



# THE Distillery

## **Black Label**

*Jim Campilongo*

**toneconcepts.com**

Congratulations on choosing “The Black Label”, the custom shop version our award winning “The Distillery”, the Swiss-Army knife of tone! The Distillery was created by ToneConcepts in collaboration with some of the world’s most influential guitarists.

### **Background: Why We Developed “The Distillery” and “The Black Label”**

ToneConcepts designs and manufactures guitars, effects and amplifiers for professional guitar players and discerning tone hunters that deliver the tone, dynamics, musicality, quality and bullet-proof reliability demanded by the world’s greatest guitar players.

Since 2008, we have tested and developed gear with some of the world’s leading guitar players on the stage and in the studio. We’ve put new and vintage tones into their hands, under their feet and through their amps.

Starting in early-2013, we collaborated with several key artists to develop a tool that addressed a common need and desire. The Distillery was the result! A new class of pedal that makes them sound great on stage and in studio, all while retaining the true character of a great player, guitar and amplifier combination.

Designed and manufactured by ToneConcepts Inc. in Toronto, Canada, The Distillery is the first in a series of products developed in collaboration with some of the world’s best guitarists. This innovative new line addresses the needs of professional touring and recording musicians.

### **What It Does:**

ToneConcepts designed “The Distillery”, a musical tone-shaping, pre-amp boost, for professional touring and recording guitar players. The Distillery delivers the unparalleled power, transparency, tonal flexibility and responsiveness demanded by the world’s greatest guitarists and takes any guitar and amp combination to the next level of musical bliss.

The Distillery gives players 20dB+ of pure volume boost as well as a range of sophisticated tone-shaping options. From subtle enhancements to drastic tonal changes, The Distillery unleashes your guitar’s range of possibilities, while allowing the true

character of the player, the guitar and the amp combination to shine. The Distillery is a tone connoisseur's dream that consistently brings out your best sound night after night.

We hope that The Black Label version of The Distillery will provide years of unsurpassed and trouble-free service.

## **The Distillery Features:**

### **❖ Boost Circuit**

- True By-Pass On/Off Switch
- Boost: up to +20dB of pure, transparent, musical volume boost
- Guts: Extra Input Gain Control (that)
- Bleed: Variable Z Control

### **❖ Shape Circuit:**

- On/Off Switchable Filter EQ
- Contour – Low Pass Filter Control
- Edge – Q Control

### **❖ Hand Made in Toronto, Canada**

- 100% Analog Circuit
- PCB's Made in Toronto, Canada
- All Through Hole Components
- Hammond Canada Cast Aluminium Cases for Quality and Durability

### **❖ Tuned and Tour Tested with some of the World's Greatest Guitar Players**

## **The Black Label: The Custom Shop Version**

### **The Ultimate Expression of the World's Best Tone-Shaping Boost**

#### **The Black Label features:**

- ❖ Hand Made, Hand Soldered, Built to Order in our Toronto, Canada, Custom Shop
- ❖ Hand Selected, Highest Tolerance, Audiophile Grade Components
  - USA and Japan Made Carbon Film and Metal Film Resistors
  - Burr Brown Op Amp
  - High End, Audiophile Grade, Lead Free, 4% Silver Solder
  - High End, Audiophile Grade Teflon Insulated Wire

#### **The Black Label delivers:**

- ❖ Enhanced Sonic Detail
- ❖ Enhanced Touch Response and Dynamics
- ❖ Lower Noise Floor
- ❖ Awesome Bypass Signal
- ❖ Finer Adjustment, Tweaking, and Smoother Control Interaction
- ❖ **Prototypes Tested by Jim Campilongo, Nels Cline, Bill Frisell and Pat Metheny**

# The Black Label User Guide

## Using the BOOST Control

**ON/OFF Footswitch** – Turn the effect on with this switch. The footswitch toggles the pedal between effect (active) & true-bypass mode (inactive). The right-side LED will light up when active.

