What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 18 Nov 2012, 18:55

Short question is: what are your favorite Boss dirt pedals?

I found a recent thread where a bunch of members listed all the dirt they had, but there seemed to be not too much mention of which pedals people actually preferred. I'm really interested in hearing which are your top choices and why (especially from those who've tried many different ones).

Here's why I'm asking:
I'm building an all-Boss pedalboard with three slots for dirt pedals.

The idea is that I won't just be stuck with those three, but can swap others in and out as I feel fit.

I like to change up my drive from time to time, so I could see myself changing the pedals in this section of the board more often than say modulation. For that reason, I'm tempted to just buy them all so I can enjoy the complete Boss dirt experience!

I currently have on the board are: FZ-2 => HM-2 => OD-3 and I think all three sound great!

Others I also have on hand for swapping in and out are OD-1, OD-2, DS-1 (vintage, Toshiba TA7136AP opamp), and DF-2 (one of the early ones with "super distortion", if that matters). I also have an XT-2 incoming (bought it after reading a post by Pepe praising it. I know some people don't like it, but that just made me even more intrigued!).

I can assume I'll be put in my place for not having an SD-1. I'm a little confused as to whether it's worth getting an older one, or do they all sound pretty much the same?

Also BD-2 seems an obvious omission. I should really get on that...

So what are your favorites?

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 18 Nov 2012, 20:14

My BOSS dirt favourites in alphabetic order:

FZ-2
HM-2
OD-2R
SD-2
XT-2

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Dirk** » 18 Nov 2012, 20:17

I was really surprised how good the MZ-2 sounds, not scooped but a nice flat workable sound. It does eat a little low end but not too bad.
The tone control tames the highs really well on the 10 o'clock setting and the chorus 1 setting is a great addition for a classic 80's rock sound.

Groovy!

Dirk

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 18 Nov 2012, 20:35

Thanks guys! Good to know! Looks like I'm on the right track.

Pepe: Ever tried an OD-2 vs. your OD-2r? I had read they sounded pretty much the same, but would love to know your opinion on it.

Dirk: Yeah, I've been tempted by that MZ-2; seems to have a lot of options, which I always enjoy.

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 18 Nov 2012, 20:50

I had an OD-2 last year. The OD-2R has at least twice the volume of the predecessor and you benefit from a better adjusted Turbo mode (a bit more boost) and of course the footswitch input is unbeatable. Though it was only Made in Taiwan, I would always prefer an OD-2R over any MIJ OD-2.

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **zentropa** » 18 Nov 2012, 21:04

MIJ DS-1
4558D OD-1
SD-2
OS-2

I have had 4 OD-2's and 1 OD-2r. Imo, the OD-2 is only really usable if you play single coils. The OD-2r can be used with any pickups and has very little hiss compared to most models that go from MIJ to MIT.

zentropa

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **zentropa** » 18 Nov 2012, 21:09

Also, the MZ-2 is really an anomaly since it is marketed as a metal pedal but really doesn't have a lot of gain/fuzz compared to everything else in that class (MT-2, HM-2, HM-3, ML-2, etc.). Its gain potential is a lot closer to that of a DS-1/DS-2, etc.

When the effects kick in it really does remind me of an ADA MP-1

zentropa

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **earthrug** » 18 Nov 2012, 21:14

These days the FZ-2

earthrug

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **charmonder** » 18 Nov 2012, 21:45

+1 for the HM-2. so awesome. very touch sensitive and the 'hi' eq knob does more than I expected.
but my 2 favorites are the syb-3 (waveshape mode 9) & syb-5 (waveshape mode 11). the 3 is like a gated fuzz, and the 5 is just pure evil.

some I'd like to hear:

[Image of BOSS FZ-3]

[Image of Roland DB-5]

charmonder

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 18 Nov 2012, 22:23

> *charmonder wrote:*
> *+1 for the HM-2. so awesome. very touch sensitive and the 'hi' eq knob does more than I expected.*

That's so right! This EQ is unique. I don't know exactly what it does or how it works, but I really like it. This knob makes the HM-2 so flexible. A masterpiece of BOSS!

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **DB Cooper** » 18 Nov 2012, 23:14

This is what I have:

BD-2 Blues Driver
DS-1 Distortion
DS-1 Distortion
DS-2 Turbo Distortion
FZ-3 Fuzz
HM-3 Hyper Metal
MD-2 Mega Distortion
ML-2 Metal Core
MT-2 Metal Zone
MZ-2 Digital Metalizer
OD-1 Over Drive
OD-2r Turbo OverDrive
OD-3 OverDrive
OS-2 Overdrive/Distortion
PW-2 Power Driver
SD-1 Super Overdrive
SD-2 Dual OverDrive
XT-2 Xtortion

BD-2 is always on board. I mess with all the rest, but I always come back to the BD-2.

