If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **sclitheroe** » 08 Aug 2013, 17:22

I wonder how people feel about this?

Given that the TE-2, DA-2, and MO-2 are all digital, and clearly based on the same underlying technology platform, is the age of the single-function/fixed-function Boss stomp coming to an end? Releasing three pedals simultaneously suggests to me they've found a good platform for their next generation of pedals, and I expect we'll see more pedals using the same MDP tech under the hood going forward. I think it's no small coincidence that the three pedals have four knobs each - it's the same pedal under the hood running different software. The only thing missing now is a USB port for firmware uploads.

If we're not going to see another analog stomp from Boss, how would you feel if they offered programmable shells, like Line-6 does? Would it take away something from the iconic image/feel/brand/experience of the Boss stomp, if you could switch them around by uploading firmware via USB? Would you buy Boss firmware patches at $49.99 or whatever each? Would it be as satisfying to pick up a Boss "blank" and a firmware, compared to getting one of the current fixed function pedals?

I'm not sure I'm ready, personally to head down this road. I think it would be less satisfying somehow, although I can't quite elaborate how just yet, I need to think about it so more.

-Scott

sclitheroe

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Pepe** » 08 Aug 2013, 19:10

I'm with you! If I want a certain sound, I take the pedal with "Tremolo/Pan" written on it, or "Hyper Fuzz" or whatever. I know that the sounds that I love slumber in these different coloured boxes - and not in an anonymous do-everything-pedal.

Pepe

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **charmonder** » 08 Aug 2013, 19:43

I'm all for it in a way. The big companies are doing great things with the DSP effects and the Boutiquers are doing great things with analog circuits.

The thing I really really miss is digital delay with variable samplerates/playback rates(thus the d.time knob provides a smooth continuous, pitch warping change of delay time), I hope that comes back sometime soon. Modern samplers are missing it too, the elektron octatrack is probably the first sampler in 20 years to bring that back.

charmonder

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 08 Aug 2013, 19:51

To me if it sounds good it's good regardless of what the pedal is made of.

Pieces Of The Night

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **DarrinPA** » 08 Aug 2013, 20:42

I know it doesn't affect the sound, but the color of the pedal really does make a difference on a dark stage and firmware updates aren't going to change the shell's color. I'm basing my opinion on an irrelevant point to most people, but it's important to me. I know as a company Boss doesn't care about such a small detail, and it does seem as if a "reprogammable shell" is going to be the future, but I'll stick with old one-trick-pony pedals.

From a business stand point my concern with Boss creating this new type of pedal that only needs software changes is the possiblilty of people cracking them and people having access to every pedal software without paying for it.

DarrinPA

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Laurie** » 08 Aug 2013, 21:47

I don't think analogue pedals are dead... the DS-1 is alive and well and still the biggest seller?

Laurie

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Pepe** » 08 Aug 2013, 21:51

But it still sounds like a DS-1...

Pepe

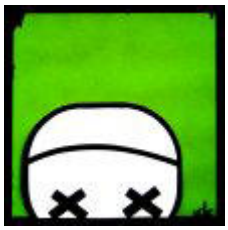
Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **natthu** » 08 Aug 2013, 22:03

> *Pieces Of The Night wrote:*
> *To me if it sounds good it's good regardless of what the pedal is made of.*

This is more or less my attitude to pedals, with the caveat that I do prefer the practical ramifications of having simple single trick pedals. My pedalboard is a mix of different types of pedals (ie simple analogue, with some more complicated software driven models).

I'm not one for updating software... if it works in the first place, it shouldn't *need* updating. However, I do understand the attraction to that sort of flexibility for some people.



natthu

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Laurie** » 08 Aug 2013, 22:41

> *Pieces Of The Night wrote:*
> *To me if it sounds good it's good regardless of what the pedal is made of.*

Unless it is made of unobtanium I don't want to know.

Laurie

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Clean Channel** » 09 Aug 2013, 01:18

I can't help it, I feel a bit of a 'romance' (for lack of a better term) for analog pedals, tube amps, etc. If this is in irrational romance, so be it.

Even if the technology reaches the point where it sounds 'just as good' as the real thing, in the back of my mind I'll still always feel like I'm playing a computer simulator.

Maybe I'm also biased from the fact that all of the 'traditional' sounds I've come to adore are already at my disposal in analog form, so no need to go the digital modeling route.

All that said, I'm certainly not afraid of new effects/tools/etc that are digital, I just don't feel like exploring any modeling per se.

Clean Channel

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **Pepe** » 09 Aug 2013, 08:26

Yep, Clean Channel! I experience the same everytime I get my hands on a well-tuned and good-sounding Grand Piano. The digital models are absolutely fantastic these days, but the *real thing* kicks 4$$!

Pepe

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **DB Cooper** » 09 Aug 2013, 11:28

> *Clean Channel wrote:*

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I was struggling with how to respond to this query...you summed up my feelings exactly.

DB Cooper

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 09 Aug 2013, 11:51

Indeed. Whilst I can see (and hear) the advantages of modelling tech - the adage "If it ain`t broke..." applies. I also - like many I assume? - have developed a fairly good ear (at least as a standalone room test) and most of the time still feel the digital stillness of a great deal of new pedals in that realm inc the new BOSS. Personally I favor a mix, complex stuff such as Leslie syms fine, as long as the digital nastiness is fully bypassed that`s fine. Still I dig a DD-3 and the old school PS-2 delay, "perfect" is often a little rough n ready right?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **fenderjapan** » 11 Aug 2013, 04:13

I like digital and analog, just not together. I like digital for recording. I like analog for my guitar rig.

If people like digital in their rigs, thats fine. Digital delay and reverb seem to be a staple. To each his own.

fenderjapan

Re: If the era of analog Boss pedals is over...

by **ElDissidente** » 11 Aug 2013, 08:31

What I dont like about digital pedals is that if it gets broken there is no way to fix it...when its broke its broke! While Analog is like something mechanic like an old Volkswagen beetle, it will work forever and in the worst conditions.

ElDissidente