Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coils?

by **visserman** » 08 Oct 2012, 11:25

Going back to Zentropas comment in another thread let us see which pedals work best with humbucker/single coil pick ups.

No need to stick to dirt pedals, try them all and tell us what you have found.
It may take you some time to do this and you may even change your mind during the process of comparing.

I am probably in a camp of my own finding that I can get the single coil guitars to act as humbucker equipped guitars, with a little help of some pedals of course, but I may change my mind about this as one never really knows!.

Have fun!!

visserman

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **Pepe** » 08 Oct 2012, 12:09

I cannot imagine to like my OD-2R with humbuckers. I didn't try it yet (I have no humbucker equipped guitar at home), but I believe that I wouldn't like it.

Pepe

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **zentropa** » 08 Oct 2012, 21:52

Imo, it's not so much which sound better with, it's a matter of which pedals fail with buckers and succeed with singles.

All boss pedals work fine with singles. Most sound adequate with buckers. Some suck with buckers.

IMO Pedals that handle buckers well: OD-3, HM-2, MT-2, ML-2, SD-2, DS-2, XT-2, ST-2

Pedals that sound decent with buckers but struggle due to design rather than tone (e.g. impedance, volume, etc): OD-1, SD-1, OD-2

Imo pedals that fail with buckers: MD-2, PW-2, FZ-2, FZ-3

Pedals that are okay with buckers but i prefer with singles: OS-2, DS-1, MZ-2, HM-3,

zentropa

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **sclitheroe** » 09 Oct 2012, 01:00

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *Pedals that sound decent with buckers but struggle due to design rather than tone (e.g. impedance, volume, etc): OD-1, SD-1, OD-2*

Can you expand on this? I don't understand how any pedal with high input impedance could work more or less well with a particular style of pickup - it's like an order of magnitude higher than either a single coil or a humbucker.

-Scott

sclitheroe

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **zentropa** » 09 Oct 2012, 03:28

I honestly don't know if it has anything to do with impedance or not but i know that a) lots of mods are designed to raise the impedance level on SD-1's and b) the input impedance on a lot of the older pedals is much lower than they are now.

My first humbucker guitar was a Les Paul Studio Lite w 500T/496R pickups that are very high output and my SD-1 and 2nd Op amp DS-1 just couldn't handle the signal level well. With both pedals i could max out the volume/level on the pedal and it would still be quieter than when the pedals were bypassed. I have noticed if you just raise the input impedance on the pedal (r2 for the SD-1?) this is no longer a problem. Not sure if that's really the issue here as i don't know how circuits work.

The OD-2's issue is the voltage drop problem but the volume issues occur in both standard and turbo modes if you play high output pickups. With lower output buckers the issue is only with the turbo mode. With single coils it is usually fine in either mode.

Basically, I have no idea why that occurs with SD-1's or later OD-1's, i just know the problem is there and that's why neither of them are on my boards anymore. Add in the bleed issue and my "no mods on vintage pedals" policy and it becomes one of those "love the tone, hate the issues" situations.

zentropa

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **sclitheroe** » 09 Oct 2012, 06:07

Interesting - thanks!

sclitheroe

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **zentropa** » 09 Oct 2012, 06:55

Np. Im not really a science guy... Well i am, but it's more in biomechanics and less in terms of circuits, so i don't really know what is causing what.

I just know most of my les pauls really didn't do well with em. That studio lite was the most extreme, i had to roll the volume down on the guitar to 6 to achieve parity volume with the pedal on and its level maxed vs bypassed.

zentropa

Re: Which pedals work best with humbuckers versus single coi

by **zentropa** » 10 Oct 2012, 04:05

OD-2r = passes the humbucker test.

Will probably end up shooting this out against the SD-2 as well. It has more nuttage than my MIJ OD-2's and is way quieter than the SD-2.

zentropa