

# Smooth & Slim (Mark II)

## Owner's Manual

### Introduction

Thanks for choosing an Ayan Enterprises *Smooth & Slim* (S&S) signal conditioner! We are very excited at the prospect of being able to share our concept of good tone with you and hope S&S fulfills its mission in your rig. As of November 2003, we have revoiced the S&S to incorporate suggestions we have received from users over the years. We're confident you will find the S&S Mark II's performance to be even more versatile than that of our original design.

### Operation of the S&S

The S&S is a very straightforward unit with very simple, but effective, features. Plug your guitar or the *last effect* in your pedalboard into the S&S jack labeled IN. Similarly, connect a guitar cord to the jack labeled OUT and plug the other end straight into your amplifier. *Reversing the use of the IN and OUT jacks will result in improper performance of the S&S.* Set the left knob to the BYPASS position and the right knob to NORMAL. Does your guitar sound killer, better than ever? If so, disconnect the S&S and be happy, for you have achieved Tone Heaven with merely a placebo effect. Seriously, the previously described is a bypass condition, and the S&S should not alter your sound at all in this instance (other than, perhaps, a very slight loss of highs due to the inevitable capacitances that develop with the use of more "audio plumbing").

If you are using a guitar with humbucker pickups, leave the right knob on the NORMAL position. If you are using single coil pickups, you may want to experiment with the DARK setting. The purpose of the NORMAL/DARK switch is to tame the top end, which in some cases tends to get harsh when using single coil pickups, thus allowing you to switch between single coils and humbuckers while leaving the amps settings intact.

Next, set the left knob to SMOOTH. This position implements a first-order realignment filter that affects carefully selected portions of your guitar signal's low end. The audible effect will be less bass content and slightly less overall volume. *This loss of power is normal and indeed the very principle by which the S&S operates!* We now invite you to re-discover you amp's settings and encourage you to turn the volume up to achieve the new desired loudness level, and also turn up the bass control. You will find that at settings where you would normally get a "flabby bottom," your amp will now have a very clean and punchy low end. Furthermore, you will find that higher levels of low midrange and bass are possible without undesired breakup. That is to say if, for example, without the S&S you could only set your bass control to 4 until breakup occurred, now you will be able to set it up to, say, 8 and your amp will still sound bassier than it previously did at 4, but without any flab.

If you find that the SMOOTH setting is not enough to clean up the muddy low end in your rig, try the SLIM setting. This setting takes everything one step further, and the effect is quite noticeable. You will typically not need to use the SLIM setting unless you play a guitar with humbucker pickups. Expect further loss of volume on the SLIM setting, but at the same time, more control of the annoying transient low-end buzz.

In both the Smooth and Slim settings, you will end up with the best possible scenario: keeping the bottom end tight and punchy, while the top end continues to breakup controlled by your pick dynamics; you will also notice the sustain of your guitar/amp combination has increased considerably. Why is this? The realignment of frequencies takes away what shouldn't be there in the first place, so the new sound is much more focused and contains less transients, which results in improved sustain perception.

### Comment and Questions

We welcome any comments and questions you may have regarding the S&S. We're confident that after spending some time playing with it, you'll be able to dial in sounds you thought were not possible from your amp... and we hope you'll be as excited about those new sounds as we are!

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