ORIGIN EFFECTS

SlideRIG



SLIDE-RIG COMPACT

Already legendary amongst slide players, the SlideRIG delivers clean “infinite sustain” in true Little Feat fashion. In the studio, Lowell George achieved his peerless slide guitar tone by playing through a pair of 1176 compressors chained together. The original SlideRIG pedal gave guitarists a much more affordable way of replicating this tone, in a portable format you can take to the gig.

With the SlideRIG Compact, we’ve taken things a step further, creating a pedal that offers the same cascaded 1176-style compression and extended, tonally transparent sustain, but with a drastically reduced footprint and simplified, user-friendly controls that make dialling in the desired tone a breeze.

More flexible than ever, the SlideRIG Compact gives you access to conventional single-stage compression, as well as the SlideRIG’s trademark dual-stage compression. And the choice is not simply either/or – you can now blend the two!

The single Blend knob determines the balance of signals passed to the output from the single- and dual-stage compression circuits. Meanwhile, a revised gain structure, in conjunction with a high-current, low-noise preamp, allows for greater control over compression levels using the Input knob.

Origin Effects...

Key Features:

- 100% Class-A discrete signal path
- Classic, ultra fast “FET” response
- Studio-grade discrete-transistor preamp
- Dual-chained compression stages
- Input/Comp and Output level controls
- Single-stage/dual-stage compression with Blend control
- High-current, low-noise electronics
- Ultra-wide frequency response
- Ultra-high input impedance
- Silent switching
- High-quality “signal-conditioning” bypass mode
- Premium components throughout
- Advanced power supply filtering and protection
- Flexible external power requirements (9-18V DC)
- PSU Spec. 50mA @ 9V / 69mA @ 18V
- Designed and built in England



...Purity of Tone

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INTRODUCTION

With the original SlideRIG, our goal was to reproduce the slide guitar tones first heard on Little Feat's classic album "Dixie Chicken". The tone is clean and transparent, with an almost infinite shimmering sustain. For many, this represents the ultimate in slide tone.

In the studio, the Little Feat tone was achieved by daisy-chaining two Urei 1176 FET compressor channels, one after the other. The 1176 has a fast response, unique character and smooth compression profile. Chaining the compressor sections allows this character to be retained, while vastly increasing the amount of compression. This high degree of compression is generally referred to as "limiting" as the signal is maintained at a consistent level.

Our 1176-inspired Cali76 circuit forms the backbone of the SlideRig, with two identical Cali76 blocks being utilised in a true, dual-chained, topology. We included a studio-grade 1960s-style discrete preamp, to work as an electronic interface between your guitar and the compressor. The preamp provides gain and also creates the optimum conditions for signal transfer.

In designing the Compact Series pedals, Origin Effects has gone to painstaking lengths to preserve the build quality and sonic integrity of the original Cali76 and SlideRIG circuits, even improving on them where possible.

The further reduction in size has been achieved by using a mixture of traditional through-hole and SMD components, spread across a pair of densely populated, stacked boards. The signal path utilises film and tantalum capacitors, carefully chosen low-noise transistors and rugged MELF resistors (essentially traditional through-hole resistors without the leads), which offer low-noise performance and rock-solid reliability.

One of the reasons why the original Origin pedals sound so good is that they deliver true FET compression, with a fast yet highly musical response that is a world away from the brutal and unforgiving sound of traditional VCA compressor pedal designs. The new Compact Series pedals stay true to Origin's design philosophy with absolutely no opamps or VCAs used in the signal path.

The new pedals are powered by mains adaptor only. Dispensing with the usual internal 9V battery option allows more space inside the enclosure for high-quality circuitry, while also supporting the high-current circuit design that is the key to these pedals' astonishingly low noise levels.

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CONTROLS

IN: The SlideRIG Compact features a very nice studio-grade input preamplifier. This works as an interface between the guitar and the compressor sections. The In control allows the user to vary the gain of this preamplifier.

Turning the In control clockwise increases the overall gain of the pedal. This also increases the amount of compression. The guitar will become increasingly touch sensitive as gain is increased. Too much gain and the preamplifier will clip and distort.

