Meet the Orange Family: DS1, DS2 and DF2 ---brief overview--

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Meet the Orange Family: DS1, DS2 and DF2 ---brief overview--

QUOTE

by visserman » 16 Jan 2012, 15:43

Whenever I plug into a DS-1 I wonder why I do not use that pedal more, as the pedal can give you such pleasing sounds. I know partly why, as the pedal also gives you a certain sound and this sound will tell you what you can do, and what may not sound so good when you use this pedal. Anyway, that is how I play: Give me a sound and I play accordingly, that is the beauty of effects and music!!

Reading some comments on the net which I posted in the other DF-2 thread inspired me to have a closer look at the three pedals as their sound is all of a similar character but each with their own variations.
I will not go into the tracking (or Feedback-sound if you like) of the DF-2, will mainly concentrate on the distortion sound of each pedal.

Volume:
First of all there is the volume issue: A common complaint about the DF-2 (and DS-1 to an extend) is that there is a volumedrop. Out of the three pedals the DS2 is the one which does have the most volume, would therefore be good to stand out in a loud bandcontext. I will mainly focus on mode 1 of the DS2, yes, mode 2 is louder, and different in character, therefore feel no need to compare as it is too different in sound compared to DS1 and DF2.
The weakest of the three in relation to volume is the DF2. DS1 sits happily in the middle.

Tone:
DS1 is very open and responsive to tonal changes: Change dial and pedal takes on different character.
DS2 is very midrangy, not as versatile as DS1.
DF2 is like the DS1, but not as versatile, it sits in the middle of the three, and is closer to DS1 with its responsive character.

Distortion:
DS1 adds volume up till 10 past 2, then it starts to add harmonic content.
Compare different DS1's like Jap. Silver Screw, Black Screw and Taiwanese DS1's and here lies the difference: One may sound more trebly compared to another one. To one ear this may be better, to another ear this may be worse sounding.
Personally I feel the first issue Silver Screw DS-1's do sound best, open and full, compared to newer versions which sound shriller and more compressed. But all of this is very personal and depends on your ears, experience and taste in music and guitarplaying, so let us get away from these comments as soon as we can!!
DS2 adds bass when dist. control is opened up!! The harmonic content is more of a mid-range affair rather than treble.
DF2 acts like DS1, but is more trebly and more compressed.

Conclusion:

All three pedals share similar characteristics. Basic overal tonal character may be similar, the details of overal sound is different! We guitarplayers like details!!
DS-1 is very open, detailed in sound, does have more soul compared to DS2 and DF2.
DF-2 is closer to DS-1 than DS-2, but is also more compressed and volume is weaker.
DS-2 can stand out very well in a loud environment because of its midrange character.
Colour of the actual metal box of DS-2 and DF-2 is very similar. The colour of the DS-1 is darker, older Silver Screw DS-1's are lighter in colour compared to newer versions.

What To Do About Volume Drop DF-2?

Put compressor in front of pedal, push volume of compressor a bit above unity level, put a booster of any nature after DF-2, use Preamp and EQ to finish of the sound, and you will no longer experience any volumedrops.
I used this set-up with my small Marshalls and any of the three pedals added to the sound of my amp rather than taking over the sound of the amp.
Anyone who likes the Marshall sound (Who does not eh???) will enjoy the dist. sound coming out of any of these three pedals. Yes there are differences in sound, and you may prefer a particular pedal over any of the others for a particular sound, but regardless of all what you read, this is a great set-up to please the ears of many guitarplayers all around.

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Re: Meet the Orange Family: DS1, DS2 and DF2 ---brief overvi

QUOTE

by Goran » 17 Jan 2012, 07:12

Great reading
Thanks Visserman!

Goran
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PM

Re: Meet the Orange Family: DS1, DS2 and DF2 ---brief overvi

QUOTE

by visserman » 17 Jan 2012, 13:05

Not a problem Goran, I enjoy doing these kind of things eh?? as you know

Good to see you again anyway, well I know you are around but seem to post less these days.

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Re: Meet the Orange Family: DS1, DS2 and DF2 ---brief overvi

QUOTE

by Zerksies » 17 Jan 2012, 15:16

I am starting to find out most pedals have there own tone cause of component drift. So one DS-1 might sound very bright while another sounds perfect

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