The API TranZformer® GT provides unsurpassed sonic sculpting by combining a legendary API 525 “feedback” type compressor circuit with an inductor-based tone control inspired by the vintage API 553 program equalizer in a versatile and robust guitar pedal/direct box with balanced and unbalanced outputs. Features include independent tone and compression in/out footswitches, phase inverters on each output, ground lift, clip indicator, transformer output, true hardwire bypass, and of course the classic API sound.

**SIGNAL FLOW (from right to left):** Input > GAIN > COMP > TONE > Transformer Output

**AUDIO CONTROLS**
1. **GAIN:** Input level; +9dB to +30dB; More gain creates more compression
2. **COMP (compression):** Determines amount of compression (gain-reduction); Higher numbers provide more compression (lower threshold)
3. **CLIP LED:** Illuminates to indicate Input Gain or Output stage (pre Level) clipping
4. **TONE (equalizer):** 3-band +/- 15dB EQ (see graph on page 2)
   - 200Hz peaking EQ; low-end (body, warmth, power…)
   - 1.5kHz peaking EQ; mid-range (presence, attack, articulation…)
   - 5kHz shelving EQ; high-end (air, brightness, brilliance, edge…)
5. **Output LEVEL:** -inf. to 0dB attenuator; 0db (no cut) is fully clockwise
   - Sets level for ¼” unbalanced output only (balanced output level is fixed)

**FOOTSWITCHES**
A. **COMP (compressor):** Engage/disengage compressor; lit LED when engaged
B. **TONE (equalizer):** Engage/disengage equalizer; lit LED when engaged
C. **BYPASS:** Hardwired unbalanced bypass; lit LED when BYPASSED
INPUTS & OUTPUTS

**SETUP**
- Plug cable from instrument output into TranZformer GT INSTRUMENT INPUT.
- Connect UNBALANCED OUT to an amplifier input or the next pedal in your chain.
- The BALANCED OUT can be connected to a balanced line-level input for recording or live.

**USE**
Starting settings: Disengage BYPASS, engage TONE & COMP footswitches, set all three TONE controls to 0dB boost/cut (12 o’clock), and LEVEL fully clockwise (0dB).
- Adjust GAIN to set input level to the compressor; Higher GAIN creates more compression at a given COMP setting; Reduce GAIN to avoid clipping if needed.
- Set COMP as desired for increased sustain, perceived loudness, and punchiness; higher COMP numbers provide increased gain reduction and greater compression.
- SET the three TONE controls to achieve the desired tone. Each band has +/- 15dB of boost & cut (reduce boost if clipping is indicated).
- Adjust the LEVEL control to set the level of the ¼” UNBALANCED OUTPUT. (Does not reduce clipping of internal signal.) The level of the BALANCED OUTPUT is fixed.
- Engage the PHASE inverters and the GROUND LIFT as needed.

**OUTPUT CONTROLS**
A. Unbalanced Output PHASE REVERSE
   - Inverts unbalanced output polarity
B. Balanced Output PHASE REVERSE
   - Inverts balanced output polarity
C. Output GROUND LIFT
   - Eliminates hum from ground loops

**CONNECTIONS**
1. INSTRUMENT INPUT:
   - ¼” hi-Z, unbalanced
2. UNBALANCED OUTPUT (to amp):
   - ¼” hi-Z
   - Fed directly from INPUT in BYPASS
3. BALANCED OUTPUT:
   - 3-pin XLR male, lo-Z
   - Line level
   - NOTE – XLR is muted in BYPASS
4. 18 Volt DC power input (on back)
   - 500mA maximum
   - 2.1mm x 5.5mm barrel connector
   - Tip negative

TranZformer GT
TONE Control
Frequency Response

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