

Signal Flow

The knobs are laid out to be intuitive to the signal flow of the pedal. Follow the input jack to the output jack moving right to left. This is the flow of the circuit.

The Mid-Tone section is *pre-clipping*. Gain, Sense and More are part of the clipping circuit. Tone and Volume are *post-clipping*.



Mid-Tone Section

The two knobs on the right side of the pedal are the controllable elements of a variable-frequency middle EQ.

This section is before the signal clipping portion of the circuit. This gives the player the unique ability to select the frequency range they want to predominantly overdrive. Think of that famous green overdrive pedal in which the midrange of 780Hz is boosted and clipped first giving that pedal its characteristic sound. Now imagine the possibilities if that were easily adjustable in both frequency and intensity.

The Argus can achieve a very wide range of drive styles by simply manipulating these two knobs. From mid-rich, to scooped, to flat or “transparent.”

150/750/2K:

This knob selects the frequency to be emphasized or de-emphasized by the CUT|BOOST knob. The frequencies available here range from 150Hz to >2000Hz. The markings on the chassis are only for rough approximation, with 750Hz being approximately at *noon*.

CUT|BOOST:

This knob will de-emphasize (*counterclockwise from noon*,) emphasize (*clockwise from noon*) or ignore the selected frequency (*noon*.) At *noon* the EQ of this section is essentially flat regardless of the position of the knob below. Try this for “transparent” style overdrive.

This section, like the rest of the pedal, is completely analog. Therefore, slight phase shifting will occur at the extremes of the CUT|BOOST knob; like a slightly cocked wah pedal.

Clipping Section

Gain:

This knob simply increases the amplitude of the signal heading into the clipping amplifier by turning it clockwise.

More:

The MORE footswitch toggles between 2 base gain modes. Red is *normal* and blue is *more*. This effect is less noticeable when the GAIN knob is set lower than noon. Argus is not a dual overdrive. MORE is just more.

The indicator lamp stays lit even with the circuit bypassed so the player always knows what mode the pedal is set to.

Sense:

This knob is the controllable element of the optical sidechain. Turning the knob clockwise allows more signal into the sidechain. Less signal in the sidechain means more touch sensitivity. The further you turn the knob clockwise, the more that Argus behaves like a traditional overdrive pedal and the touch sensitivity is reduced. This is all very co-dependent on the GAIN and BOOST settings, however. All knobs are highly interactive.

Make no mistake, this is not a clean blend. The signal never escapes the sidechain to return to the audio path. There is no escape. Only Argus.

Post

Tone:

The TONE knob controls a treble shelving filter with a cutoff frequency of 875Hz. **This is arranged as a cut/boost with noon as roughly unity.** Counterclockwise from noon rolls off frequencies near and above 875Hz. Clockwise boosts those same frequencies.

As this stage is post clipping, the TONE knob is a great way to add sparkle and presence and to balance out the frequency adjustments made in the mid-tone section pre-clipping. The player might find success in setting TONE opposite of the mid-frequency selector when CUT|BOOST is set aggressively.

Volume:

The VOLUME knob is the last stage in the circuit. There is ample headroom and unity gain can be found between 9 o'clock and noon depending on the input signal level.

Bypass:

Relay switched, true bypass. The glow of the warm white LED indicates that the circuit is engaged.