MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **visserman** » 28 Jun 2012, 17:45

Going back to our last discussion about the MT-2 and the mixed rececption it gets I felt the need to check out the pedal in more detail.

MT-2 is in the class of the HM-2 and HM-3, it is designed to give you Rock and Metal sounds, subtle overdrive a la BD-2 cannot be found in this pedal. When I say Rock I mean Classic, 70s style Rock and onwards.

Less experieced players will enjoy this pedal straight away as the pedal will create a huge sound on any small amp, experienced players may be less enhousiastic as the pedal interacts with its own-and your amp settings.

For this review I used a single coil guitar and a humbuck equipped guitar. Basically Strat and Les Paul style. None of them are modded, and it is the kind of guitar most people will use.
For amps I used a practise amp with a 8 inch speaker and another one, which had a 10 inch. One of the amps was a Peavy, good to create all kinds of tones, and this amp does not really have much character itself. Ideal for the MT-2. The 8 inch amp does have a sinlge tone control, very simple and limited. Again ideal. Last of all I used the JCM 900 SL X with two 12 inch speakers.

Tone Controls:

Here is where things get tricky! The tonecontrols are extreme: The high is raspy in nature, not smooth as OD-3, therefore use it with care! The lows are POWERFUL, great, but be careful as it can be too much.
The MId FreQ: is a Parametric Mid controls, works in conjunction with the Mid control. You can first dail in the Mid FreQ, then finetune with the Mid contol.

Listening Test: This setting will give you a general,usuable sound. Ampsetting: Do not boost-or cut any of your EQ too much, as the MT-2 becomes your amp.

SEe Next POSt!!

visserman

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **visserman** » 28 Jun 2012, 18:01

Because I cannot create long posts, system does not allow me, I will need to post the article in parts.

Set up your MT-2 as follows: level : Close or above unity

Low: 5 to 12

High: 10 past 12

Mid Freq: 5 to 12

Middle: Similar as Mid Freq-----> this will give fuller sound. Cut it all the way down to bring down bassresponse!

Dist. 5 to 12

(12 is the mid point of your controls!!)

LIsten to the sound you get. It should give you a workable sound for almost anything. If you feel your sound is lacking, work with your ampsettings, but not too much. Try the pick-ups: On the STrat, the in-between-settings (Neck and Middle or Bridge and Middle) will give you a smoother sound. The other settings are more full on! You

may want to back down vol. on your guitar a bit in order to tame the buzz.

Here is the Manual with sample settings for all of you who have not see (and used) them:

ftp://ftp.roland.co.uk/productsupport/M ... T-2_OM.pdf

Trying all those settings on the various amps and using both guitars I found all of them were pleasing, from time to time I had to tweak amp, or setting on MT-2. When I went from amp to amp, the sound varied somewhat, in some cases sound was very close, in others sound was very different (Fuzz on the JCM 900!!, very thin compared to the smaller amps!)

Overdrive is not as open as on any of the OD's
Fuzz is, of course, a variation, nothing close to a real Fuzz, but you do get the idea, and the sound it useable, which is what I like.
Rock 'n' Roll is 1970s Glam Rock Rock 'n' Roll, not 1950s sound!!
Rock 2 is the sound where this pedal was designed for, it is probably made for the audience who does like this full on- kind of sound.

visserman

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **visserman** » 28 Jun 2012, 18:16

Overal comments:

Too much Buzz? Tame it with any of the controls, cut before you boost any freq. and keep listening to how your amp responds.

If you have several guitars and amps I would suggest to try all the sample settings from the manual for a start. This will teach you a lot about your amps and will give you an idea how your speakers respond as well.

It may be an idea to write down any settings you like, and keep using them, and try them over various amps. Not happy with sound? Try amp first to "correct" it. Remember keep bass-and treble boosts off for now. Sometimes they can make your sound more focussed, but only use them when you feel the need for it.

Do not use any EQ pedals with the MT-2: The pedals own tonecontrols are extreme enough to get you close to the sound you like, any correctings you will be able to make with the amp.

A great thing about the MT-2 is how your single string sound jumps up out of the mix. The sound reminds me of Slash, and is almost like you hear a Wah in static position with a slight idea of mid and treble boost. Because of this characteristic it makes an ideal pedal for any guitarplayer who is the only guitarist in a band (No need for any volumeboosting pedals to bring up your sound of single strings)

When you play powerchords Metallica Style, you will be instantly pleased with the sound you get, as this pedal was probably also designed to create this kind of sound. The BAss control will give you enough if you lack any bottomend.

