OS-2

by **Pepe** » 31 Jan 2012, 23:10

Today I received an OS-2 in very good condition with box and everything. I finally managed to grab one for quite cheap in that condition. The last time I had the chance to test an OS-2 was ten years ago when the music shop I work in still sold BOSS pedals.

I tested it against my OD-2R and my DF-2.

OverDrive mode: The sound of the OS-2's OverDrive circuit is a bit similar to the Turbo mode of the OD-2R. I like the OD-2R's sound much more, because the OS-2 does roll off the low end very much whereas the OD-2R has a somewhat fatter fundament. And the OD-2R has a very transparent sound while the OS-2 sounds muddy. Muddy in a nice way, but for me my beloved OD-2R wins soundwise.

Distortion mode: I always wondered if the OS-2's Distortion circuit sounded similar to a DS-1 or a DF-2. I have a DF-2 (as mentioned) and the pedals definitely don't sound the same. The OS-2's Distortion mode is much fatter in most settings. While the OverDrive mode lacks low end, the Distortion mode has more low end than a DF-2. I like it. It has much more "Metal" character.

Tone control: The Tone control of the OS-2 in the Distortion mode works better than the DF-2's. The DF-2 sounds low and muffled when Tone is turned to the minimum and harsh and with lots of low end loss when turned to the maximum. The OS-2's Tone control does a better job. It leaves the low end as it is and just adds highs when turned clockwise - the Tone knob of the OD-2R (or OD-2) does the same, by the way!

Overall it is a nice pedal, but defintely no keeper. I like the Color knob at 2:00h, but I think I can get similar results with my OD-2R, my PW-2 (or another distortion pedal) and the A/B Mix function of my LS-2.

There will be a demo some day and off it goes to the next owner.

The BossArea Forum featured a Review area. Skugga, can you put one up here as well, please?

Pepe

Re: OS-2

by **visserman** » 09 Feb 2012, 12:28

Good Write up Pepe!!
To sum up the OS-2 with one word would be: More compressed than any of the pedals you compared it to.
The DF-2 sounds also compressed compared to a DS-1. I guess it is how one would define "compressed"? Think of DS-1 as open, very open, then anything which gets away from that sound I would say is: "Compressed"

Another example: HM-2 open, MT-2 compressed ect.

visserman

Re: OS-2

by **Jeremy** » 14 Feb 2012, 13:00

I reckon my OS-2 sounds a bit RAT-ish in distortion mode

or, perhaps more accurately, a bit Ibanez FAT CAT-ish

Jeremy

Re: OS-2

by **Cobra94** » 14 Feb 2012, 18:34

I'm not crazy about mine either, found it very thin sounding like there's major bass cutting going on. It just dosen't give me the overdirve sound I'm looking for.

I'll either try to mod it or move it along as well.

Cobra94

Re: OS-2

by **Pepe** » 14 Feb 2012, 20:25

Buy an OD-2R if you haven't tried that one before. I prefer this one, not the OD-2 (no matter if MIJ or MIT). It doesn't have this huge low-end loss.

Pepe

Re: OS-2

by **Cobra94** » 14 Feb 2012, 20:30

I do have a OD-2 which I like better but have been meaning to see the difference (and there supposedly is one) between the -2 and -2r.

Thanks for the heads up.

Cobra94

Re: OS-2

by **Pepe** » 14 Feb 2012, 20:35

I will finish my OD-2 vs. OD-2R demo video in the next weeks. The OD-2R with volume at 12:00h is as loud as the predecessor at the maximum position! It has so much more volume. Plus, the Turbo mode is a bit louder. It has just the right amount of volume boost which the OD-2 doesn't have. And the remote jack is simply great.

Pepe

Re: OS-2

by **e_kimmu** » 16 Feb 2012, 13:29

Hey peppe

Can you kindly take a look inside the pedal and give me the reference of each transistors Q1 to Q7 please ? cause i would like update the OS2 scheme that have a few errors.

e_kimmu

Re: OS-2

by **Dirk** » 16 Feb 2012, 16:40

Guitarist Paul Gilbert used an OS-2 back in the day.
Here's it's used in combination with a CS-3 and some chorus.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIlSPg1WvBc

I just couldn't pass up on spamming a video by one of my favourite bands.

Dirk

Re: OS-2

by **Pepe** » 22 Feb 2012, 11:31

> *e_kimmu wrote:*
> *Hey peppe*
>
> *Can you kindly take a look inside the pedal and give me the reference of each transistors Q1 to Q7 please ? cause i would like update the OS2 scheme that have a few errors.*

Finally I have managed to open the OS-2 to have a look inside. This is what's written on the transistors:

Q1: K 118 Y OF
Q2: C3378 GR OE
Q3: C3378 GR OE
Q4: K 184 GR OE
Q5: C3378 GR OE
Q6: K 118 Y OF
Q7: K 118 Y OF
Q8: C2458 GR O D
Q9: C2458 GR O D

Pepe