RV-3

by **robbo** » 23 Aug 2012, 00:56

Any RV-3 users here ? What are your impressions ? Pros/cons ?

robbo

Re: RV-3

by **Laurie** » 23 Aug 2012, 01:10

The RV-3 is considered by many to be the best Boss reverb. The tone and simplicity are keeping the price fairly high.

Laurie

Re: RV-3

by **Jeremy** » 23 Aug 2012, 04:29

I use one alongside my pedal steel
it is simple and very effective
they have a reputation for going microphonic (for some reason)
I have two and neither of them have that problem

Jeremy

Re: RV-3

by **Jerem** » 23 Aug 2012, 09:58

My favorite ! A little echo/reverb box, 2 pedals in 1.

Jerem

Re: RV-3

by **visserman** » 24 Aug 2012, 10:24

Anyone who is familiar with the RV2 and RV5, please comment on tone of the RV3!
The RV3 may be great with its combo of delay and reverb effects, as for its pure reverb tone it is the most digital sounding one of them all.
RV5 is so close to the RV2, but the RV3 is the total opposite tonewise.
The RV5 is the quietest of them all, RV2 can be noisey but I do not hear anyone mention this!!

Which one is the best of all the Boss RV's?
All depends on what you like and know, but if you could hear them all three next to each other I think the RV3 would be last on your list of choise.

visserman

Re: RV-3

by **Jeremy** » 28 Aug 2012, 05:03

check out the Earthquaker Devices Dispatch Master

Jeremy

Re: RV-3

by **zentropa** » 30 Aug 2012, 22:15

I picked up an RV-3 a couple of weeks ago and it's the first reverb pedal i've ever owned.

I rarely use delay or reverb so this was a "2 birds with 1 stone" purchase since it would knock out both effects while only occupying 1 pedal slot.

I,ve never played an RV-2 or RV-5 before somi can't comment on its comparisons. The rv-3 does sound digital but is still better than the dod and digitech rack units i had in the 90's. I think it's one of those pedals that is inflated a bit due to keyboard/synth players using it, much like the PN-2.

zentropa

Re: RV-3

by **Steam Abacus** » 30 Aug 2012, 22:51

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *I think it's one of those pedals that is inflated a bit due to keyboard/synth players using it.*

It was used on Orbital's first hit record, wasn't it? That would certainly give it 'cult' status.

Steam Abacus

Re: RV-3

by **zentropa** » 31 Aug 2012, 04:41

Not sure, but that sounds like something that probably happened.

It's odd to me in general that most digital pedals still cost more when i bet from a manufacturing standpoint they are probably cheaper. Comes down to Hier r&d costs than analog pedals though. Just seems to me that a new dd-3 should be like $59 by now.

zentropa

Re: RV-3

by **visserman** » 31 Aug 2012, 16:26

I think the comment about production cost is true, but maybe obvious as well. Most pedals should be a lot, lot cheaper than what they sell for. Forget the second hand market, because prices are too high there as well, and we all know this but cannot change it so we just go along with it. Bottom line is: If you want a certain pedal you will need to pay the asking price.

To come back to the RV3, not many comments on its sound so far....., maybe we should not compare the RV3 to the other RV's.....

The fact that you get delay and reverb in one pedal may be good for some of you but how often would you like delay after your reverb. If you want this you may still need another delaypedal. In a nutshell, the pedals which offer a lot of effects may not give you the sounds you need, so you still end up getting extra pedals for a certain sound (or purpose)

One more comment about the RV2: The delay function is unique. It truly is. The DD7 and DD6 and DD3 may be able to give you the same idea, but the RV2 is smoother, especially when you use two amps. The panning is absolutely amazing, and with the medium range delay times I think it is a very usuable sound too.

visserman

Re: RV-3

by **Laurie** » 31 Aug 2012, 16:39

> *visserman wrote:*
> *Most pedals should be a lot, lot cheaper than what they sell for.*

It's easier to imagine that this is true - a pedal isn't any more complex than a TV remote, right?

