pedals for synths

by **BO55** » 08 May 2012, 16:57

Anyone ever do this? I know about the impedance issue(s). But some pedals do play well with line-level instruments. Then there's 'low z - high z/high z - low z' boxes.

BO55

Re: pedals for synths

by **Pepe** » 08 May 2012, 17:13

Hi there and welcome to the forum!

I love to use effects pedals with my synths. My go-to pedals are the BOSS DD-7 and RV-5. The PH-3 is great with synths as well, maybe even better than with guitar, especially if you run string pads through the "up" or "down" modes. My vintage KORG 800dv duophonic synthesizer responds very well to the BOSS OC-3 and can sound really nasty when used with Ring Modulator sounds and the OC-3's drive setting. The BOSS FT-2 is great for synths without filter resonance or for stage pianos to funk up the clavinet sounds.

I also have the PS-3 and the PN-2 and both should sound great with synths as well - I just haven't tried it yet.

Pepe

Re: pedals for synths

by **nathanscribe** » 08 May 2012, 17:23

I use pedals with synths all the time - overdrives, octavers, phasers, delays, flangers, compressors, whatever. I don't pay any attention to people who say you need to worry about impedance, all you really need to watch is the output level of your synth. If the pedal input is clipping, turn down your synth volume. That's all. Pedal input impedance is fine for synths. Pedal output impedance might not be great for line level inputs without good gain, but if you get problems with that, all you need to do is DI the pedal output into your mixer/interface. Problem solved. So aside from a boatload of pedals, grab yourself a decent DI and get on with it.

nathanscribe

Re: pedals for synths

by **BO55** » 08 May 2012, 17:40

Sweet! I got a MXR Blue Box w/ an MXR EQ behind it (sounds better this way). Kinda get that 8 bit video game sound. I just picked up a Boss KM-6A mixer to use as a sub mixer and for overdrive purposes.

BO55

Re: pedals for synths

by **nathanscribe** » 08 May 2012, 19:30

I like the KM-6A. I've got one of those and a KM-60, which has sends & returns, and different op-amps on the input, but it still very good at imparting that undertow of happy grit... as for the Blue Box, I've often wondered what they sound like with synths and/or drum machines. Most regular octavers are not that great with synths, not for regular octave effects anyway, but you can get some good dirt from them sometimes. I have a Korg octaver that has terrible tracking and the octaves are too hefty, which makes it handy in my book!

nathanscribe

Re: pedals for synths

by **BO55** » 08 May 2012, 19:46

Cool. The mixer is in fantastic shape (cosmetically). But channel one doesn't play on the left speaker. All other channels and their eq's, gains, pans work good. I have no idea how to fix this. That's if 'it can' be fixed. *shrugs*

The Blue Box doesn't track well. But I like that.

BO55

Re: pedals for synths

by **Laurie** » 08 May 2012, 19:58

> *BO55 wrote:*
> *Cool. The mixer is in fantastic shape (cosmetically). But channel one doesn't play on the left speaker. All other channels and their eq's, gains, pans work good. I have no idea how to fix this. That's if 'it can' be fixed. *shrugs**

Almost certainly can be fixed... post some pics of the internals and we'll give you a few ideas.

Laurie

Re: pedals for synths

by **BO55** » 10 May 2012, 06:17

Wow, thanks! I haven't taken a look inside yet. Not really keen on this kinda stuff. I do know the general area where to look though. Photos coming soon.

BO55

Re: pedals for synths

by **BO55** » 14 May 2012, 19:28

Well I opened it up and took some photos. I began to turn the panpot alot. It wasn't stiff as opposed to the other pots. Put it back together, put a synth through that channel and plugged in the headphones.

This time I can hear it slightly hard panned left. Kept on turning the panpot and boom, it worked! No static either. Turned it some more and sounded good. Even level coming out the left/right channel.

Thanks again everyone.

BO55