**BOOST:** This volume knob has up to 20db of transparent clean power on top, and easily pushes your amp into overdrive or transforming your favorite distortion into liquid sustain. Adjust this to your desired level.



## Adding some GUTS!

**GUTS:** An extra gain stage.

Turning it *clockwise* adds extra punch and boldness to your signal.

With The Distillery in front of an overdrive or distortion pedal, **GUTS** adds definition and helps you cut through the mix without altering your original tone.



## Let it Bleed! Fine Tune your Signal

**BLEED** – Acts like a subtle passive tone control. Turning it *counter-clockwise* tames the highs and *clockwise* adds more edge.

**Tip!** Start in the neutral position around 2 or 3 o'clock and adjust to fine tune your signal.



## Engaging the Shape Circuit

**SHAPE Footswitch** - Turn on the filter EQ by clicking the Shape switch. When activated, the left-side LED lights up.

**Note! CONTOUR** and **EDGE** will not work if the effect is in bypass mode. So make sure the right-side LED is on as well.

The **SHAPE CIRCUIT** adds a slight boost and triggers a filter EQ with interactive **CONTOUR** and **EDGE** controls.

**CONTOUR:** This is the filter's frequency selector. Turning this knob *counter-clockwise* allows more high frequencies.

**EDGE:** This knob controls the filter's Q.

### Fatten up your sound.

Set the **EDGE** knob all the way to the left.

Turn the **CONTOUR** *clockwise* to roll off high frequencies and fatten up your sound.



### Add some EDGE.

Turn the **EDGE** control up to add extra sparkle or midrange.

Sweep the **CONTOUR** control to find the frequency you'd like to boost and back down the **EDGE** control to taste.

### Try these settings:

#### CONTOUR:

- 8 to 11 o'clock - Sparkle
- 11 to 2 o'clock - Presence
- 2 to 5 o'clock - Honk



**Tip!** When using the **SHAPE** filter, try placing The Distillery after your distortion or fuzz pedal for a greater effect.

**The Distillery has been tested by some of the world's tone gurus, such as:**

- Jim Campilongo
- Nels Cline (Wilco)
- Bill Frisell
- Vince Gill
- Billy Gibbons
- Buddy Guy
- Los Lobos (David Hidalgo, Cesar Rosas, Louie Perez)
- Steve Lukather
- Pat Metheny
- Phil X
- Kenny Wayne Shepherd
- Alex Skolnick (Testament)
- Dweezil Zappa

**It's interesting to hear how different players use The Distillery:**

- Some use it strictly as a booster for solos.
- Others use it to add presence to their amplifiers and obtain the same tone each night they're on the road.
- And some like the way it adds sparkle to humbuckers and tames the icepick highs of single coil pickups.
- How will you use The Distillery?

For Artist Stories, Demo Videos, suggested settings, and to learn how to get the most out of The Distillery please visit:

[www.toneconcepts.com/the-distillery](http://www.toneconcepts.com/the-distillery)

**POWER REQUIREMENTS:** "The Distillery" can be powered by a **9V DC regulated power supply, center pin negative**, as supplied by most standard Boss™, Ibanez™, etc., power supplies. Power through a 9V battery is possible through a custom ordered optional extra.

**WARNING:** Using an incorrect power adapter can lead to damage and will void the warranty. Please use a professional quality power adapter for optimal performance and safety. To avoid damage to the pedal, do not exceed 9V DC.

**WARRANTY AND SUPPORT:** "The Distillery" carries a 2-year, non-transferable warranty that covers defects due to parts and labor and begins at the date of purchase. "The Distillery" has been extensively tested by our artists in studio and on tour worldwide.

**REGISTER YOUR PEDAL WITHIN 14 DAYS OF PURCHASE** at the following web page. Registration within 14 days is required should you ever need support.

**REGISTER HERE:** [www.toneconcepts.com/product-registration](http://www.toneconcepts.com/product-registration)

If you have any suggestions us or just want to say hello, visit us online at [www.toneconcepts.com](http://www.toneconcepts.com).