

SYSTEM DETAILS

The **Sustainiac SUSTAIN-MAN** sustainer consists of three main parts: (1) **Sustainiac string-driver transducer**; (2) **Sustainiamp controller/amplifier**; (3) **Mounting bracket**.

It all fits together like this (See diagram inside the booklet):

The **mounting bracket** connects to the guitar body by the lower strap button. The **Sustainiamp** box connects to the mounting bracket with hook-and-loop fastener material. A short 18 inch guitar cord comes from the **Sustainiamp** box and plugs into your guitar output jack. Your guitar pickup signal is tapped off inside the **Sustainiamp** floorbox and is then amplified and processed by the **Sustainiamp** controller/amplifier. Your raw guitar signal goes on *unchanged* to your amp or effects chain through the 1/4 in. jack using any standard guitar cord.

The **Sustainiac transducer** attaches to the guitar headstock by the attached clamp. A 6 ft., 1/8 in. diameter wire goes up over the strap (held in place by nylon tie wraps) to the headstock-mounted transducer. The other end of the 1/8 in. cable has a 3.5mm plug. This 3.5mm plug is inserted into the jack labelled **TRANSDUCER**. The high-energy amplified pickup signal comes from the 3.5mm **Sustainiamp** output jack. The **transducer** then produces intense acoustic vibrations that are in synchronization with the string vibrations. Vibration energy is added to the strings during each vibration. This is what sustains the vibrations.

WARRANTY: One year from date of purchase.

POWER CONSUMPTION: 9 volts, 1/2 watt (one watt in TURBO mode).

Battery current: 50 milliamperes for a typical sustained note. 100 milliamperes in TURBO mode.

Battery life: 10 hours for a typical sustained note. 5 hours in TURBO mode.

TRANSDUCER: Impedance = 16 ohms.

CAUTION: Do not use the **SUSTAIN-MAN transducer** with our older **Sustainiac Model B** or **Model C** sustainer floorboxes. This will likely damage the **SUSTAIN-MAN transducer**. We can modify the **Model B** or **Model C** **Sustainiamp** to provide the right amount of power for safe, very intense sustain energy.

PHYSICAL: Amplifier box = 6.5 oz., 5 x 2.5 x 1 in. Transducer = 8.5 oz.; shipping weight = 1.5 lb. (2.6kg)

Retail price: **SUSTAINIAC SUSTAIN-MAN** sustainer is \$229.00 (U.S. dollars). Prices subject to change without notice.

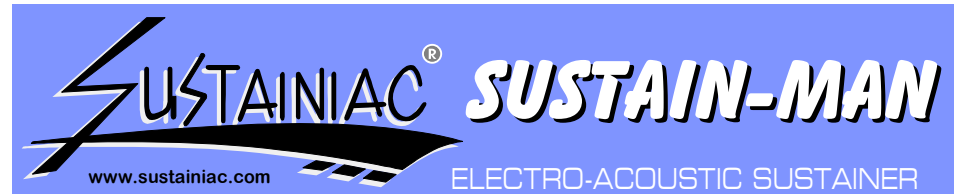
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A sustainer is the only effect that operates directly on the strings of the instrument. All other effects change the signal that you hear.

The **Sustainiac SUSTAIN-MAN** replaces and improves upon our famous **SUSTAINIAC Model B and Model C** sustainers. The **Model B** is the sustainer that got it all started for us, back in 1987. It is a workhorse of the studio, and has been used for 30 years around the world to generate effortless, natural feedback sustain for electric guitar players. For the first time, an electroacoustic sustainer is powered by a single 9-volt battery, yet delivers the same sustain intensity as our previous 25 watt **Model C** that was powered by the power line. This eliminates the transducer cord that hangs down to the floor.

HERE'S HOW THE SUSTAIN-MAN WORKS:

The **Sustainiac SUSTAIN-MAN** sustainer is an *electro-acoustic* type sustainer. This is different from an *electromagnetic* type sustainer. The **SUSTAIN-MAN** produces infinite sustain of an instrument's string vibrations by making intense *acoustic* feedback. It is like getting feedback from the loudspeakers of a very large, loud amp. *Except much more so.* Amp feedback is *unpredictable*. Sometimes it works, but often it doesn't. With the **SUSTAIN-MAN** you get successful feedback-sustain at any volume level. It is very predictable and controllable. You can enhance solos or produce vibrational changes in the strings with success every time, because you are not relying on room acoustics and amp position as you are with amp feedback. The best part is that you don't have to play at high volume to get screaming feedback sustain. No more hearing loss from playing too loudly. Perfect for studio or home.

