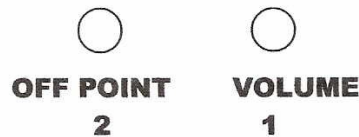


Hilton Pedal Operating Instructions

Diagram of the 3 adjustments on the bottom of the pedal



Hole #1-marked "VOLUME"—controls output signal strength.

Hole #2-marked "OFF PONT"—sets the sound on/off starting point.

Hole #3-marked "Tone"—is the tone control.

Do not start twisting adjustments until you have read the entire operating instructions. Adjustments are pre-set at the factory, and should not require a lot of additional adjustment. Factory settings are the following: #1 All the way clockwise. #2 About 12 o'clock high. #3 All the way clockwise. Adjustments do not turn in a full circle, they only turn $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle. The adjustments have stop points you can feel. If you force adjustments past their stop points, you will ruin the adjustment. Turning an adjustment past it's stop point will screw up the electronic operation of the pedal. Use a very small screw driver with a little care. Our advise is to leave adjustments #3, and #1, set at the original factory settings. You may have to do some slight adjustment of #2 to fit where you want your off point.

Here is what the adjustments do: Turning the tone control, #3, counter clockwise rolls off highs. Turning the volume control, #1, counter clockwise decreases output signal strength. Advise—"It is best to control tone with your amplifier, or your effect unit. It is also best to control signal strength with your amplifier, or your effect unit." Turning the off point control, #2, sets the point where volume starts coming on. You can make the pedal go all the way off at any point, or you can leave some volume "on" in the "pedal off" position. The exact location of the off point, #2, adjustment depends on the gain of the other powered devices you have in your signal chain, including your amplifier.

Getting Hooked Up Correctly

Have all volumes on amplifiers turned down very low when you first plug into the pedal. The pedal input will accept both a low level magnetic pickup signal and a stronger pre-amped signal. There are two lines out. The two outputs are "Y-ed" together, so it does not matter which one you use.

To make adjustments to the 3 controls, on the bottom of the pedal, lay the pedal upside down. As you turn the adjustment, listen, you will hear what the adjustment is doing. If you have problems, always start again by going back to the factory settings mentioned on page one.

Turning adjustment #1 clockwise makes more output signal strength, and counter clockwise makes less output signal strength. It is best to leave adjustment #1 all the way clockwise. If you can't leave adjustment #1 wide open, you have a problem of controlling the signal strength of other powered devices in your signal chain. Turning adjustment #2 clockwise causes the pedal to go of later. Turning adjustment #2 counter clockwise causes the pedal to go off sooner. Adjustment #2 can totally turn off sound, or it can make sound stay on all the time. If you have problems with this adjustment, set adjustment #2 to 12 o'clock high and start over. If adjustment #2 is too far counter clockwise, you may not get any sound at all. If adjustment #2 is too far clockwise the sound may simply stay on, and the pedal will not be able to control volume. Adjustment #3 just removes highs.

Hints and Tips

Your pedal was tested for correct operation before it left the factory, and there was no hum and no noise. Our pedals are the quietest pedals made. That is the reason so many famous players, and recording studios, use our pedal. If you have noise, look to other things in your system, not the pedal. With single coil pickups, sometimes finding the source of noise is a searching process. There are many causes of noise. The best way to find what is causing a noise, is to go to a different location. Plug your guitar into the pedal with a new cord. Then plug a new cord from the pedal to just one amplifier. If there is no noise, start adding other things you use in your signal chain, like an effect unit, or a second amp. Make sure all your equipment has ground plugs, and plug everything into the same power strip. This is called star grounding, and sometimes prevents some types of ground loop noise.

If your pedal ever starts feeling like there is a rough spot in the action, here is the problem and the solution: There are only two moving parts inside the pedal, the two parts are: a spring attached to a piece of plastic. The piece of plastic has a light coating of grease on it, and sometimes dirt, or sand, from a floor will get caught in the grease. As the piece of plastic moves over the sand particle caught in the grease, you will feel it as a rough spot in the pedal action.

Take the hinge bolts out and separate the pedal. Inside, wipe all grease from the piece of plastic, and from where the plastic runs on the top part of the pedal. Then, put a very thin coat of grease, or vasoline, on the piece of plastic.

We advise to turn off power to the power adapter, or unplug it, when you are not using the pedal.

Remember: your tone and amp settings are set for your old pot pedal, and this is a new type of pedal, not a pot pedal. For the best results, with this new and different pedal, you may need to make some minor adjustments to your amp tone settings.

The Importance of Grounding

Without proper grounding, ANYTHING, can happen. You will eventually get shocked, or your equipment will be damaged. It is easy for your guitar cord to become the ground path for current flow. If a wall receptacle is not grounded correctly you might be running your equipment in parallel with a refrigerator next door. The most dangerous ground situation is having two amplifiers with one, or both, their grounds gone. Replace all plugs that have their grounds missing. Try to always plug everything into the same power strip, because this will create what is known as a star ground.