DB Cooper

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **MervsMods** » 18 Nov 2012, 23:59

Current List...

BD-2
SD-2
DS-1
MD-2
MT-2

I have the BD-2, DS-1, and MT-2 on my board (all modded). Matter of fact, all my dirt pedals are modded!

MervsMods

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 19 Nov 2012, 00:50

Thanks guys! Some serious Boss dirt experts on here!

Ok, so my to-get list now includes:

BD-2
SD-2
MZ-2
OD-2r
And I'll pick up a MT-2 at some point as well...

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **belafonte** » 19 Nov 2012, 03:59

I feel like the OD-3 and SD-2 cover a lot of ground well and are some of the few Boss drive pedals that CANT benefit for some of the mod-hacks out there. Cool thing about the SD-2 is its two pedals in one on the board if you can find room to tuck a small latching remote switch somewhere.

belafonte

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **jsoi_narciso** » 19 Nov 2012, 14:28

my main dirt pedal is the DF-2, i love the tone so much

[Image]

that's why i got 2 and wanting for MOAR

jsoi_narciso

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **DB Cooper** » 19 Nov 2012, 20:36

I don't yet have a DF-2 in my collection...but I like the "been around the block a few times" looks of yours!

DB Cooper

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 20 Nov 2012, 02:09

Thanks jsoi! I actually already have one of the DF-2s; awesome pedal!

This one popped up locally a couple years back at a good price, so I grabbed it. I already had a post-lawsuit DF-2 (which I loved), but couldn't resist the chance to 'upgrade' to this more rare one...

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Jeremy** » 20 Nov 2012, 04:48

hands down DS-1

MIJ DS-1 + GE-7 = just about any boutique dirt pedal you care to name
Attachments

Jeremy

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Jeremy** » 20 Nov 2012, 04:50

thats the one I keep on my board. I have a few backups (including DF-2s)

Jeremy

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 20 Nov 2012, 06:51

I like the ones I have right now.
FZ-2, PW-2 and HM-2.
also got a MZ-2 but Im probably selling it cause its a bit too 80s sounding for me.

Ill pick up an XT-2, FZ-3, DF-2, SD-2, BD-2 or HM-3
when I see one at a good price.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **DasBeef** » 20 Nov 2012, 09:49

The old DS-1's, as I think everyone knows!

DasBeef

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **sclitheroe** » 21 Nov 2012, 07:10

Does anyone think Boss needs to make a dirt pedal that is lower gain? I've been playing around with an Eternity mod'ed SD-1 that has the same or less gain at 9'oclock than a stock SD-1 at close to zero gain, and there's just tons of usability and improved cleanup available all over the dial on it. I know the BD-2 can be set pretty mild as well, and cleans up famously, but it just seems to me that there's really not much in the Boss dirt lineup that has say the lower half of any of their pedals gain as its entire range.

I haven't played an OD-2 or OD-3, but I've got to assume they are just as high gain as anything else in the lineup.

-Scott

sclitheroe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 21 Nov 2012, 09:41

I bought the Marshall Bluesbreaker II BB-2 for mild, creamy overdrive and I'm very happy with this choice (I haven't played the first Bluesbreaker yet, so this one might be my holy grail). The OD-2(R) is capable of producing mild overdrive as well, but it doesn't sound as warm as the Bluesbreaker. The OD-2R is great, though! But I like that one less subtle.

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 21 Nov 2012, 11:23

I like the OS-2 with the color all the way to "OD" and dist fairly high up.
its pretty fake sounding but in a cool way.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 21 Nov 2012, 11:23

I like the OS-2 with the color all the way to "OD" and dist fairly high up.
its pretty fake sounding but in a cool way.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 21 Nov 2012, 17:02

Thanks for all the suggestions fellas!

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **RandomP** » 22 Nov 2012, 13:08

1st: HM-2
2nd: SD-2
3rd: MD-2
4th: ODB-3

(I'm a bassist).

RandomP

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 22 Nov 2012, 13:39

I tend to use the PW-2 with both EQ-knobs on max and gain on almost max.
I know a lot of people dont like this pedal but I do.

cant really remember what setting I used on the FZ-2 but that pedal is crazy.
I might be buying a second one that Ive tracked down.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 22 Nov 2012, 13:46

The FZ-2 is pure insanity! I love it. I still have to hunt a decent looking one for a reasonable price, bercause I miss the one I have sold two years ago.

