

TONE PROFILES

Universal README for **.NAM · Architecture 2** files

Understand the technology, adjust signal levels, and preserve the sonic character of each capture.

01 / OVERVIEW

What are Tone Profiles?

Tone Profiles are neural audio models in the **.NAM** format, based on the **NAM A2** architecture (Neural Amp Modeler Architecture 2). They reproduce the sonic behavior of a captured processing chain, allowing that tonal character to be applied in devices and software compatible with native NAM A2 loading.

The files can represent different processing characteristics. At Analog Captures, profiles are created using real studio equipment, including tape recorders, tube compressors, and tube preamps. The result aims to preserve the response and harmonics characteristic of this signal chain.

Important: the sound is not determined by the file alone. The signal level entering the NAM block directly affects its response, especially when the captured chain includes tube equipment or other stages that are sensitive to input level.

02 / INPUT LEVEL AND SATURATION

Why can the sound become saturated?

Although many pedals and multi-effects units with native NAM support are designed primarily for guitar, Tone Profiles can be used with different signal sources. Some sources deliver a higher output level; as a result, a capture may sound more saturated, compressed, or distorted than it does in the Gateway plugin or another NAM Loader designed to accommodate different types of captures.

This does not necessarily mean that the file is faulty. In many cases, the difference comes from the device's **input level (Input)**. A high-level signal can push the model into a more saturated operating range, much like feeding an excessively strong signal into tube equipment.

How to correct excessive saturation

- **Lower the input level** in the effect block where the Tone Profile is loaded. Depending on the device, this parameter may be called **Input**, **Gain**, or **Level Gain**.
- After lowering the input, the output volume may become quieter. Compensate by raising the block's output parameter, such as **Output**, **Output Gain**, **Level Out**, or **Volume**.
- Make adjustments gradually, comparing both the sound and the volume. Parameter names and locations vary between pedals, multi-effects units, and NAM Loaders.

Rule of thumb: first adjust the input gain to control saturation; then restore the volume at the output stage. Avoid trying to fix excessive input level by lowering only the final volume.

03 / NAM LOADER OPTIONS

RAW, Normalize, and model versions

RAW

On some devices, the **RAW** option plays the capture in its raw state, as modeled, without applying additional normalization in the loader itself. When available, prefer RAW to preserve the Tone Profile's original behavior.

Normalize

The **Normalize** function can automatically adjust a capture's volume level. Depending on how the device implements it, this may affect perceived dynamics and make some captures sound more compressed. If you notice an unwanted sonic difference, try disabling normalization and enabling RAW. Availability and behavior depend on the device; some units, including certain Headrush models, provide these types of controls.

Full or Lite

When your device supports it, choose the **Full** version rather than **Lite**. The Full version uses a larger architecture and may represent the model with greater capacity. Use Lite only when required by device compatibility or processing limitations.

04 / NAMING CONVENTIONS

How to interpret profile names

BRI / BRIGHT — Processing that emphasizes brightness and harmonics, achieved using a tape recorder.

EQ — Processing with corrective equalization and/or emphasis of selected frequencies.

NO NOISE — A profile treated to reduce much of the background noise. Since recording and processing stages can make noise more noticeable, this treatment helps reduce it, but does not guarantee complete removal.

Noise-reduced Tone Profiles are designed to work most accurately in the Full version. In Lite mode, they may sound darker, less bright, or distorted. Avoid using NO NOISE profiles on devices that can only run NAM models in Lite mode.

EQ BRI — A combination of equalization and tape-recorder processing to emphasize harmonics.

NATURAL — The original capture without additional tonal processing; compression is the only processing used.

T1 / T2 / T3... — Identifies tonal variations captured using different microphones and/or microphone positions.

Shared processing: at Analog Captures, Tone Profiles are developed through an LA-2A compressor — including profiles labeled **Natural**. Therefore, "Natural" means no additional tonal processing, not an absolute absence of processing.

05 / FINE-TUNING

Adapt the profile to your instrument and pickup system

A Tone Profile provides a tonal starting point, but it does not eliminate the need for fine-tuning. The final result may vary depending on the connected instrument, the pickup or capture system being used, output level, and the input response of the device.

If certain frequencies seem too prominent or lacking, use an **equalizer (EQ)** to correct the tonal balance. Adjustments may be possible within the NAM block itself if the loader provides those controls; however, a dedicated equalizer usually offers greater freedom, precision, and control over individual frequencies.

- Make small adjustments and compare the result in context, with volume levels matched.
- If there is excessive saturation, correct the input level first before trying to solve everything with EQ.
- There is no single ideal setting for every instrument, pickup system, device, or environment.

06 / COMPATIBILITY

Native NAM playback required

Tone Profiles are designed exclusively for devices and software that support **native playback of .NAM files based on the NAM A2 architecture**. Devices that convert .NAM files into a proprietary format may not reproduce these Tone Profiles correctly, and the resulting sound may differ from the intended capture.

Compatibility, the number of supported channels, and the availability of parameters such as Input, RAW, Normalize, and EQ depend on the hardware, firmware, and loader version.

For the best results, use a native NAM A2 loader, start with moderate input levels, choose Full when compatible, and make final volume and EQ adjustments to suit your setup.

ANALOG CAPTURES · Tone Profiles

Universal technical guide for NAM A2 files. Parameter names may vary depending on the manufacturer and device model.