BF-2

by **Tenebrous** » 26 Nov 2011, 04:26

Howdy,

Some of you may know that I recently acquired a MIJ Boss BF-2 in a part exchange with SP-1 I was pretty excited about it, I know quite a few people love it... It's the first flanger I've owned since selling on my EHX DEM and to be honest, I just can't bond with it. I spent a good hour or two tweaking the knobs, running it with different pedals in and out the (parellel) effects loop... Nothing.

It does the faster settings rather well in my opinion, but when it comes to the slow, moody flange, it just doesn't cut it for me. The DEM was just pristine on slower settings, and I do hope to own one again in the future.

That being said, if you have some favourite settings for the BF-2, please let me know! I don't want to sell it on only to hear a sound clip at a later date that'll leave me wanting another one I'm gonna try out some of Pepe's settings tomorrow

Tenebrous

Re: BF-2

by **natthu** » 26 Nov 2011, 04:33

If you can get your hands on a BF-1, I heartily recommend it... as for the BF-2, I have one but rarely use it (I rarely use a flanger at all).
I generally like modulation effects to be subtle and quite often run them using a mixing pedal (like the Boss LS-2 or the DingoTone TLM), that way you can tone it down a touch and mix in some dry signal...

natthu

Re: BF-2

by **Pepe** » 26 Nov 2011, 11:22

I prefer a BF-3 over the BF-2.

Pepe

Re: BF-2

by **Dirk** » 26 Nov 2011, 11:34

My favourite settings (in o'clock):

Classic 70's "Barracuda" type Flanging:

- manual 2
- depth 10
- rate 10
- res 10

80's swirling "Bark at the moon" type of chorus, good with distortion after it:

- manual - minimum, or I guess 7 o'clock
- depth 10
- rate 10
- res also minimum

Basically, under 12 o'clock on the manual is chorus territory, over 12 gets into flanging.

Dirk

Re: BF-2

by **nathanscribe** » 26 Nov 2011, 13:04

I've been through a few flangers... EHX DEM, EHX Stereo EM, Boss BF-2, HF-2, BF-2b, Yamaha FL-01, Rocktek, Solec (aka Locobox), and have dabbled with a few others, including a couple of Ibanez models.

What I've found is that flangers are very dependent on what goes through them, and some respond very well to bass, some to higher tones - and this is partly dependent on their architecture. For example, the BF-2 uses a 1024-stage BBD chip (3207), whereas the BF-2b and HF-2 both use 512-stage devices. The Yamaha FL-01 uses a 1024-stage (the higher-headroom 3007), but interestingly passes no dry signal into the flange effect - so you only hear the flange of the flange, so to speak. Different tone. The 512-stage devices are smoother, as for any given clock speed the delay through the circuit is half as long - which means a tighter sound, and what I like to describe as a creamier, thicker tone. It can get almost phasey at the short end, and the cheap old Rocktek is a good example of a very quirky sounding unit that does exactly that. The BF-2 is one of the more metallic, harder flangers, when considered across the entire range of its sweep - the HF-2 is softer, but still dips in to BF-2 territory. The BF-2b is nicer still, and seems to have the smoothness of the shorter delay line without the harder edge of the other Boss compacts. Perhaps that's due to the low-cut filter that reduces the bass end.

Keeping the resonance low when doing broad sweeps is one way to tame the BF-2. Or, if you're wanting a resonant sound, keep the depth lower and the manual at the tighter end.

Or buy a BF-2b instead.

nathanscribe

Re: BF-2

by **Zerksies** » 26 Nov 2011, 13:09

I am a fan of the BF-2. I have probably sold about 100 of these things.It's just one of them great Boss pedals, i wonder why they just stopped making it

Zerksies

Re: BF-2

by **ChristoMephisto** » 26 Nov 2011, 13:20

Since the HF2 and the BF2B have a 512 BBD, the rate is half of the BF2,
Boss wanted to make something more suited for rhythm

ChristoMephisto

Re: BF-2

by **natthu** » 27 Nov 2011, 12:28

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *I prefer a BF-3 over the BF-2.*

Really? Do you prefer the 3 because it is versatile?

natthu

Re: BF-2

by **Pepe** » 27 Nov 2011, 13:23

Not only the versatility is what I love about my BF-3! It can sound to 95% like its predecessor. And its values can be set much higher. I tested both flangers one to one and the BF-3 won!

