Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 27 Nov 2011, 03:31

Looking into getting some of these old school pedals,
any opinions on these pedals?

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **Dirk** » 27 Nov 2011, 11:28

How about this:

I love the chorus, it was the 2nd pedal I ever bought.
The EQ can come in really handy, and the flanger is also really nice.
The limiter works great, and is really clean sounding, I prefer the bit of dirt the CS-3 gives me.

Dirk

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **natthu** » 27 Nov 2011, 12:03

I have recently sold all of my "Browns" except the PQ-3B. They are all pretty good, I just found I wasn't using them.
They make a neat set if that's all you're using for bass....

Actually some of them are pretty good for guitar aswell.
The CE-2B is supposedly just a CE-2 with the addition of a mix control.
Both Equalizers work well for guitar if you are looking for a darker sound and/or better control over your low end.

natthu

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **nathanscribe** » 27 Nov 2011, 13:46

> *natthu wrote:*
> *The CE-2B is supposedly just a CE-2 with the addition of a mix control.*

Nearly - there's also a different value capacitor to reduce the filtering at the low end.

I have all these browns now -

- and have had a little time to compare them to the non-bass versions.

CE: the 2 and 2b differ in two respects - a mix control, which balances the amount of dry and chorused sounds - and a capacitor change. Contrary to what is often stated in the literature, the CE-2b does not chorus "only the harmonics, leaving the fundamental untouched" - it just has a higher roll-off point, effectively EQ-ing out chorus-only frequencies below a fixed point. There's no fundamental detection going on. The effect of this on the sound is that lower notes are perhaps a bit clearer, but if you want those notes chorussing to the same extent as higher ones, the CE-2b might not be your thing. Otherwise it sounds very nice, as you may expect from the CE-2 DNA.

BF: again there are minor variations between the BF-2 and BF-2b, the main one being a different BBD chip (the bucket brigade device which passes a signal down a chain, and the number of stages of which, coupled with the clock speed, determines the length of time the delay takes). The BF-2 uses an MN3207 (1024-stage), and the 2b uses an MN3204 (512-stage). This means the signal takes half as long to pass through the delay line, for a given clock speed - which takes the sound from the clangy, metallic drainpipe effect more towards a smoother, tighter, almost phasey sound. The BF-2b uses the same length delay as the HF-2, but with different filtering. Personally, I found the BF-2 a bit too hard-sounding, and the HF-2 is smoother but still has some of that quality at the longer flange times. The BF-2b is the best-sounding of the three, to my ears, with less of the harsh side and more of the smooth side. It can resonate but when set more gently, it has a subtler effect than the others.

GE: There's a lower frequency range than the standard GE-7, and more evenly spaced bands than the newer GEB-7. I like the GE-7b, it can be useful as a frequency-selective overdrive (set sliders at extremes) and has plenty of boost and cut available. The limitation of a small number of bands is always evident in these units though.

PQ: ... and that's where the Parametric comes in. I was expecting this to be less immediate than it is; I've found it very quick to dial in (not had it long) and there's more boost/cut than the GE. There are only three bands, but because you can tailor the frequencies of each, it's more flexible than the GE. You can get right down to the bottom end, and also right up to the top. Very nice little pedal, I think.

LM: I've not used the regular LM-2, but I do have a couple of other compressors around: Boss CS-3 and EHX White Finger (optical) being two pedal models. I've only briefly used the LM-2b so far, and found the sound transparent and the controls easy to set up. Not sure about the "enhance" control though - contrary to what I've

read in the literature, it's not a volume boost, it's a high-frequency lift. I suppose if your sound is dulled by other effects, you can add clarity up top with this. I've not found a use for that so far.

nathanscribe

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 27 Nov 2011, 14:01

Those are the ones!
Had the chorus one a while back, liked the Effect level control and the EQ seemed to work well with both guitar and bass.