OUT: The Out control simply determines the level of the signal present at the pedal's output. This can be set in order to keep the overall effected level close to that of the dry (bypass) signal. Alternatively, the level can be increased to help project a guitar solo.

BLEND: Set anti-clockwise for single-stage compression, clockwise for dual-stage compression, and anywhere in between for a blend of the two.

Single-stage compression will prove to be highly versatile with multitude of uses. Transparent and powerful, it will sit in the background and massage your dynamics. Dual-stage compression will deliver “infinite sustain”. Blend the two for country-picking bliss or whatever your preference might be!

CONNECTIVITY & POWER REQUIREMENTS

INSTR: Insert your guitar, other instrument or signal source here. The ultra-high input impedance will even work with piezoelectric pickups, provided that the connected lead is of sufficient quality and is reasonably short in length (a long lead will “load” a piezoelectric pickup, reducing the bandwidth).

We strongly recommend placing our pedals directly after your guitar, to maximise signal-to-noise ratio.

AMP: Connect to your amp or other pedals. The output impedance is low in all modes, so the unit will drive signals down the connected guitar lead, overcoming the issues of high-frequency signal loss associated with passive bypass systems.

9-18VDC: Insert power here. A high-quality regulated supply should be chosen to avoid damage from voltage surges and other over-voltage conditions. The connector should be the 2.1mm type with the centre-pin "wired negative". For best performance, the pedal should be powered from an 18V supply. This will increase the headroom, allowing cleaner processing of conventional guitar signals. This will also permit the use of hotter source signals, such as active guitar pickups.

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MAXIMISING SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO

The SlideRIG is extremely quiet by the standards of most pedals. However, it does employ a lot of clean gain and can quickly highlight noise induced in pickups and other effects units. Humbuckers allow you to push things further without suffering from 50Hz mains hum. To avoid amplifying noise created by other pedals, we recommend placing the SlideRIG Compact straight after your guitar and before any other effects.

Keep the guitar's volume up for best results. This will be counter-intuitive for some, especially those who like to manipulate stage level directly from the guitar, but you quickly get used to things! Volume pedals must be placed after the pedal, as the SlideRIG will laugh in the face of any coordinated changes in signal level, and will work to maintain a consistent output! However, placing a volume pedal after the unit is a great way to manage stage levels.



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EXAMPLE SETTINGS



Conventional compression. *Here we have the blend dial set anti-clockwise for a single stage of compression. Basically the same signal path as our Cali76 pedal. Great as a general guitar compressor, to smooth out dynamics and make your guitar feel a little more sensitive and alive. Ultra versatile.*



Dual stage compression/limiting. *Classic SlideRIG dual-chained compression. Little Feat tone! Your guitar will be ultra sensitive and sustain will be vast. As you turn up the In dial, compression & sensitivity will increase, as will pickup induced noise. This must be taken into consideration, especially in a live scenaro.*



Parallel compression. *A best of both worlds approach! Blend compressed and dry signals for increased sensitivity & sustain yet with a full sense of dynamic integrity. For players who want a fattened tone but without having the life compressed out of their carefully crafted dynamic playing style.*

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ABOUT ORIGIN EFFECTS

Origin Effects is the brainchild of Simon Keats, a guitarist, electronic engineer and analogue circuit designer who has worked for the likes of Vox, Focusrite and Trident Audio. Having built bespoke effects for professional musicians and producers for many years, he launched the Origin Effects brand in 2012 to bring his exceptional designs to a wider audience.

His first two pedals – the 1176-inspired Cali76 compressor and the unique SlideRig, which chains two 1176-style compressors together for near-infinite clean sustain – have been widely recognised as the best pedal compressors ever made. Users range from guitarists and bass players like David Gilmour, Pino Palladino and Steve Lukather to Grammy Award-winning producers like Paul Epworth, Ross Hogarth and Terry Britten.

Please note that Simon Keats & Origin Effects Limited are in no way affiliated with Urei or Universal Audio.

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