



Vox Treble Booster with Gain, Tone & Volume Control

Version 2016July14

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This document describes three very useful modifications to the Vox Treble booster. Combined, these modifications will convert it from a one-trick-pony treble booster, to an awesome tone maker! The original treble booster, from which this project is based, had no knobs and no controls, just one good “Vox sound” treble boost. There wasn't even a volume knob. This type of booster may be useful if you are good with your guitar volume knob but not necessarily so useful in today's world of pedal boards and versatile amps. Here is an explanation of our modifications:

1. **Tone Control** – We have found that adjusting the input capacitor value has a great effect on the tone and is probably the most effective way to control the tone. This is obviously not a new discovery, but it is the method we are using here. So the tone control is not a potentiometer but is a rotary switch with various input caps of different values attached. As you add capacitance to the input cap, you very quickly go out of the realm of “Treble” booster and it boosts “Tone” in general. Technically speaking, when you add this modification, you no longer have a treble booster but a “Tone Booster”.
2. **Gain Control** – We found that the Vox Treble Booster generates a fair amount of distortion on its own, especially when you increase the input cap values as we are doing. This is not at all a bad thing, since the distortion has excellent tonal qualities. If you add a volume control before the input cap, you will have some control on the amount of distortion generated. This volume control on the front-end acts exactly like most gain controls on a typical stompbox.
3. **Volume Control** – This is just a volume potentiometer added on to the end of the circuit to give control of the over-all volume of the output. This control seems to be non-intrusive to the tone of the sound from the booster itself (but can obviously effect the tonal effect of the booster on your amp and other downstream effects).

These are the three simple modifications on the booster to make it a monstrously delicious tone maker! As expected, the booster will have a great effect on your tube amp or possibly on other distortion pedals down stream from it (depending on the pedal). If you are looking for a super clean treble booster, this is not the best choice, even unmodified it generates a bit of a dirty tone. But if you are looking for great “Vox tone” from your “non-Vox” amp, this is the one!

Below are the schematic and layout for the modification. Have fun!

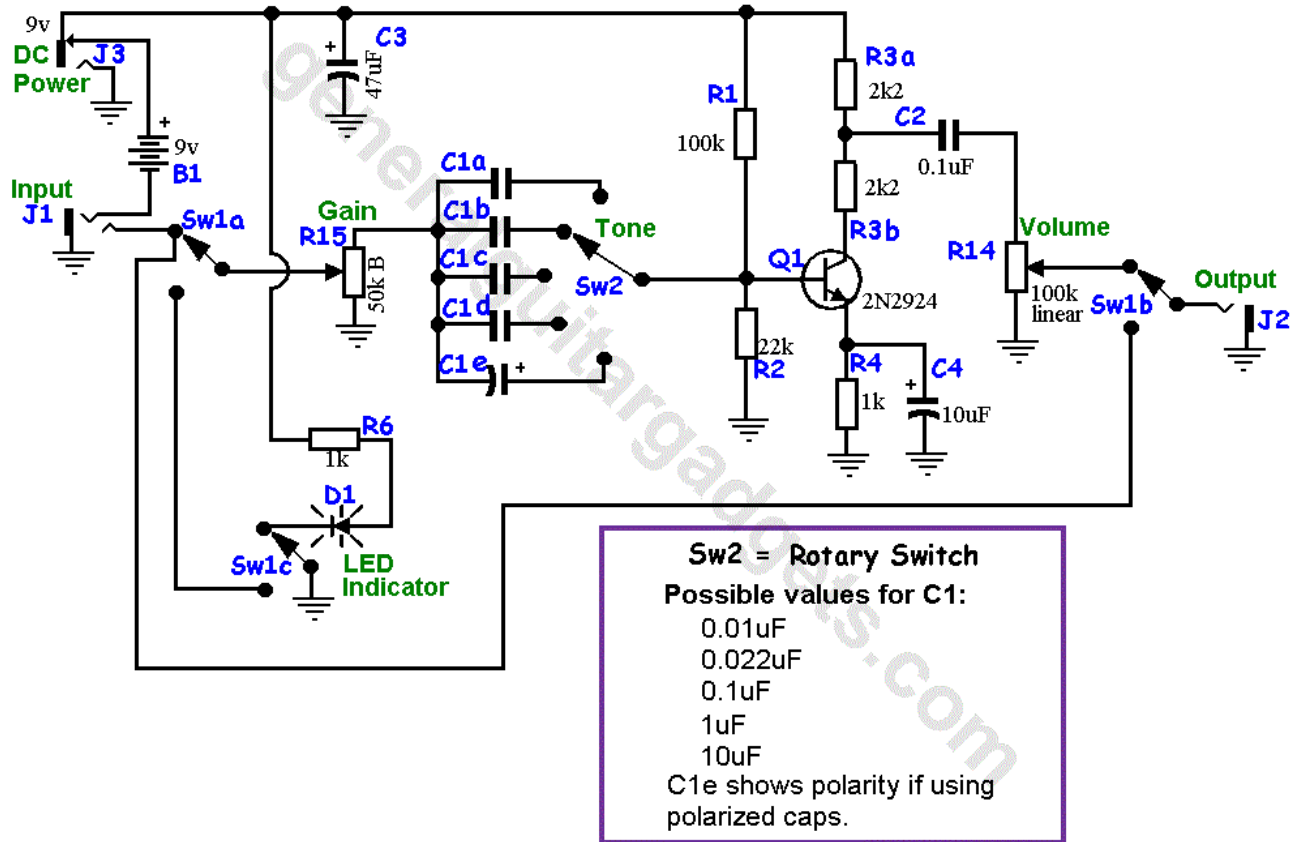
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