Question People Ask

People sometimes ask, "Where should I put my volume pedal, or my effect unit, in my signal chain?" To answer this question, you need to understand there are two types of signals. These two types are: #1 Low level instrument signal, coming from a guitar pickup coil. #2 A stronger signal coming from a powered device. Every powered device, even battery powered devices, outputs a stronger pre-amped signal. Here then is the problem: Some cheap effect units are only designed for the low level signal of an instrument coil. These cheap effect units, usually battery powered, will not accept both types of signals, low level and high level. Most quality equipment will accept both types of signals. The Hilton Pedals will accept both types of signals. Examples of cheap battery powered effect units: Boss DD3, and the Holy Grail reverb box ETC. Your best bet is to try all different combinations of locations, of all the devices you have between your guitar and your amp. Try devices before the Hilton Pedal and after the Hilton Pedal, in the signal chain. Let your ears be your guide. Most cheap battery powered effect units will probably work best before the Hilton Pedal, because they are designed to see a low level magnetic guitar pickup signal.

Some amplifiers like the “Webb” have high and low inputs. You must plug the connecting cord in the right hole. Plugging into the high input does not mean you will get a better sound. If you are getting distortion, you might need to plug into the low input of the amp, instead of the high input hole.

If you are using the “George L” connecting cords, with the ends you simply stick in a hole and tighten a screw, make sure there is a good connection. These types of cords are good cords, but often times don’t make good electrical contact over time. Re-work the ends of the George L cords, if you experience noise, or signal problems.

Side to side movement of the Hilton Pedal: When new, we install O rings on the brass hinge bushings, to take up any side to side slack. Some pedals have no O rings, because there is no slack, some only have one O ring, and a few have two O rings. If you notice substantial side to side movement, put an O ring on one of the brass hinge bushings to take up the slack. You can get small O rings at any auto supply, or hardware store.

Pedal Starts Causing a Problem, or Quits Working

Don’t plug in an old pot pedal and then suspect there is a problem with the Hilton Pedal. Simply plugging in an old pot pedal is “NOT” the way to see if it is the Hilton Pedal causing the problem. Plugging in an old pot pedal—is only the START— of finding out what the problem is. I say this because 50% of the pedals that come in for repairs have nothing wrong with them. Don’t be the user who RUSHED TO JUDGEMENT by plugging in an old pot pedal and nothing more. By simply plugging in another pedal, you have moved connecting cords, moved other things, and probably turned power on then off. The only TRUE test, to discover a problem with the Hilton Pedal, is to move to a different location, with only a guitar, the Hilton pedal, and amplifier in the signal chain, with new connecting cords. If people would do this, it would stop 50% of the pedals sent in to me for repairs. So take the time to perform a TRUE test and avoid sending a good working pedal in for repairs.

Warranty

This pedal has a 90 day parts and labor warranty. After 90 days we will repair any problems for the cost of parts, a modest labor charge, and return shipping. To contact us, the phone numbers are: Shop 417-581-1265. Home 417-581-4158. E-mail kihilton@aol.com Web site: www.hiltonelectronics.com Address: Keith Hilton 248 Laurel Road Ozark, Missouri 65721. We also offer an extended warranty plan.

Having The Pedal Stay In Place When You Remove Your Foot:

The pedal has what is called, "A clutch system", that should keep the pedal in place when you remove your foot. The clutch system consists of only two pieces, a piece of plastic attached to a spring. The tension on the spring is what keeps the pedal from dropping forward, or springing backward. In other words, the tension on the spring needs to be just right. Over time, when a pedal gets broke in, the tension on the clutch spring may need adjusted slightly. You are in luck. This pedal has an adjustable clutch system. You can adjust the tension on the spring, for more or less tension. If you press down on the front, or toe end, of the pedal, then look in the back end, or heel end of the pedal, you will see a large phillips type screw head. If you turn this phillips type screw head like a clock turns, you create more tension on the spring. This prevents the pedal top from falling, or creeping downward in front. If you turn this screw too much the pedal will spring back toward the off position. If you turn this phillips type screw head the opposite way a clock turns, you create less tension. This prevents the pedal from springing back toward the off position. Adjust the spring tension the way you want it. Of course, if you do to much turning of the phillips type screw, the opposite way a clock turns, you could make the screw come completely out. In this case you will have to take the hinge bolts out and get inside the pedal and rethread the screw back in.

Extended Warranty Plan

You can extend your 90 day warranty, by adding 2 years of protection and piece of mind. The cost of this protection—extended warranty— is only \$ 30.00. To purchase the extended 2 year warranty, fill out the questions below. And send this form in with your payment.

EXTENDED WARRANTY

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Date of purchase: _____

Dealer purchased from: _____

Mail \$30.00 and this form, for 2 years warranty extension to:

**Keith Hilton
248 Laurel Road
Ozark, Missouri 65721**