The **SUSTAIN-MAN** has two main parts: (1) The **transducer** (top photo) simply clamps to your guitar headstock, then transforms your amplified, processed pickup signal coming from the **Sustainiamp** into acoustic vibrations. These vibrations are sent to the strings through the instrument neck. (2) The **Sustainiamp** controller/amplifier (bottom photo) amplifies and processes your instrument pickup signal, and powers the **transducer**.

NO INSTALLATION REQUIRED

The **SUSTAIN-MAN** doesn't have to be installed inside of the instrument, like our electromagnetic **Stealth PRO** sustainer does. All of your instrument pickups work with the **SUSTAIN-MAN**. Again, this is unlike the electromagnetic type of sustainer where only the bridge pickup typically works when the sustainer is on.

PERFORMING WITH THE SUSTAIN-MAN

Most sustained notes will morph into cool-sounding harmonics within a short time after the note is played. Some notes will remain as fundamental vibration. Then, you can force the note to morph into a different harmonic vibration mode by stepping on the **HARMONICS** footswitch. Some chords will sustain two or three notes, but most chords morph into a single note after several seconds.

HOW INTENSE IS IT?

The sensation of playing with a **Sustainiac** electroacoustic sustainer is indeed intense and exciting. Musicians often say that it feels like the instrument is actually alive in their hands. Yes, you definitely feel the vibrations! (The vibrations will not harm the instrument.) This sensation is like playing at extreme, deafening volume levels. Yet, the instrument amplifier volume can be turned all the way down to zero. The intensity and responsiveness are fully adjustable. In fact, the amount of feedback-sustain is so great that you can use it in ways you have never thought possible.



Sustainiac headstock-mounted transducer



Sustainiamp floorbox amplifier/controller

SUSTAINIAMP OPERATION:

SWITCH CONTROLS:

POWER switch: Turns the Sustain-man *ON* and *OFF*.

CHANGE HARMONICS switch: Harmonic mode of string vibration is changed using the CHANGE HARMONICS footswitch. Red/green LED changes color to indicate which mode is selected.

MANUAL/AUTO/MAN switch: Selects between MANUAL and AUTOMATIC operation. (CHANGE HARMONICS FOOTSWITCH will force change of harmonic mode when switch is in either position: MANUAL or AUTOMATIC.)

TURBO switch: Increases string drive power. Makes sustain more intense. But it doubles the battery current from about 50 ma to 100 ma.

HARMONIC MODES: There are two HARMONIC MODES: **RED** HARMONIC MODE, and **GREEN** HARMONIC MODE.

The two modes are indicated by the two-color HARMONICS OPERATION LED. This LED illuminates either RED or GREEN, depending on which mode you are in. This visual indicator lets you know what harmonic mode you are in. Both RED and GREEN modes are similar: Some notes will fade into harmonics and some will vibrate as fundamentals. When you change modes, fundamental notes will always fade into a harmonic. Harmonic notes will fade either into a different harmonic or into a fundamental. Often, you will get several harmonics to occur in sequence from the same note by simply changing mode over and over.

When the HARMONICS OPERATION slide switch is set to **MANUAL**, pressing the CHANGE HARMONICS footswitch will change modes back and forth from **RED** to **GREEN** modes.

When the HARMONICS OPERATION slide switch is set to **AUTOMATIC**, you can simply release fret pressure for an instant and the mode will change. Or, gently touch a vibrating string, or quickly turn down guitar volume, then back up, and a note will automatically change harmonic modes. This is a powerful feature. You can still use the MANUAL HARMONICS footswitch while in AUTOMATIC mode of operation. This is a Maniac Music first.

A NOTE ABOUT AUTOMATIC MODE OPERATION: Occasionally, a note will tend to rapidly come to a stop rather than sustain. For these notes, the sustainer acoustic energy reaching the string arrives "out of phase" with the string vibration because of the time it takes for the energy to travel the distance to the fret from the Sustainiac transducer. Usually, in one mode or the other, about 2 or 3 notes on a guitar can have this characteristic. When this happens, the Sustainiac circuit senses that a note is decaying rapidly, and automatically *forces* a harmonic mode change.

KNOB CONTROLS:

HARMONICS: Actually an equalizer. As the control is rotated toward "0", treble frequencies are rolled off, and more fundamental notes will sustain. Rotating toward "10" means low frequencies are rolled off, and notes will "*morph*" more easily into harmonics. Mid-rotation will sustain a combination of both.

GAIN: Adjusts sustainer gain. More gain means faster sustain buildup, but it is harder to control guitar. Doesn't change the amount of string drive, however.

STRING DRIVE: Adjusts signal level going to sustainer power amplifier (and overall gain). Stronger sustained string vibration means more gain and faster sustain, but also harder to control guitar.