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 23 Nov 2012, 09:15

I havent seen one in a used ad for ages here now.
Ill probably get a second one since I know of someone who is probably gonna sell his.
wouldnt hurt to have 2.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **sylvesterlowery** » 24 Nov 2012, 23:38

Well, my faves in order are:

1-DS-1
2-SD-1
3-MT-2

I also own, in decreasing order of preference:

4-HM-2 (x2)
5-ML-2
6-OD-3
7-MD-2

My favorite combo is the DS-1 with a GE-7 following it to fine tune. Sounds wonderful!

sylvesterlowery

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **sylvesterlowery** » 24 Nov 2012, 23:50

I agree with this statement!
Though, I use a MIT DS-1...still, an awesome combo!

Actually, I think just about any of the Boss dirt pedals could be improved upon with a GE-7 after it!

sylvesterlowery

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Buzzard** » 09 Oct 2013, 21:48

Most of my dirt pedals are stored in a Behringer PB-1000 box.

[Image]

Then a few more in my first Boss box along with other pedals all bought new in the 80's
Everything bought one at a time as I could afford them.

[Image]

Boss dirt pedals that I've owned and sold again: ML-2 , DN-2 , FDR-1 , OD-3 , SD-1 , OD-2 but I got one Again.

Buzzard

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Clean Channel** » 09 Oct 2013, 21:59

^^^Awesome!

Clean Channel

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Pepe** » 10 Oct 2013, 08:43

That's quite a lot of dirt pedals stacked together!

Pepe

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Guga Ramone** » 10 Oct 2013, 19:07

I wonder how it would sound if they were all on...

Guga Ramone

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **deancrean** » 10 Oct 2013, 19:37

On my board at the moment

OD-3
SD-2
SD-1
MZ-2

Loving the options I have with these now, but I am going to give some others a try at some point as well! No matter what the OD-3 will always stay. Nothing better in my mind.

deancrean

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **sylvesterlowery** » 11 Oct 2013, 02:51

I recently swapped out the DS-1 that has lived on my board for 2 years for a DS-2 I picked up a while back and loving it! It sounds killer through my Peavey Rock Master head, and I have a GE-7 after it for a boost. Happy Happy Happy!

sylvesterlowery

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **deancrean** » 11 Oct 2013, 03:18

The DS-2 is next on my list for Boss dirt when one pops up for the right price!

deancrean

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **sylvesterlowery** » 11 Oct 2013, 04:32

I got mine in a pawnshop, no box for 40 bucks, also got a OS-2 for the same at a different shop for 40 with box and paperwork.

sylvesterlowery

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **deancrean** » 11 Oct 2013, 14:10

Yes there is some great deals on Boss pedals if you look around! I thank the hype for all the boutique stuff out there! Seems people are unloading there other stuff off cheap to get the next big thing. As a buyer this works for me just fine.

deancrean

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Buzzard** » 11 Oct 2013, 14:53

> *Guga Ramone wrote:*
> *I wonder how it would sound if they were all on...*

It's been done, It sounds over the top but TERRIBLE.
Even a good thing like distortion can be too much,

Buzzard

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Guga Ramone** » 12 Oct 2013, 04:39

Hahahaha. Yeah, I can imagine the mess.

Guga Ramone

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **bigtone** » 14 Oct 2013, 14:22

Of course my MIJ SD1 and Black Labeled MIT DS1 are classics for BOSS tones, my BD2 that I modded is a good one and the OS2 is great for dialing in good mid gain sounds.

bigtone

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **Guga Ramone** » 14 Oct 2013, 16:13

I realized that I didn't answer the original topic question yet, so... My personal favorite is the MT-2 Metal Zone. When I started playing guitar, in 1999, it was THE pedal to obtain hi gain tones a la Sepultura and Slayer. At that time I used a DS-1 borrowed from a friend, with a Squier strat with 3 single coils. So when I got the MT-2, even with the single coils on the guitar, it was like hi gain heaven! Hehehe

Guga Ramone

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **tunghaichuan** » 14 Oct 2013, 21:44

My faves:

High gain: ML-2

Mid gain: DS-1

Lower gain: OD-3

Weirdo: XT-2

I also like the OS-2, which kind of bridges the lower gain to mid gain range.

tunghaichuan

Re: What's your favorite Boss dirt?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 14 Oct 2013, 23:55

I own the SD-2, FZ-2, MZ-2, DF-2, HM-2 and PW-2.
I think the HM-2 is my fav for heavier dist and the SD-2 for overdrive.

also had SD-1(great pedal) before.

WhereBoysFearToTread