

Congratulations on your purchase of the *Fulltone*®

Catalyst®

Model CT-1



Catalyst

Fuzz pedals are generally simple circuits, and often-times these simple circuits end up being the most exciting, interactive, and musical sounding ones due, in part, to the absence of filters, restrictions...governors, if you will. They Scream, Roar, and allow us to express the more primal/less refined side of our personalities, which is what I love about them! But fuzzes can be very quirky. They can be picky about temperature, what power supply it will accept, what type of pickups you can feed it, what comes before them or even what comes after them in a signal chain, all causing frustration and the inability to get a consistent sound from night to night. It's for these reasons fuzzes have become widely misunderstood and (often times) dismissed by guitarists who don't have the time to learn ways around the quirks or just plain don't have enough available real estate on their pedalboards to justify the space for (what can often be) temperamental "one-trick Ponies." There seems to be two camps...those who *get it* and those who *don't*, as a maker and player of fuzz pedals for over 20 years I have had years where there wasn't even a fuzz pedal on my board due to these very same issues.. Now I am pleased to offer not only a great no-compromise fuzz, but also a great clean Boost, OD, and distortion! Enter Fulltone Catalyst.

Catalyst is a simple circuit, using only discrete F.E.T.'s to achieve its throaty roar, but it also brings something more to the table by virtue of some cool features which allow it to do things that no other fuzzes can. With its mini-toggle switch set to "SPARK" Catalyst does Clean Boosts, sweeter overdrives and all sorts of distortion sounds. Want more? Flip the switch to "FIRE" and you'll be treated to a host of less civil OD's, unique distortion voicings, and a plethora of vicious Fuzz sounds, all of which clean up with a twist of your guitar's volume knob, offering a linear transition from clean to mean. To further enhance your tonal control, Catalyst offers a pair of very effective low-loss tone controls that set it apart from the masses. Standard Fender or Marshall style tone stacks (and even many Baxandall tone circuits) end up cutting so much gain that the effect designer has to make-up for this "loss" later in the circuit, and many times you loose some of the magic in the process. Not so here because Catalyst's low-loss Bass/Mids knob allows you to dial-out the flubby low-end with the added bonus of supplying varying amounts of rich midrange when the Bass/Mids knob passes the 3 o'clock mark. This Midrange, on top of an already wildly-distorted tone, has the effect of increasing sustain to insane proportions as well as breaking you out of the standard super bright/super bassy FUZZ mold. Need to smooth out the Highs? Simply turn down the Treble mini-knob, a low-loss hi-end roll-off allowing you to shave off as much of the treble as necessary....enough to use Catalyst into a fairly bright Fender clean amp and still retain a rich tone.

Finally, all Fuzz pedals have wacky input and output impedances, causing them great difficulty in mating-up successfully with wah-wah pedals, Univibe clones, and even Boss, Ibanez, etc. non-true-bypass "buffered" pedals. Catalyst has none of these issues, sporting a friendly 1 meg Input Impedance and an astonishingly low 10K output Impedance. When's the last time you had a fuzz work with a 'vibe or wah-wah? Things have changed, indeed.

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True Bypass switching via the best switch in the world...the Fulltone-made 3PDT footswitch

Volume Knob: This knob controls the overall volume when pedal is switched ON.

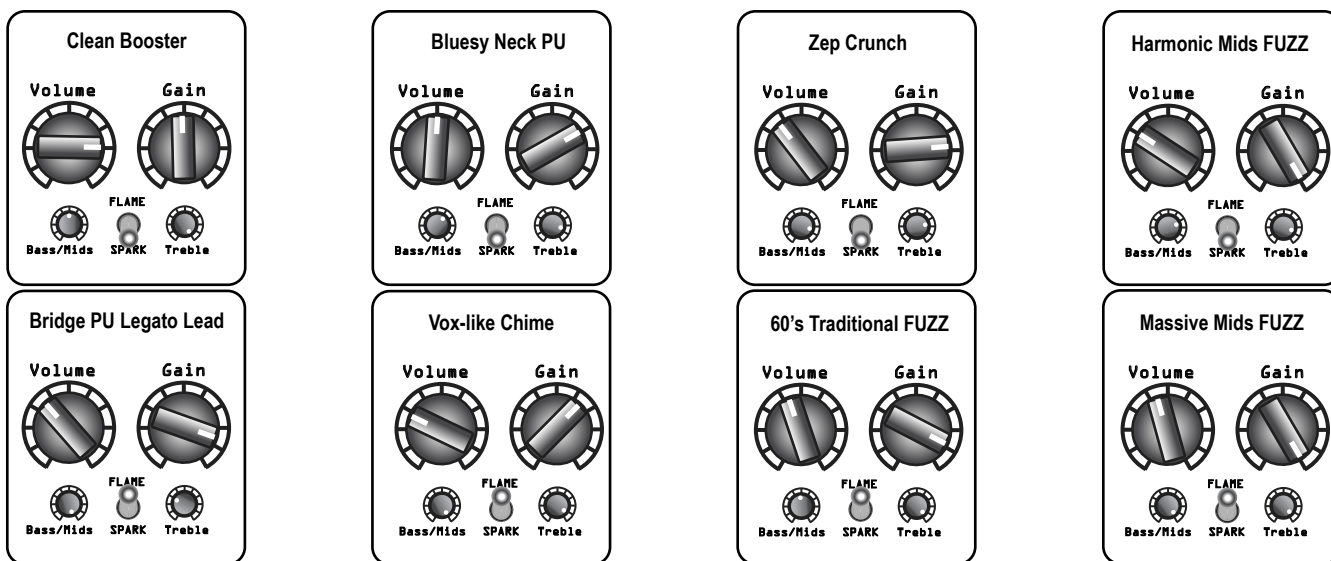
Gain Knob: turn this Clockwise (CW) for more distortion, keep it below 3 o'clock for clean and crunch sounds...above 3 o'clock for fuzzier tones.

