Sovereign™ Distortion

WAMPLER™ PEDALS

# Sovereign. Distortion.




Brian Wampler is famous for taking big sounds and making them fit into small boxes, capable of running through just about anything and sounding so much like the inspiration that you'd have trouble telling the difference with your eyes closed.

What happens when you take all that razor-honed skill and let it loose with a goal not of replicating an amp sound, but of just making the best sounding distortion pedal possible?

The answer – and there can be only one – is ***Sovereign***.

Capable of a range of sounds from juicy crunch to fat rhythm to leads with diamond-edged cut, the Sovereign Distortion could redeem distortion pedals in the eyes of even the most skeptical pedal-hater.

For all of us pedal-lovers, it's a magnificent beast which sacrifices nothing and brings it all to the table.

The question isn't whether Sovereign will give you the tone you seek, but rather, are you prepared for that much power under your feet?

To get the most out of your new pedal, you'll want to become very familiar with the controls. The Sovereign distortion pedal has a control setup that combines a few distinct elements in easy-to-grasp ways, making it straightforward to use but allowing for plenty of tonal flexibility.

With the Sovereign, ***Wampler Pedals*** has introduced the "**Advanced Gain Structure**" control setup, which visibly groups the adjustments most relevant to adding more or less distortion and making large changes to its character in one area. Inside that area are the Gain knob, an Even/Bright Toggle Switch, and a Standard/Boost Toggle Switch.

The other controls which have less to do with shaping the distortion itself are outside the Advanced Gain Structure box, and are Volume, Mid Behavior, and Tone. ***We recommend that you start with the Mid Behavior knob and Tone at Noon, and dial in the Advanced Gain Structure controls first!*** As with all Wampler Pedals products, the Sovereign includes a high-quality true-bypass switch which takes it completely out of the signal path when bypassed. Experiment and enjoy!

**Bypass Switch** – A true-bypass footswitch ensures solid, mechanical removal of the circuit when it isn't wanted, meaning you don't lose any tone when the pedal is off.

**Volume** – This control adjusts the output level of the Sovereign. There's plenty of volume on tap, so whether you want to go farther than your input level or just make sure it can do unity volume (the same level of signal going out as you feed it, when active), you're covered. The output volume, Advanced Gain Structure controls and tonal adjustments all have an impact on the total volume, so you're probably better off waiting to adjust the Volume until you've dialed in the other controls. Re-adjustment might be necessary if you get it to the desired level and still need to tweak the sound.

**Gain** – One of the Advanced Gain Structure controls, this knob adjusts the distortion level. It interacts with the Standard/Boost Toggle Switch and the Even/Bright Toggle Switch, and changing them will probably make you want to change the Gain knob's position as well. As mentioned, it has a very capable range of tones available, and with adjustment (and attention to the other AGS controls) you can set the foundations for a very powerful sound, regardless of how much distortion is involved.

**Even/Bright Toggle Switch** – In Even mode, this switch gives a rock-solid foundation, with strong midrange and even treble and bass. Flipped into Bright mode, the balance changes to favor high frequencies more. This can be invaluable when you need to add highs to a setup that is naturally dark in tonality. In Even mode, the pedal can lay down the thunder; in Bright mode, you'll unleash the lightning. Be prepared!

**Standard/Boost Toggle** – A great distortion pedal that only does high gain is worthy, but to be the Sovereign of distortion, flexibility isn't optional, it's required. In Standard mode, you have a great range of gain from responsive crunch to powerful, chunky distorton. Switch it to Boost to pick up where Standard leaves off, for more power and all the chewy, commanding distortion that you could possibly desire.

**Mid Behavior** – The Mid Behavior knob has a profound impact on the fundamental voice of the pedal. The mids are where guitar's fundamental frequencies, the heartbeats of your notes, live and breathe. Controlling the midrange is vital to dialing in the perfect sound to fit your desired role in the mix, and this control gives you plenty of adjustment to dial in the precise relationship of mids to other frequencies that you need.

**Tone** – Of course, the fundamentals of the guitar's notes are only part of the equation. All that distortion lives in higher frequencies, harmonics generated by the powerful gain engine that roars deep inside the Sovereign distortion. The Tone control is the key to nailing the highs just how you want them. Between the Tone control and the Bright/Even switch in the Advanced Gain Structure section, you have a tremendous amount of control over the frequency emphasis of the pedal.

## Suggested Settings (volume to suit)




**Chunky Rhythm (Single Coils)**
Gain at 1-2 o'clock, Even/Bright Toggle on EVEN, Standard/Boost Toggle on STANDARD, Mid Behavior at Noon, Tone at 11 o'clock




**Chunky Rhythm (Humbuckers)**
Gain at Noon-1 o'Clock, Even/Bright Toggle on EVEN, Standard/Boost Toggle on STANDARD, Mid Behavior at 11 o'clock, Tone at Noon-1 o'clock




**Powerful Lead (Single Coils)**
Gain at 3 o'clock, Even/Bright Toggle on EVEN, Standard/Boost Toggle on BOOST, Mid Behavior at 11 o'clock-Noon, Tone at 1-2 o'clock




**Powerful Lead (Humbuckers)**
Gain at 2 o'clock, Even/Bright Toggle on BRIGHT, Standard/Boost Toggle on BOOST, Mid Behavior at 10 o'clock, Tone at 11 o'clock-Noon

***Power Requirements***
*The pedal can be powered by a 9V battery. The battery terminal is located inside the pedal. If using a power supply, power needed for the pedal is 9V DC, regulated, center pin negative, as supplied by most standard Boss™/Ibanez™/Etc. supplies. The pedal can be safely powered with a multi-supply, like the Visual Sound 1SPOT™. The pedal was designed explicitly around the usage of a 9V DC power source, and is intended to sound its best at 9V. To avoid damage to the pedal, do not exceed 18V DC, do not use center pin positive adapters, and do not use AC power. Using an incorrect power adapter can lead to damage and will void the warranty on the pedal. This pedal draws* ***4mA****.*

***Please note****: If you are using a battery, it will drain when the input cord is plugged in.*

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***Return and Warranty Policy***
For direct sales, there is a 7-day "no questions asked" period where you may return the pedal for any reason, provided that it is in its original condition. Please retain all packaging within this period in case you decide to return it! We only require that you pay shipping back. The 7 days start when you receive the pedal. This does not apply to dealer or retailer sales – see their individual return policies for specific information.

All Wampler Pedals, Inc. pedals carry a 5-year, fully transferable warranty that covers defects due to parts and labor. The warranty begins at the point of purchase. Please remember to register your pedal as soon as possible after purchase at the following web page to ensure quicker service if you should ever need to make a warranty claim: **www.wamplerpedals.com/warranty_registration**

For warranty repairs or questions, please feel free to contact us at **www.wamplerpedals.com/contact_us.html**