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Jack White & The White Stripes

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Lead Techniques

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The Gear He Used

Let's start with the guitar. Jack White, in the White Stripes, was notorious for using an Airline guitar, which beautifully matched and played into the whole style of the band. They're quirky, sound amazing and, well, they're red and white! Since Jack was playing them in the early 2000s they have been bought and produced by Eastwood Guitars, who do an amazing job. If you'd like to check out these guitars, [you can do so here](#) (I'd recommend it!).



The Pedalboard

There are three main pedals we need to have set up on our board to get a good Jack White tone. The first

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Blue Army

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Techniques

What makes Jack White sound unique when he's playing lead guitar? That is the question we will be answering in this unit.

Lessons:

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- **The Pentatonic Continued...**
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is a boost pedal of some kind. This is a pedal that takes the dry sound from the amp, and "boosts" it! It adds a little bit of drive and a little bit of crunch. Jack White's clean sound is never completely clean, which is why we need this pedal in our lives! Franco used the Klon KTR, which you can see below.



A boost pedal to ensure that even your clean tone is a little dirty. This is always on!

Next up we're looking at the Digitech Whammy. This pedal takes the pitch of the note you're playing and generates another note to harmonise with it!

Whammy

Jack White loves to use the octave lower feature on this pedal for general riffing, which makes it sound as though there is a bass player too! Plus, if you then use an octave up you get an awesome lead tone!



Finally we have the Big Muff, which is a high sustain, fuzz distortion pedal! It's epic sounding and can sound a little "gross" (Franco's words, not mine!)



Big Muff

Only to be added when you really need to kick into the next gear of distortion, as it completely saturates your sound.

It's also important to know the order of which to place these pedals. We would call this the "chain" of pedals. It would look like this:



The Amp

And finally, let's talk about the amps! With the White Stripes Jack White was really into using a Silvertone and a Fender Twin Reverb. For our amp in this recording environment, we were using the Tonex pedal to get a very good Fender Twin and Silvertone sound, all of which were in the pedal already. We just had to tweak the EQ and reverb amounts to our likings!



Tonex

Phew! And there we have it, the tone of Jack White. None of this is gospel, it is simply how we got the sound for the course. We recommend playing around first with what you have, and if you need any advice on making a purchase, get in touch with us via our community in the Guitar Club Discord server!



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