Maximum Made-in-Japan BOSS SD-1'age!

by vanguard » 30 Nov 2012, 01:30

So, sort of by chance, I ended up with three japan-made SD-1's in my studio ranging from early 1982-1985. They differ from one another in IC chip and clipping diode arrangement:

1982 has an NEC c4558c IC (as seen in early DM-2's, OD-1's, etc. BOSS seemed to use them where you see JRC4558DD after 1982); and very rare 1S2473 diodes (also seen in early OD-1's and never in tube screamers). Also, different cap construction:

1984 has the famous/common JRC4558DD IC, and, again, the rare 1S2473 diodes:

1985: has the JRC4558DD chip and, interestingly, the famous TS808 clipping diodes; 1S1588 with the blue stripe (google image. it looks better than my pic):

So I know a lot of folks on here adore the SD-1 like I do. Once I got the three in the same room (I'd only tried one previously), I lined them all up for a blind test (difficult to patch pedals together blindly, lol. good thing they are already beat to hell). surprisingly, I was able to identify which was which just based on past experience with JRC4558 tube screamers and people's descriptions of how the 1S1588 diodes sound (smooooth!).

The two 1S2473 pedals sounded almost identical, except the one with the rare c4558c chip was nastier in the attack and generally less smooth and more raw. I don't like one better than the other; the c4558c makes a killer rhythm pedal with its forward attack and hard edge though. . .
The 1S1588 pedal sounded quite different and I identified it the moment I played a chord through it, though I didn't actually look until several minutes later. As I expected, it sounded very close to an old Ibanez TS808. the JRC4558/1S1588 seem to be a magical recipe for super smooth, warm, pleasant sounding distortion. It still has the SD-1 vibe (lots of even-order harmonics) but the attack is more compressed and the sustain is violin-smooth. Definitely the "lead-player's" SD-1. Slightly less lows and softer mids than the other two; just very TS808-sounding.

Ran the JRC4558/1S2473 for rhythm and the 1S1588 for lead at band practice this afternoon. They sounded great! Stacked was a killer lead tone and harmonic-feedback galore. I've got a big show on Saturday night I'll use this same arrangement at. Now I've got to pick up a current SD-1 with modern silicon diodes to compare 🤨

vanguard

Re: Maximum MIJ BOSS SD-1'age!

by **DB Cooper** » 30 Nov 2012, 02:24

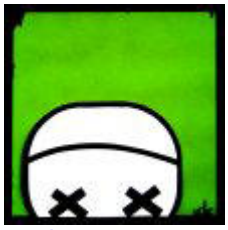
Excellent analysis, great pics! Thanks for posting!

DB Cooper

Re: Maximum MIJ BOSS SD-1'age!

by **natthu** » 30 Nov 2012, 07:05

Great pics vanguard... you should post the internals to the Internal Pictures of Pedals thread


natthu

Re: Maximum Made-in-Japan BOSS SD-1'age!

by **Clean Channel** » 12 Dec 2012, 03:22

This thread has really caught on over at TGP. The link: http://www.thegearpage.net/board/showth ... ?t=1178016

It appears there were quite the variety of diodes used in the SD-1 over the years.

It'd be worth looking inside your various SD-1s to see what you've got!

I bet that TGP thread could benefit from some SBZ expertise!

Clean Channel