When you actually start making pedals in commercial quantities you find there are three problems with that reasoning:
1) Commercial quantities of guitar pedals are far, FAR less than commercial quantities of nearly every other consumer electronics item. So parts cost is nowhere near what you would like it to be. I buy resistors in reels of 5,000. Boss probably buys them in lots of 500,000 or 5,000,000. Large scale manufacturers buy in lots of 10's or 100's of millions.
2) Automation is not prevalent in the pedal industry - I guarantee very few human hands touch a remote control before it is packed in the box. Not true with even the biggest run of guitar pedals. Anytime a human touches something, in manufacturing it costs a LOT.
3) The stage floor is an VERY hostile environment. To make a pedal that will actually stand the test of time, the mechanical parts are expensive. Even in massive quantities, a metal housing (including baseplate) the quality that Boss uses will cost somewhere between $10 and $20 by the time you pay for the metalwork, paint, and printing.

In my assessment, the DS-1 is a very low profit (or even loss-leader) item for Boss.

Laurie

Re: RV-3

by **Pepe** » 31 Aug 2012, 17:23

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *In my assessment, the DS-1 is a very low profit (or even loss-leader) item for Boss.*

It's the starter drug!

Pepe

Re: RV-3

by **Dirk** » 31 Aug 2012, 19:39

With almost a million DS-1's sold, they must've made *some* profit on it....

Dirk

Re: RV-3

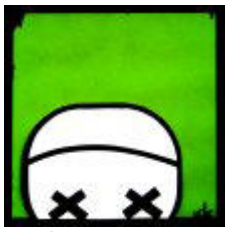
by **natthu** » 01 Sep 2012, 00:14

Yeah but the real profit may come from link sales, not the DS-1 itself.

Case in point: I used to work in a camera shop. We were basically selling the cameras at a price that covered the cost of selling the camera itself. So if we just sold a camera we basically made no profit.
The profit came from selling accessories with the camera... stuff like memory cards, cases, lens adaptors, extra batteries, extended warranties. The camera gets the customer through the door, the other stuff makes the shop money.

In the case of Boss the profit may come from other pedals people buy because they already own a DS-1. The DS-1 sale gets Boss' foot in the door.
The customer buys a DS-1 because it is cheap. A stock DS-1 is a competent, reliable and solid pedal. So when the customer returns to buy more pedals, they choose Boss because they are familiar with the brand and trust it.

On a side note, new DS-1s are more expensive here in Australia than the US by more than what it costs to pay import tax and shipping.... so someone is making profit on them, but I suspect it isn't Boss or the retailers... it's probably the distributor.


natthu

Re: RV-3

by **Dirk** » 01 Sep 2012, 07:43

Good point, that must be it then.

In the case of distributors making huge profits, that's why they invented Ebay, I bought new Boss pedals from Hongkong for ridiculously low prices compared to Holland.
From Hongkong shipping is usually free, and that's on the other side of the world from here!
But someone must still make a profit on it, otherwise they wouldn't be selling them so cheap.

Dirk

Re: RV-3

by **visserman** » 01 Sep 2012, 15:13

Laurie I totally agree with you, and you also gave some clear examples.
My point was an oversimplification. Still believe the second hand market ruled by dealers charges high prices.
Comparing Boss pedals to other pedals may also be useful: Boss pedals use a LOT of components, and the metal cases and overall layout is rocksolid. There are a lot of other pedals around which are comparable more expansive but offer a lot less.

Your comment about human labour is a good observation too.
Cheers!

visserman

Re: RV-3

by **zentropa** » 01 Sep 2012, 15:57

As for sound...

One thing i have noticed is that... Rv pedals sound MUCH better at room volume when placed before the amp. Whenever i demo one it's before the amp and it shines. Plop it on my effects loop and it sounds like butt. Not sure why that is, but it is definitely true for my rv3. I demoed an rv2 yesterday and it was much warmer and fuller sounding but it was before the amp. My rv3 sounds fuller when running before the amp but not warmer.

The rv-3"s reverb sounds a bit metallic to me. It "spaces" nicely but has a strange decay to it that seems to linger artificially, sort of like the feedback on a df2.