SPARK / FIRE toggle switch: Set to **SPARK**, Catalyst has a range from Clean-Boost to all out fuzz. But on this setting there is large amount of feedback routed back from the second F.E.T to the first F.E.T (sort of like a Turbo Charger) causing more even-order harmonics to be produced. These tend to get sounds our ears hear as "sweeter." Set to **FIRE**, there is very little of this "feedback" coming back to the first F.E.T so the sounds become more rich in odd-order harmonics, which offers a whole 'nuther palette of darker colors for you to paint with. There is also much more overall Fuzz available in **FIRE** mode, you may hear more noise on higher settings, but that just comes with the territory when you're creating that much horsepower.

Bass/Mids Knob: this is a low-loss Bass control with the unique benefit of becoming a Mid Booster when the knob is set above 3 o'clock or so. Set this to suit your needs, there are no rules!

Treble Knob: This tone knob only affects the high frequencies, you'll find that 12 o'clock position is pretty much neutral for higher gained tones, while full CW is best for clean boost settings or crunch sounds. I suggest you turn it CCW (counter clockwise) to below 12 o'clock or so for smoother high-gain lead sounds or turn it clockwise for more brightness, considered the more traditional fuzztones sounds.

Suggested Settings



Specifications

Input Impedance= 1 meg. Extremely high, so it will mate with all guitars including ones equipped with Humbuckers.

Output Impedance= 10K. Extremely low so it will mate with all wah wah's, Univibe clones, buffered devices, etc.

Current draw= 5 ma. (milliamps) which means a battery should last months, and 50ma, 100ma, 200ma, 500ma, adapters are fine.

DC Power Options You may run this pedal on the 9 volt battery (included) or on any voltage between 9 and 18 Volts DC as long as the adapter is (standard) 2.1mm x 5.5mm barrel plug with "Negative to Center Pin" configuration. (as illustrated by the following diagram) 

To access the battery remove all four Thumbscrews from the sides of the pedal and pull the housing apart. Replace battery, put housing back together and re-tighten all four screws. Unplug guitar cable from INPUT when not in use to prolong battery life but If you have an adapter plugged in to the DC outlet there is no need to unplug the guitar cable from the INPUT because our DC outlet is True-Bypass and disconnects the battery supply line, thus keeping the battery fresh. For standard 9 volt operation, the Fulltone FPS-1 is a great 9VDC regulated wall wart adapter. For 12 to 18VDC, make sure that you buy a "regulated" adapter and that it has the same Negative Center Pin configuration as above.

Warranty Fulltone products carry a Limited 5 year Warranty to the original owner with proof of purchase that the product was bought from an Authorized Fulltone Dealer. There is no need to register your product, simply keep a copy of your original sales receipt. The Warranty covers failure due to manufacturing errors only and is void if any mod or repair is performed by anyone other than Fulltone (or a Fulltone Authorized Repairman) and/or if we deem that any operator-caused abuse or damage has occurred. Things that would cause a void of the Warranty would include: the use of an incorrect power supply, water damage, physical abuse, etc. If you are having a technical issue please do not call, instead, email to Tech@fulltone.com to troubleshoot the problem and (only after troubleshooting) for the scheduling of your repair. After we have decided that a repair is necessary, we will email you an Acrobat PDF copy of our Return Authorization Form. (RA Form) You then print it out, fill out all the information, and include it with the device you are sending. Fulltone Musical Products Inc. is not responsible for and injuries and/or damages related to the use of our products. Batteries are not Warranty-covered and the Customer is responsible for all shipping costs.

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