BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **jsoi_narciso** » 18 Jan 2012, 00:25

has anyone used or owned this unit? to those who have owned the unit, does it sound different from the stompbox flangers that BOSS have produced (ex. the BF-1, BF-2, etc.)? im planning to buy one before the end of the month. im on a search of a wet sounding flanger (same/close in terms of sound with the flanger featured on a Zoom G1 multifx). my current rig right now is a BOSS GT-3 and a TS808 on the fx loop, and unfortunately the flangers on the GT-3 ain't my taste of sound.

and would USD120.00 a good price for a NOS RBF-10?

it's nice to here

jsoi_narciso

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **Zerksies** » 18 Jan 2012, 00:42

I have never used one but from the bossarea description it has more uses then just for a guitar. I would assume it would sound pretty decent, boss does not sell anything that ever sounded that bad. And i have checked other boss micro racks and they all seem to sell in the $120 range. So you are not over paying for it and if you don't like the sound of it you will probably get your money back. There is a bonus if there is instructions and a box for it.

Zerksies

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **nathanscribe** » 18 Jan 2012, 10:58

In my experience, the microrack units are sometimes very much like expanded versions of the matching pedals - the RPH is a PH-2 with extras, the RDD is a long-chip DD-2/3 with extras - I've had an RCE-10 and RRV-10 too, and I'm guessing they're based on the same guts as the DC-3 and RV-2. I've never seen the guts of either to compare, so that's just conjecture. So though I know from comparison between the circuits about the RPH & RDD, I can't say for certain with the others.

They're great little units anyway, and well worth trying out. If you need something to stomp on, you can attach a footswitch like the FS ones.

nathanscribe

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **Laurie** » 18 Jan 2012, 11:51

Sidetracking just a little....

In 5 years of collecting Boss, not a single one of this series has come up for sale in my home town that I've seen (and I keep a pretty close eye on it). I've never seen or touched one. It's kind of fascinating... some MUST have been sold here back in the day.

Laurie

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **strangekomet** » 18 Jan 2012, 12:13

somebody's hoarding them all

strangekomet

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **tunghaichuan** » 18 Jan 2012, 17:21

> *Nathanscribe wrote:*
> *In my experience, the microrack units are sometimes very much like expanded versions of the matching pedals - the RPH is a PH-2 with extras, the RDD is a long-chip DD-2/3 with extras - I've had an RCE-10 and RRV-10 too, and I'm guessing they're based on the same guts as the DC-3 and RV-2. I've never seen the guts of either to compare, so that's just conjecture. So though I know from comparison between the circuits about the RPH & RDD, I can't say for certain with the others.*
>
> *They're great little units anyway, and well worth trying out. If you need something to stomp on, you can attach a footswitch like the FS ones.*

I've owned two of them in the past. They are great sounding units. It's been a while since I've had one, but nathanscribe is right, they have lots of parameters to tweak and are very flexible in that regard. Lots of good sounds to be had in those units.

When I first started playing guitar in the mid 80s, I remember seeing a display of the Micro Rack series in a music store. Very gas inducing. But I was a poor, starving college student at the time and couldn't afford to buy new.

I also had an RDD-10, but I didn't like it much as the delay time only went up to 400ms. I did have the tray for putting two Micro Rack units together to fill one 1U rack space.

tunghaichuan

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **Dirk** » 18 Jan 2012, 17:26

If it's equally great in quality as my RCL-10 and RDD-10 then go for it.

Dirk

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **nathanscribe** » 18 Jan 2012, 17:55

> *Tunghaichuan wrote:*
> *I also had an RDD-10, but I didn't like it much as the delay time only went up to 400ms.*

That is the only reason I sold mine - I so often use long delays that anything that doesn't provide them ends up gathering dust. I use short delays too, but like them both in one unit for convenience. I ended up with a pair of Digitech RDS 1900 instead, but they lack the infinite feedback and repeat tone control of the RDD! Can't win !

nathanscribe

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **jsoi_narciso** » 19 Jan 2012, 01:06

thanks for your replies guys
if this thing self oscillates it would be a bonus (just like the BF-1)

jsoi_narciso

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **tunghaichuan** » 19 Jan 2012, 04:24

One of the cool sounds I was able to get out of the RBF-10 was kind of a comb filtering effect. It had the effect of slightly compressing the signal and making it sound kind of hollow and distinct. I just turned down the rate knob to min so that the effect didn't really sweep. Turned the depth up all the way to max.

To get an idea of what I'm describing, this solo in the video captures the vibe.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdpTcvSn8HQ&ob=av2e

The solo starts about 2:50.

