, you should re-package your unit promptly and get in touch with us to make arrangements to return your S&S. Returns are for full price minus shipping charges, if applicable, provided you contact us and return the unit within one week of the date the S&S was delivered to you. If you purchased your S&S from a retailer, you must adhere to their specific return policies.

Operation of the S&S

Plug your guitar or the *last effect* in your pedalboard into the S&S jack labeled IN. Similarly, connect a guitar cord to the jack labeled OUT and plug the other end straight into your amplifier. *Reversing the use of the IN and OUT jacks will result in improper performance of the S&S.* Now, set the left knob to the BYPASS position and the right knob to NORMAL. Does your guitar sound killer, better than ever? If so, disconnect the S&S and be happy, for you have achieved Tone Heaven with merely a placebo effect. Seriously, the previously described is a bypass condition, and the S&S shouldn't alter your sound at all in this instance (other than, perhaps, a very slight loss of highs due to the inevitable capacitances that develop with the use of more "audio plumbing").

Set the left knob to SMOOTH and, if using a humbucker-equipped guitar, leave the right knob on the NORMAL position. If you are using single coil pickups, you may want to experiment with the DARK setting. The purpose of the NORMAL/DARK switch is to tame the top end, which tends to get harsh when using single coil pickups, thus allowing you to switch between single coil and humbucking pickups while leaving the amps settings intact. Switching to the SMOOTH position, you have implemented a first-order realignment scheme affecting carefully selected portions of your guitar signal's low end. The audible effect will be less bass content and less overall volume. *This loss of power is normal and indeed the very principle by which the S&S operates!* We now invite you to re-discover you amp's settings and

encourage you to turn the volume up to achieve the new desired loudness level, and also turn up the bass control. You will find that at settings where you would normally get a "flabby bottom," your amp will now have a very clean and punchy low end. Furthermore, you will find that higher levels of low midrange and bass are possible without undesired breakup. That is to say if, for example, without the S&S you could only set your bass control to 4 until breakup occurred, now you will be able to set it up to, say, 8 and your amp will still sound bassier than it previously did at 4, but without any flab.

If you find that the SMOOTH setting is not enough to clean up the muddy bass frequencies in your rig, try the SLIM setting. Now you have selected both a first and second-order realignments operating at different frequencies, and the effect is quite noticeable. You will typically not need to use the SLIM setting unless you have a very fat sounding amp, such as a Mesa Boogie Mark I, and play a fat sounding guitar, such as a Gibson-type jazz box played on the neck pickup. I happen to use the SLIM setting with my Mesa/Boogie Mark I and my Gibson ES-335, and I am very pleased with the results, so the SLIM position is really there for a reason. Expect further loss of power on the SLIM setting, but at the same time, more control of the annoying transient low-end buzz.

In both settings, you will end up with the best possible scenario: keeping the bottom end tight and punchy, while the top end continues to breakup controlled by your pick dynamics; you will also notice the sustain of your guitar/amp combination has increased considerably. Why is this? The realignment of frequencies takes away what shouldn't be there in the first place, so the new sound is much more focused and contains less transients, which results in improved sustain perception.

Comment and Questions

We welcome any comments and questions you may have regarding the S&S. We're confident that after spending some time playing with it, you'll be able to dial in sounds you thought were not possible from your amp... and we hope you'll be as excited about those new sounds as we are!

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