SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 29 Mar 2013, 12:20

In the market for some synthy goodness. So before leaping headfirst into heavy expenditure on say a EHX Microsnyth, what are these two BOSS offerings like? Any preferences? Pros v's cons?

I`d be using them with guitar too.

Thanks!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Pepe** » 29 Mar 2013, 12:35

The SYB-3 might be more useful with guitar, since it has a T Wah mode which sounds very nice, especially because you can blend the direct sound and the wah signal very effectively. The wave shaper works pretty good with guitar, because it doesn't work polyphonic only as the oscillator modes 1 to 7. The oscillator modes which produce an octave down synth sound are the best ones for guitar. The normal pitched sounds don't have a tracking that is too suitable for guitar in the 12th fret. The octave down modes can almost be used on the whole guitar fretboard.

I haven't tried an SYB-5 yet, but the predecessor could be the better choice with guitar.

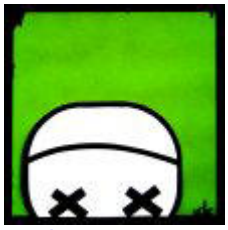
Pepe

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **natthu** » 29 Mar 2013, 12:38

I have both. They each have their strong points, but to generalise, the 3 sounds more "analog".
Tracking is a little better on the 5 and it also has a few more options than the 3 (and EXP input).

I think both the Boss synth pedals are better than any of the other compact-form synth pedals I've tried, but I haven't tried the EHX micro synth so I can't compare.


natthu

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Clean Channel** » 30 Mar 2013, 01:28

One of my students bought an SYB-3 and brought it in this week. I had never tried one, but found it to be a lot of fun!

Clean Channel

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 30 Mar 2013, 03:45

Thank you for the info chaps.

In terms of cost and practically (and of course brand loyalty!) I think the BOSS may serve me well. I would imagine based on the opinions here and the fact that there is likely to be cheaper used SYB-3s about as its the older unit..that its the one. Of course I`ll have to find and try one first

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **nathanscribe** » 30 Mar 2013, 11:56

I knocked together a demo of both the SYB-3 and -5 a while ago:

https://soundcloud.com/njramsden/boss-s ... d-korg-drv

They were triggered by a synth, but at least you get to hear what the pedals sound like. Hope it helps.

nathanscribe

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Pepe** » 30 Mar 2013, 12:07

SYB-4, alright...

Man, the SYB-3 has really the better sounding sawtooth wave, whereas the SYB-5's square wave has more punch. Thanks for the demo! I really need the follow-up model. GAS...

Did I miss something or did you skip the waveshaper and wah modes of the SYB-3? What's that nasal sound at 6:32?

Pepe

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **nathanscribe** » 30 Mar 2013, 17:51

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *SYB-4, alright...*

Haha, whoops. Corrected.

> *Man, the SYB-3 has really the better sounding sawtooth wave, whereas the SYB-5's square wave has more punch. Thanks for the demo! I really need the follow-up model. GAS...*

I found it hard to pick a favourite, honestly. I preferred the 3's saw but the 5's LFO would be more useful in more situations than the white noise of the 3. I thinkthe 5 is probably the better pedal overall, but if you like the 3's sawtooth, have both

> *Did I miss something or did you skip the waveshaper and wah modes of the SYB-3? What's that nasal sound at 6:32?*

Nope, all modes used in numerical order. The attack on the later modes of the 3 is slower - it's a while since I recorded these, and I no longer have the pedals, but I seem to remember that being some kind of envelope follower on the filter on the SYB. The Moog patch never changes all the way through. I suspect with a lower level signal like a passive instrument, the waveshaping would be more varied.

At 6:32 it's just one of the pulse waves I think, but I was tweaking the filter of the pedals while the Moog arpeggiated around, so it's probably just a combination of a certain pulsewidth and frequency cutoff/resonance. There were no added effects like overdrive etc - just the Moog through the SYBs (ignoring the reverb at the end).

nathanscribe

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Kulten** » 02 Dec 2016, 23:26

Agree with lots of things here.

The SYB-3 is more "analog"-like, and miss the LFO, but with a tremolo pedal, it works. I had the SYB-5 but did'nt realy play with it and finally sold it. Pulse 2 sound was good, it's a synthetic voice, impressive. Double square mode is noisy and fat. The LFO is incredible. But that wasn't enough to keep it.

What is amazing with the SYB-3 it's the resonnance filter, really powerfull. The SYB-3 stands somewhere in the SH- synth series by Roland. It's almost a pocket SH-101. It's realy my favourite synthesizer of all times. In fact both SYB-3 and 5 are very sensitive, you can program lots of sounds.

An engineer from Boss/Roland Europe told me once that the SYB-3 is more expensive because his chip is unique, while the chip in the SYB-5 is also used by other machines by Roland.

I have a SYB-3 since 1996, november. Still play with it. Two days ago I played with my soul/funk cover band, and for Herbie Hancock's "Chameleon" the keyboard player programmed the bass sound. I followed him with the SYB-3 for fun, and the band said "OK, keyboards bass for intro, but when it goes solo or doing another things you play the bass with the SYB on Chameleon".

A friend of mine once plugged an electric guitar, playing softly some clean hords, the result was a random bassline, something psychedelic. With a keyboard it's amazing. I played one day, 15 years ago, with 3 SYB-3 chained triggered by a drum machine, in an electronic music gathering. Well, you can do so much with these little synthesizers...

20 years almost averyday on it and still find surprises.

Kulten

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Kulten** » 11 Dec 2016, 20:50

By the way, I have an electronic music project based on SYB-3 : https://www.facebook.com/DatenDaMusic

Kulten

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Laurie** » 11 Feb 2018, 18:06

Reviving an old thread...

I've finally connected up an SYB-3 I bought ages ago. I have a question...

In modes 1-7 I have to pick pretty hard to get it to sense the bass signal. Is this normal? No sound until you pick hard?

Laurie

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Pepe** » 11 Feb 2018, 18:34

It needs quite hard picking, but actually not a sound with drastic volume. Maybe the output of your instrument is somewhat weak? I had no problems with my old YXamaha or my current Squier bass (passive pickups).

Pepe

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Laurie** » 11 Feb 2018, 18:36

Thanks! I changed the battery in my bass and that helped. Also using a pick fixes most of it.

Laurie

Re: SYB-3 v's SYB-5?

by **Dirk** » 11 Feb 2018, 19:26

I had one, I think I bought your old one, right?
But I could never get it to track very well, it was a disaster...

I actually just got back into the bass synthy sounds and I prefer a mix of an envelope filter, distortion, an octave divider with very low direct sound and maybe some modulation after it.

Dirk