What about the LM2B? How is it compared to the LM2

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **strangekomet** » 28 Nov 2011, 08:26

really like the ce-2b. bought mine on a whim, and it hasn't moved from my board since. i was never a big chorus fan till i got it.

strangekomet

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 28 Nov 2011, 16:14

Picked up a CE2B last night, the one with the funky knobs like the DM3
Just sounds right

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **strangekomet** » 28 Nov 2011, 20:47

Nice

strangekomet

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **verivorax** » 30 Nov 2011, 01:26

I have the BF-2B and the CE-2B and find them really nice for both guitar and bass...

but it hasn't happened yet..

verivorax

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **stratguy23** » 03 Dec 2011, 22:53

One of my friends modded the heck out of a CE-2b, it can now do ring mod sounds even! He plays both guitar and bass, and it sounds really good on both.

stratguy23

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **zombiwoof** » 21 Dec 2011, 19:54

I have a CE-2B (MIJ) that I got really cheap, I had heard that they are the same as the CE-2 except for the added mix pot and basically one resistor change (as noted, to move the range of the chorus up). I had intended to change out that resistor, as I wanted to use it for guitar, but found that it sounds great as is. They can be had for much less

money than a CE-2, and the mix control is a great addition. I think the secret's getting out about these, though, and as more guitar players seek them out the prices will surely go up.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **nathanscribe** » 21 Dec 2011, 20:11

It's a cap, not a resistor, change - and it doesn't move the range up exactly, it just cuts the low end on the chorus. I like the CE-2 as it is, but I prefer the BF-2B to the regular 2. It's more like the HF-2 really, which I find about halfway between the two.

nathanscribe

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **zombiwoof** » 21 Dec 2011, 20:17

Sorry about that, I remembered it was one component but forgot what it was!. Funny, I was going to ask if the BF-2B was good for guitar, too (that is what you're using it for, right?).

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **nathanscribe** » 21 Dec 2011, 22:26

No need to apologise, I just feel compelled to play my small part in reducing the amount of misinformation on the web that regularly arises from tiny errors and such - and which I also make plenty of myself, thereby undoing all my own work. Ah, life. 😬

I'm using all my pedals for synth and bass. Synths have a very wide frequency range, and getting a flanger that sounds good across the whole lot is harder than it should be! It's a matter of taste, but personally I found the BF-2 a bit clangy and harsh at the low end of its range. The HF-2 has some of that too, but coupled with a gentler overall tone I think - and the BF-2b is kind of an HF-2 with the hard edge removed. That's my experience anyway, yours may differ. My all time fave for swooshy goodness is the EHX Deluxe Electric Mistress, but for something smoother the BF-2b strikes me as a nice one.

nathanscribe

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 22 Dec 2011, 17:01

The CE2B is great with a 8-string bass
Have a PQ4 and sorta works with the bass, but lose some of that vital low end
Hope I can find some good deals on some more brown pedals,
including the OC2, suppose to be killer with bass with octave strings

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **Dirk** » 23 Dec 2011, 09:59

Funny you mention that, I had an 8-string for a while a couple years ago.
And I found that the natural chorus effects that happens with 8-string basses and 12-string guitars
didn't sound too good in conjunction with my real chorus effects, it kinda diminished each other real weird.
I have a cool demo mp3 of my old 8-string, but it won't attach cause it
"was identified as a possible attack vector", WTF..?! How do I upload it here?

Dirk

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 23 Dec 2011, 23:25

Kinda noticed that too, with it's 'built in chorus' so use it sparingly

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **natthu** » 23 Dec 2011, 23:38

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *...I found that the natural chorus effects that happens with 8-string basses and 12-string guitars didn't sound too good in conjunction with my real chorus effects, it kinda diminished each other real weird.*

It's even worse for a triple course 12 string bass. The two drone strings for each course interact in a harsher fashion as they are the same gauge.

natthu

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **ChristoMephisto** » 24 Dec 2011, 01:28

That would sound like too much going on at once, wonder if they play just two strings in different combos, ie the two octaves, or an octave plus a fundamental

ChristoMephisto

Re: Brown Bass pedals

by **natthu** » 24 Dec 2011, 02:10

Good players (unlike myself) are able to play seperate strings to excellent effect. Having two drones for each fundamental also allows you to tune one to a different interval (eg to a 5th or a 3rd) to make chord sounds. I haven't really tried that much myself but I would imagine that would work better with a chorus pedal....

natthu