I messed with the rv-2's delay briefly and it did not add that brittle treble plink like most digi delays do. Sounded much closer to an analog delay than other digi delays i have played.

zentropa

Re: RV-3

by **visserman** » 03 Sep 2012, 12:23

Good obsevation zentropa,

The "strange decay that seems to linger" is the trademark of all Boss reverbs, you can reduce it by reducing the tone, and effect control. On some settings this "lingering sound" is less, on others---like HALL--it is far too much and noticeable for my liking.

Your comment on the RV2's delay nails it: It is warmer, because the RV2 is simpler and more primative in a way, it is noisier----again, more noticeable on certains settings----but it may sound more natural. The delay on the RV2, when used with 2 amps, moves (panning) from one amp to the other, RV3 does NOT do this, but later more on this.

Good that you found a RV2.
In an ideal world you should check all three RV's before you decide on what you like.
In a less ideal world you end up getting all three and discover what is good about each of them, as they are all three unique.

Okay, we have been going back and forwards with all kind of comments and blah blah, and of course, I am to blame for some of this as well.
I will open up another thread where I will highlight what the RV3 can do, what is unique and what not, very simple really!!

visserman

Re: RV-3

by **zentropa** » 03 Sep 2012, 14:38

I actually got an RV-2 saturday and an RV-5 yesterday.

The RV-2 is warmer, but the RV-5 sounds more like actual spring reverb or a tube reverb unit on an amp.
The modulation setting is quite cool but not all that useful for my guitar playing.

This has led me to getting my DD-3 back and going rv-5 + dd-3 on my main set up and dropping my TR-2. The RV-2 is going on my secondary set up and the RV-3 is getting purged.

It seems to me that the RV-3 was designed more like a post production rack effect while the RV-5 was designed with live guitar and keyboard playing in mind.

The RV-2 doesn't seem to be as focused as either but is a solid unit regardless.

zentropa

Re: RV-3

by **visserman** » 06 Sep 2012, 15:13

Zen,
Again some critical and good obserations from you.

About you using the effectsloop and the sound being less loud (or clear) I think it may depend on the volume on the effect loop: My feeling is you amps may not have a volume control for the effects loop. Having said that, I think you use a JMC900, and they actually do have a vol. control for the effects loop, and it is quite useful.
Anyway, if you do not have a volume contol for the effect loop, the sound may be less full.

It is iteresting to notice what an EQ before a Reverb can do: Whatever band you boost you will notice it on your reverb sound, as the sound is boosted. Leave out the EQ and the Reverb is less pronounced. Similar thing with the loop, the level of the loop may not match the level at the front of your amp. Check it to see if this is the case.

I have been using the RV-3 for a few days, and really start to like it. The combination Reverb and Delay is quite useful, and the sound is quite good.
You comment about it mimicking rack-sound gear is well placed. The RV5 sits in between RV2 and RV3: Brighter than the RV2 but less than the RV3.
All in all, all three Reverbs are quite useful and unique in their own little ways.
They will even become more useful if you play in different scenarios: Playing in a band set-up, recording, playing through PA without any amps ect.
I have even used the RV3 for vocals and it worked quite well with an older PA which is equiped ony with a spring reverb.

visserman

Re: RV-3

by **zentropa** » 06 Sep 2012, 15:44

Thanks viss.

It does have a volume control and the vol control is maxed.

Im not sure if it's the extra 20' of cable on the send/return or what but it just doesn't sound very robust. I also rarely get to play very loud.

My 5150 had a much better effects loop. My jcm 2000 had a parallel effects loop that was worse.

For reverb sounds, i like the RV-5 best.

I've never had an FRV-1 before and was debating trying one.

zentropa

Re: RV-3

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 22 Nov 2012, 13:56

Ive got a RV-2 and I think the delay is pretty sharp sounding.
from what I can remember its worse than the DSD-2 I had a while back.

Ive never tried it with 2 amps.

might be buying an RV-3 that I found.
that one seems to be getting expensive now and not too easy to find at all.

WhereBoysFearToTread