



(Quality You can Stand on)

Thank you for choosing Boicebox Pedalboards, Inc. for your pedal board needs. You now have a high quality, attractive, user friendly, ergonomically designed, pedal board, solidly built in the USA with environmentally sustainable bamboo and with many features not found in other pedal boards.

I would like to give you a brief run down of the features of your pedal board and how best to utilize them in the set up and operation of your new rig.

1. You will notice that when you open the T-21HT and remove the ‘hard top’ that there is a brass centering pin on the front bottom edge of the ‘top’ right below the recessed handle (fig.1). This serves to keep the top centered on the bottom (actual working part of the pedal board) when the top is in place. It should be noted that this pin, though not sharp, is hard and could mar a surface if dropped directly on stage or floor. The top sits naturally on its corners and back hinges (fig.2).



(fig.1)



(fig.2)

- a. If you have purchased either the SC-CL (clear vinyl slip cover) or the SC-BL (black vinyl slip cover), these both work great as a place to store the top while not in use (fig.3)



(fig.3)



2. The T-21 pedal board is designed with a ‘flip-up’ rear deck/shelf which allows “Under the Hood” access to the space below which has the AC outlet as well as one of the 1/4” mono I/O jacks (fig.4). This space is designed to house your power supply, buffer, EQ, or any other device that doesn’t need to be actively manipulated during performance. (fig. 5)



(fig.4)



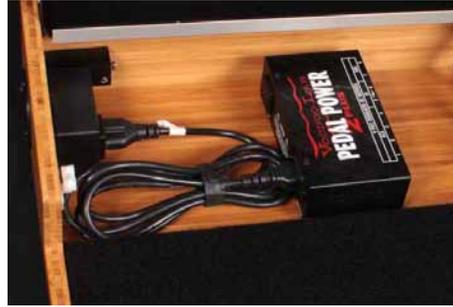
(fig.5)

The hinged rear deck has a roller catch on each corner to prevent opening while in carry mode as well as to provide a solid rattle free surface for your pedals. The best way to open the shelf is to make a sort of ‘fist’ with each of your index fingers under the front edge at each corner (fig.6). Give your fist a light squeeze while ‘prying’ up with your index fingers to ‘pop’ the catches.

[Try to avoid pulling or yanking on only one corner at a time to open the shelf]. Arrange your devices “Under the Hood” taking care to orient them allowing for AC power cord access to AC outlet before attaching them to floor with Velcro (supplied) (fig.7).



(fig.6)



(fig.7)

[Remember: There will most likely be other cables in this space including 9V DC power cables from power supply to individual EFX pedals and patch cables between EFX pedals and built-in ¼” I/O jacks (fig. 8)... there is generally plenty of room but it works best to plan ahead!]



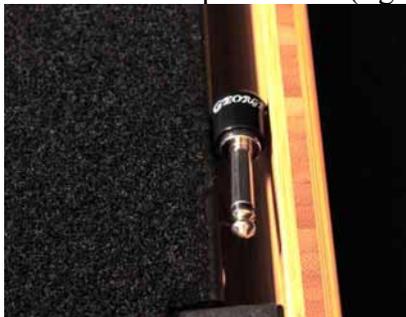
(fig.8)



(fig. 9)

3. The T-21 is also designed with a space at the back of the rear deck/shelf to allow for easy routing of all cables (9V DC as well as ¼” patch cables). [This space becomes slightly smaller when the deck/shelf is opened (lifted) so some cable ends will need to be passed through the opening with the shelf in the closed (down) position] (fig.9). If using ‘GeorgeL’ cables you may need to remove the rubber caps and then replace them after passing them through the opening. (fig. 10)

There are also holes in the partition or deck/shelf support (the slanted aluminum wall to the right or left of the rocker pedal slot) to allow for routing of cables to and from rocker pedal and the ¼” I/O jack that is located at the back of the rocker pedal slot. (fig. 11)



(fig.10)



(fig. 11)

Setting up your signal path:

