

Scrolls



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Welcome to the Scrolls® Bass Odyssey from the EarthQuaker Devices® family of sonic solutions! Scrolls was designed in partnership with Japan's one and only master of bass tone—Kentaro Nakao! A highly respected bassist, Kentaro is known for his playing in bands like Number Girl and Crypt City, as well as his work as a session musician. He is a longtime friend, user, and supporter of EarthQuaker Devices, so we were most enthusiastic when the opportunity to collaborate was presented.

The concept for Scrolls began with a simple challenge from Kentaro: to consolidate the vast sonic history of vintage and modern bass tones into a single, portable form factor. Ultimately, Kentaro wanted the ability to summon any bass sound he wanted—anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

The result is a powerful, modern tool capable of shaping the organic input signal of any bass to match the sonic profile of virtually any bass/amp combination you can think of. Want the precise sound of a California-born bass rocketing through a flip-top amp with a 15" speaker? Scrolls has got you covered. Want the sting of an active bass punching its way through a solid-state full-stack? Scrolls has got you covered. Want the sound of... You get the idea.

On the right side of Scrolls, you'll find a Drive section featuring a versatile, tube amp-like distortion that tips its hat to a little-known overdrive pedal from Kentaro's collection. Key amongst the Drive section features are the Blend knob, which enables you to adjust the amount of clean signal present in the overdriven signal, and the position of the Bandwidth knob determines where the clipping is most prevalent—lower frequencies counterclockwise and higher frequencies clockwise. Together, the Blend and Bandwidth knob can be adjusted to ensure the low-end response remains wide, deep, and full when using the Drive section.

The left side of Scrolls features a full suite of active EQ controls, including audiophile-quality Bass, Middle, and Treble controls with up to 20 dB of cut or boost. The secret weapon of Scrolls' EQ section is the Variable Frequency control with the ability to cut/boost frequencies from around 20 Hz to 10 kHz—making it the perfect tool for cutting out the mud and boosting the high-end.

Within the EQ section, you'll find three push-button switches that serve as potent assets for one-click tone sculpting. The Deep button adds 80 Hz boost for booming low end without sacrificing clarity. Next up is the Process button, which scoops the mids and instantly produces a contemporary bass tone that is punchy, dynamic, and defined. Finally, press the Bright button for a 5 kHz boost to add articulation and attack.

The buffered Parallel Out (P) enables you to send a clean signal out to an external destination like an amp, tuner, DI, effects, et cetera, and so on. This output is always active and is an invaluable asset when running multiple signal paths.

Internally, the Drive signal comes first in the chain and runs into the EQ. Between the Drive and EQ lives an Effects Loop designed to serve as the brains of your pedalboard. This means you can keep your modulation effects positioned after the Drive section in your chain, while retaining the ability to apply all the tone-shaping capabilities of the EQ section at the end of your chain.

Wanna hear something else that's pretty neat about Scrolls? You can run it into your bass amp via the ¼" output, or you can use the balanced XLR out to run Scrolls directly to the front of house for an ampless show or straight into your recording interface for ampless recording.

Oh, and by the way, if you do decide to use Scrolls for ampless applications, we added just a splash of analog filtering to the XLR out to make it sound more like a speaker cabinet. So if you don't want to use an amp... I mean... You don't have to... We won't tell anyone.

Anyhows, Kentaro is an amazing friend, he brought us an amazing idea, and now thanks to him, you pretty much have access to the entire history of electric bass tones at your fingertips. So without further ado, let's get ready to rumble, friend!

Each and every Scrolls is all-analog, true bypass, and built one-at-a-time by credentialed professionals at the EarthQuaker Devices Tone Wellness Clinic under the malt-gray skies of Akron, Ohio.

Controls

Drive Footswitch: Activates the Drive channel.

EQ Footswitch: Activates the EQ channel.

Drive Controls

Level: Output volume control for the Drive channel.

Blend: Blends between your clean signal and the Drive signal. Turn the knob fully clockwise for maximum crunchiness.

Drive: Controls the intensity of the overdrive.

Bandwidth: Determines where the clipping is most active. Turn the control counterclockwise to activate low-end clipping for a warmer, softer, rounded, and overall more subdued tone. Turn the control clockwise and activate High-end clipping for a present, focused crunch with a tighter low-end.

Tone: Low-pass filter enabling you to shape the frequency of the Drive channel. Turn counterclockwise to reduce highs.

EQ Controls

Level: Output volume control when the EQ controls are active. Set the knob at noon for unity, turn clockwise to boost the output signal, and turn counterclockwise to cut the output signal.

Vari: Boosts or cuts the Vari-Freq (variable frequency) control. Position this control at noon for unity (marked with a center detent in the potentiometer.) Turn clockwise from noon to boost the Vari-Freq, or counterclockwise to cut.

Vari-Freq: Variable frequency control for fine-tuning your tone. Adjustable from approximately 20 Hz to 10 kHz.

Treble: The center position is flat and marked with a center detent in the potentiometer. All settings above this point boost the treble and all settings below cut treble.

Bass: The center position is flat and marked with a center detent in the potentiometer. All settings above this point boost the bass and all settings below cut bass.

Middle: The center position is flat and marked with a center detent in the potentiometer. All settings above this point boost the middle and all settings below cut middle.

Deep: 80 Hz Boost

Process: Low-mid scoop for a more modern sound.

Bright: 5 kHz Boost

Parallel Out (P): Buffered output carrying your clean signal that is always active. This allows you to route your clean signal to external destinations (amp, DI, separate pedal chain, tuner, etc.).

Direct Out (On Side): Balanced XLR out with a subtle amount of analog filtering added to the signal path to simulate the tonal characteristics of a bass speaker cabinet.

Ground Lift (On Side): Press for ground lift on the XLR output.

Effects Loop (Send and Return jacks)

Situated between the Drive and EQ stages, this passive loop keeps your modulation and time-based effects after the Drive, but before the EQ in your signal chain. This allows you to keep any effects you'd normally place near the middle or end of your chain sounding crisp while maintaining the ability to apply the EQ to your entire wet signal. The Effects Loop is hard-wired into the signal path and remains active at all times.

Switching

Scrolls uses relay-based true bypass switching. Since the switching is relay-based, it requires power to pass a signal.

The Drive side of Scrolls uses Flexi-Switch® Technology! This relay-based, true bypass switching style allows you to simultaneously use momentary and latching style switching.

- For standard latching operation, tap the footswitch once to activate the effect and then tap again to bypass.
- For momentary operation, hold the footswitch down for as long as you'd like to use the effect. Once you release the switch, the effect will be bypassed.

The EQ side of Scrolls uses standard on/off switching.

Power

This device requires a standard 9-volt DC power supply with a 2.1mm negative center barrel. We always recommend pedal-specific, transformer-isolated wall-wart power supplies or multiple isolated-output supplies. Pedals will make extra noise if there is ripple or unclean power. Switching-type power supplies, daisy chains and non-pedal specific power supplies do not filter dirty power as well and let through unwanted noise.

Tech Specs

Drive Input Impedance: 500 kΩ

Drive Output Impedance: 100 Ω

EQ Input Impedance: 10 M Ω

EQ Output Impedance: <1 k Ω

Parallel Input Impedance: 10 M Ω

Parallel Output Impedance: 100 Ω

Direct Out Impedance: 100 Ω

Current Draw: 70 mA

Artwork: Geoffrey Crowe