Okay, it would be great if some of you would try these suggestings soundwise and let us know what you feel.
Overal I do like the pedal, have been using it for the last few days and like what it can do.
I tend to play with more moderate sound, so it is a joy to change from time to time and get a bit heavyer.

visserman

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **Guga Ramone** » 29 Jun 2012, 03:25

Isn't it simpler to write this way?
Low: 11h
High: 2h
Mid: 11h
Mid Freq: 11h
Dist: 11h

BTW, nice tips. I think where most people fail to set the MT-2 is because they don't understand those mids controls: Imagine that you have a graphic equalizer, but you can set only one band. Choose the band you want to change (w/ mid frequency) and boost it or cut it (w/ mid control). It is really simple but requires a little bit of practice.

Another thing is that the MT-2 has a VERY carachteristic sound. It doesn't sound natural, it is not dynamic. It is a full blast distortion, not meant to be bluesy, but to rock all the way up to full on metal. Learn how to use it to your favour instead of trying to make it sound like a tube amp and you may be rewarded with an unique sound that really fills up spaces on your band.

Guga Ramone

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **visserman** » 29 Jun 2012, 11:24

Guya,
Good comments.

After having played the MT-2 longer through the JCM 900 SL- X I observe that the MT-2's sound really complements the SL-X:

Yesterday I commented on how the Fuzz setting from the manual sounded tinny through the Marshall, well playing with the settings of the Marshall can correct that someway.

Trying to duplicate the sound of the MT-2 on the Marshall: The Marshall is not as compressed, not as focussed if you like. In extreme settings the sound "runs away". Using the MT-2 does a wonderful job, the sound stays focussed.

Am not too keen on using dist. pedals on an amp which does have a good dist. sound, as I feel it is a bit like "Taking Coal to New Castle" or "Taking Water to the Sea". However, in this case I am pleasantly surprised with the results and almost feel like MT-2 sounds much better on stage amps rather than on any small amp.

What I mentioned before about how to set your amp up before you apply the sound of the MT-2 I would say: Take it with a pinch of salt, as all amps will respond differently. What I would say is:" When you feel you cannnot achieve a happening tone, reconsider your ampsettings and your overal set-up.

Another issue which Guya mentioned before: Do forget your other dist. pedals and think "This is the sound I will play with for now, so let me make it happen" I think too many of you will start to compare sound of MT-2 with whatever else you may use. All I can say is that the sound can come close to a JCM 900, in fact the pedal sounds like a super modded JCM 800, a HM-2 which can go further and is very focussed

visserman

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **Guga Ramone** » 19 Oct 2015, 23:48

Reviving an old zombie...

Interesting comments about the old MT-2:
http://geargods.net/gear-gods-investiga ... otal-crap/

Guga Ramone

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **zentropa** » 21 Oct 2015, 04:51

Random thing... has anyone actually done comparisons on the different op amp version MT-2's?

From my experiences nowadays (as mentioned in my WTF happened post) people have polarized into fully saturated metal tones or class A blues tones with everything in between considered to be crap... almost like people are allergic to having too much or too little gain. I like my metal zone for what I ask it to do... but I never expect it to be something it's not. That being said, I do think there are good heavy rock tones that can be dialed in if you have about 2 hours to tweak the EQ and then repeat that process every time you switch guitars

zentropa

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **Dirk** » 21 Oct 2015, 09:30

By that time we finished 2 out of 3 sets on a regular gig.
My advice, if a pedal is so finnicky: use it as a doorstop and save up for a Marshall or any decent tube amp for that matter.....

Dirk

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **zentropa** » 21 Oct 2015, 17:22

It's one of those where user error is as much responsible for the rep as Boss was for making it "too complicated for the average user." I think the CE-5 gets very little love for the same reason. It is too adjustable for most people to be able to quickly and easily dial in good sounds. My MT-2 is set up to sound a lot like the heavier OD setting on an ADA MP1. I don't shred or play blues though, so none of the dirt pedals I like a lot are usually popular

The majority of 2-knob pedals are nearly impossible to get a bad sound out of. When you reach 5-6 knobs finding the good sound becomes the chore.

zentropa

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **sclitheroe** » 25 Oct 2015, 02:31

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *I think the CE-5 gets very little love for the same reason. It is too adjustable for most people to be able to quickly and easily dial in good sounds.*

That's an interesting comment, and one I'd agree with - the high and low cut controls on the CE-5 make it pretty finicky - I don't really know what I'm doing with the pedal most of the time.

sclitheroe

Re: MT-2: Review and Userguide

by **zentropa** » 25 Oct 2015, 04:50

I know once i set mine up i basically just use rate/depth/level after that. There's too much range on the controls beyond that imo, both on the mt2 and ce5

zentropa