When choosing your actual signal path for your EFX pedals there are almost as many options as there are EFX pedals. There are also many theories and schools of thought on this subject as well as many on-line forums discussing the merits of each persons approach. So for the purposes of this instruction manual we are going to stick to the very basics ... (remember, these are generalizations and suggestions. Your Boicebox Pedal board is designed to be flexible so you can do whatever works best for you)

1. As mentioned before, it is best to set up your gear, plug everything in, and test out the entire set up prior to velcroing anything down. If your EFX pedals already have Velcro on them, you can place them on a sheet of paper for set up. Yes Velcro is removable but the Velcro loop installed on all Boicebox Pedal Boards is industrial high quality material and removing a unit that has 'seated' into the loop material can be a bit of a chore ... and I can guarantee that you will have to pull things off several times in the course of set up even if you have a plan. **(Note: if your pedals are positioned close together, you will need to pull them up just to access the input or output jacks to install the patch cables ... both sides ... every time! This will soon become tiresome ... trust me).**
2. Since virtually all EFX pedals have inputs on the right and output on the left, generally speaking the stage right ¼" I/O jack on the pedal board will be your input from your instrument and the stage left ¼" I/O jack will be the output to your amp (fig. 12).
3. You want to keep your patch cables as short as possible as any cable has "impedance" and this impedance can ad up to eventually degrade or weaken the signal from your instrument. Whenever you have 2 rows of EFX pedals however, you will need at some point to get from the output (left) side of one of the rows to the input side (right) of the other row. This will require a longer cable and is pretty much unavoidable (fig. 13). **[Note: the Boicebox I/O jacks are wireless direct connectors and provide a very low impedance connection]**



(fig.12)



(fig.13)

4. Generally speaking you will want to put a volume pedal and tuners at the beginning of the signal path if possible. Any 'looping' should be done at or near the end of the signal path if you want your loop tracks to remain independent of subsequent changes to EFX parameters (in other words, if you set up a relatively clean rhythm track with the goal of playing a more 'effected' lead over it, the rhythm track will only stay 'clean' if the looper is at the end of the signal path) OK I am already starting down that path I was trying to avoid. The fact is that the subject of signal path is way too broad to get into here so all I can say is enjoy the journey!

Attaching your EFX devices to the Pedal Board

As was mentioned before, every Boicebox pedal board comes with High quality industrial loop material installed ready for you to attach your devices once they are equipped with the appropriate hook material. There are a few guidelines that will help you with this process.

1. The bond for a device/pedal to the pedal board surface is only as good as the bond of the hook material to the pedal. There are several pedals that come equipped with a rubber non-slip material on the bottom and there are also some that come with feet. The non-slip material is often not a good surface for the adhesive backing on the hook material to adhere to. **[This problem is not solved by adding more hook material to the bottom of the device!]** You just have to try it and if it doesn't stick well, often the 'non-slip' material is easily removed, leaving you with a smooth metal surface, sometimes with a little bit of leftover adhesive. This adhesive residue will usually not interfere with the adhesion of the hook material but if you want to be sure, you can remove the residue with light petroleum based solvent or cleaner (found at the hardware store) prior to attaching the hook material. Feet are a problem because they make a space under the pedal or device that is too large to be spanned effectively by the hook & loop bond. Once again the easiest and most effective way to deal with this issue is to remove the feet. If you don't want to remove the feet you can also make a spacer with foam, or other dense material fitted with loop material on one side and hook on the other side effectively 'bridging the space between the bottom of the device and the surface of the pedal board (fig. 14). **[In this case I used ¼" birch plywood as the spacer]**

(fig.14)



2. The hook & loop bond is stronger than you might think and as long as the adhesion issues are taken care of, you can usually get away with a lot less loop material than it takes to cover the bottom of the device. Obviously you don't want your pedals falling off the board, but the fact is that two non flexible surfaces bonded with industrial hook & loop are very difficult to get apart. So temper your use of the hook material based on how often you think you might be moving things around.
3. Finally, if you are having trouble with actual hook to loop adhesion, check to see how clean the hook material is as it tends to pick up all kinds of crap over the years. If it looks like your cat, clean it or change it!

Thanks again for choosing a Boicebox Pedalboard and happy playing!