Pepe

Re: BF-2

by **natthu** » 27 Nov 2011, 21:27

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *.... And its values can be set much higher.....*

That's probably why I don't like it as much. Too over the top for me. The BF-3 is excellent though if you are looking for those more extreme settings

natthu

Re: BF-2

by **Pepe** » 27 Nov 2011, 22:20

Actually I bought the BF-3 back then, because I wanted an extreme sounding flanger for a recording. Bull's eye!

I'm not a big fan of subtle flanging, I prefer a "real" chorus then. But that may change if I ever get my hands on an HF-2.

Pepe

Re: BF-2

by **Tenebrous** » 27 Nov 2011, 23:47

Nope... Spent a while with it. It isn't for me
Tenebrous

Re: BF-2

by **Franzoni** » 28 Nov 2011, 00:03

I have one and i'll probably keep it as it does a nice swirly chorus and i don't really sell pedals on... but i don't really use flanging in my setup anymore....

Franzoni

Re: BF-2

by **Tenebrous** » 28 Nov 2011, 00:11

I want a Gibson at the moment, and I've found quite a nice second hand one... Just depends on a few sales going the right way So I'm not gonna keep the BF-2 around sadly. Was worth a try !

Tenebrous

Re: BF-2

by **Jeremy** » 28 Nov 2011, 04:07

I'm waiting on a BF-2 in the mail. I will be interested to compare it to my BF-1, which sounds great esp on 12V

Jeremy

Re: BF-2

by **skugga** » 28 Nov 2011, 04:10

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts. It would be interesting to see how close the BF-1 at 9v is to the BF-2 as well.

I could never bond with the BF-2 but the BF-1 is one of my prize possessions now.

skugga

Re: BF-2

by **Jeremy** » 28 Nov 2011, 04:11

mine too

Jeremy

Re: BF-2

by **Franzoni** » 28 Nov 2011, 04:12

One of the best chorus sounds i've heard out of a BOSS pedal was on youtube and it was a BF-1 on a chorus type setting...sounded sweet.....

Franzoni

Re: BF-2

by **natthu** » 28 Nov 2011, 07:27

I don't think anything stands up to the BF-1 on 12v.... well, nothing I've heard anyway.

natthu

Re: BF-2

by **strangekomet** » 28 Nov 2011, 09:00

> *Tene wrote:*
> *I want a Gibson at the moment, and I've found quite a nice second hand one... Just depends on a few sales going the right way So I'm not gonna keep the BF-2 around sadly. Was worth a try !*

don't feel bad tene, i could never come to terms with mine either. it funded a mij ds-1 for me

strangekomet

Re: BF-2

by **Joske_Turbo** » 29 Nov 2011, 18:38

You see how tastes can differ, I love my BF-2 to bits. Although the HF-2 also seems really great, would love to try one out one day.

Joske_Turbo

Re: BF-2

by **Arpeggiator** » 29 Nov 2011, 18:49

I've said it before and I will say it again: I love the BF-2 as a chorus. I sometimes prefer it over my CE-2

Arpeggiator

Re: BF-2

by **Mully** » 29 Nov 2011, 18:55

Arpeggiator.... is your avatar a sign of reluctance ?

Mully

Re: BF-2

by **Arpeggiator** » 29 Nov 2011, 19:01

More of an accident, I guess. But your interpretation kinda fits the bill, too ;)

BTW, thanks for the E-Mail!

Arpeggiator

Re: BF-2

by **zombiwoof** » 21 Dec 2011, 19:59

Is there any discernible sound difference between the MIJ and MIT BF-2's?. I also notice in the Bossarea info that there was an opamp change late in the run, does that make any difference?.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: BF-2

by **DB Cooper** » 21 Dec 2011, 20:01

I have one of each and I haven't noticed much of a difference. Maybe subtle, though...and my hearing is certainly not able to discern real subtle differences. :roll:

DB Cooper