I don't know if James Mankey was using an RBF-10, but it was pretty easy to get that kind of sound using it. I called it the "Concrete Blonde" tone.

tunghaichuan

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **nathanscribe** » 19 Jan 2012, 11:33

You should be able to do that on any flanger by setting the depth to zero - the rate shouldn't matter - and using the manual control to position the flange. The frequencies coloured by the flange will depend on the range of delay times employed - some go deeper, some higher - I'm particularly liking the DOD FX75B for deep clangourous settings, and the Solec FL341 for tight ones. The HF-2 also does a reasonable job at the top end. I've also got an EHX DEM and Yamaha FL-01 which sound hollower, and might benefit from a drier blend.

nathanscribe

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **tunghaichuan** » 19 Jan 2012, 16:55

Maybe it's just me, or maybe it's something special about the RBF-10, but the RBF-10 is one of the only flangers I've tried where the rate control dialed down to min will turn off the sweep completely. Most other flangers, there is still some sweep even when the rate is turned all the way down. It's been a while since I've used a BF-2, so it could be that my memory is faulty. If that is the case, I'll just pick up a used Boss compact and forget about the RBF-10. They used to be a good deal at $40-$50, but most of the ones I've seen on eBay have gone for over $100.

tunghaichuan

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **Dirk** » 19 Jan 2012, 17:19

We're having conflicting theories about getting that sound.
According to Nathanscribe you should turn the depth to zero, while tunghaichuan talks about turning down the rate control.
I have to try this myself, I have a BF-2 on my board.

I'll get back to you on that.

Dirk

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **nathanscribe** » 19 Jan 2012, 18:16

On my Boss compact pedal flangers (I've had the BF-2, HF-2 and BF-2b) the depth control will, at minimum, null the amount of sweep modulating the flange. Minimum rate, on the other hand, always has *some* effect, even if it is very slow. With the depth at zero, the rate setting is inconsequential.

I've never used the RBF, so don't know if that acts differently by design.

All that sound is, is a non-swept flange. The EHX Deluxe Electric Mistress has a switch to cancel the modulation, for example.

Because of how flangers like this work, it's also possible to use a delay pedal with high feedback and a very short delay time, again without modulation. Not all delays are capable of it, but many are. Flangers are basically delays with times of between 0.5ms and maybe 20ms or so, maybe more. It's also why some flangers make a decent chorus sound, as chorus is basically the same effect with a longer delay time. They tend to use different filtering and feedback, but they're pretty similar.

nathanscribe

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **Dirk** » 19 Jan 2012, 20:35

> *nathanscribe wrote:*
> *Minimum rate, on the other hand, always has some effect, even if it is very slow. With the depth at zero, the rate setting is inconsequential.*

Yep, that's what I just found out too.
Experimenting is always good.

Dirk

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **tunghaichuan** » 21 Jan 2012, 16:18

> *nathanscribe wrote:*
> *On my Boss compact pedal flangers (I've had the BF-2, HF-2 and BF-2b) the depth control will, at minimum, null the amount of sweep modulating the flange. Minimum rate, on the other hand, always has some effect, even if it is very slow. With the depth at zero, the rate setting is inconsequential.*
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Thanks for the clarification. It's been a while since I've had an RBF-10, at least 10 years so I was going off my memory (which wasn't what it used to be.) It was the depth turned down to zero that stops the sweep, not the rate as I stated.

One of the cool things about the RBF-10 is that it has so many more options than a BF-2 or other pedal, there are lots of sounds that simply cannot be copped with the compacts.

tunghaichuan

Re: BOSS RBF-10 Flanger

by **silverface** » 11 Feb 2012, 02:52

I have one -

It's far more advance than the stompbox version(s) of Boss Flangers. There are several trimpots inside, and those are the secret to getting your own sound out of the thing. Most people who've bought them have no idea that it sounds so either over-the-top or mellow becauise a previous owner has set it radically one way or the other using the trimpots (which are devilish little suckers - it takes a while to find the tiny "sweet spot" for each one, just like on most similar gear). You can turn it into a (as noted above) self-oscillating spaceship from hell. All that takes the way mine is set - which is pretty normal for a flanger - is to turn the feedback close to all the way positive *or* negative. One way and it sounds like something is coming at you - turn it the other way and it sounds like something's escaping. But you can also get very mellow but spacious affects with it that don't sound goofy or contrived.

It's also nice having both 1/4" and RCA jacks, plus the polarity switch (can make a big difference when run through a biamped setup with multiple mics). The -10db/-20db switch on the back is another thing that seems confusing, but is very useful - basically set it on -20db for normal flanger sounds, with the usual (well, less than a stompbox, thankfully) ambient noise level; use the -10db for a quick cutoff when the signal drops to a low level. Simple noise reduction so the thing isn't swooshing over everything else when it's plugged in but the instrument using it isn't being played (especially useful on stage).

I've been using mine for a long time with guitars or keys in a home studio (not as much live) and it's a versatile little sucker (great fun running drum tracks or bass through it as well). They're hard to find as the players who eventually get them and know how to use them don't ever seem to let loose of them. They used to be all over eBay cheaper than pedals, but not anymore. however, even though it's small it *is* another piece of outboard analog gear to deal with, and something you need to use an outboard footswitch with live - which is why I might be parting with mine before too long. Those are the only downsides I can think of - it even uses a standard Boss PSA power adapter.

It does sound really good whether used as a "standard" flanger or in a more extreme (or mild) setting. I've not found anything I can actually compare it to.

silverface