Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 05 Jun 2013, 11:57

I snapped one of these up last night, they seem to go for super cheap on ebay so I was wondering what was wrong with them...

...well, I only got to play it at low volume but it sounded pretty good. It seems to have a nice low thick, low end heavy, fat distortion sound - which I like. I'll have to try it at band volume to get a proper idea of what it sounds like though. To me it doesn't sound like 'metal in a box' like the Metal Zone does, it sounded more like a really heavy overdrive than a distortion.

Does anyone else have one and what do you think of it?

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **visserman** » 05 Jun 2013, 12:26

It is a great pedal, good for all kind of sounds, from subtle to the over the top sounds.
It really is very good. Do not use it that much anymore but it certainly one of the better ones.

The reason why it is cheap is people do not know, think it is for metal ect. and Boss does have that many so why go for this one.
Nothing wrong with pedal it is very good.
Enjoy using it.

visserman

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 05 Jun 2013, 12:33

The low ebay price may have something to do with loads of reviews online that say the pedal sounds rubbish. I get the impression that these reviews are from metalheads with cheap guitars and solid state amps expecting awesome metal tones, which is never going to happen.

I think it's the same story as the PW2 Power Driver, with a rubbish amp it sounds rubbish, but with a good amp it sounds pretty awesome. I had a Power Driver and through my Bassman it sounded great, but because I don't often get to use my amp I sold it on as through other amps it didn't sound as good.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 05 Jun 2013, 12:37

I did think that the MD2 had certain similarities with the PW2, in that they are both bottom heavy, thick distortion pedals, and it made me wonder if the MD2 was the successor to the PW2 but with knobs named in a way that people could understand what they did?

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **visserman** » 05 Jun 2013, 13:51

Interesting observation.
I agree about the PW-2: Also great sounding pedal, and you can tame them so they will not sound over the top.

visserman

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **DB Cooper** » 05 Jun 2013, 15:08

All this talk about Mega Distortion and Power Driver leave me needing to break out! I've been playing with the Blues Driver and Xtortion for a long time, and I think it's time to bust a few others out. I tend to get in a "rut" of sorts where I stick with the same pedal(s) for a long time. I have nearly all the Boss dirt pedals, so I should be experimenting more. Thanks for the nudge!

DB Cooper

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 05 Jun 2013, 15:19

Do it, and tell us what you think about them!

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Pepe** » 05 Jun 2013, 17:18

I have both of them as well. I can do a side by side test in the next days. But maybe I don't really have time to do it this week, since I got a message a few minutes ago that my KORG MS-20 Mini synthesizer has arrived at the music shop.

Pepe

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 06 Jun 2013, 05:21

apparently the guy from The Raveonettes uses or at least used one.
anyone know if it can be heard on any of their records?

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 06 Jun 2013, 10:27

Apparently the blokey in Biffy Clyro uses one, and the chap in Part Chimp.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Pepe** » 06 Jun 2013, 13:34

I played with the MD-2 and the PW-2 this morning. I used the pedals with the same settings I used last time I played with them separately. Funnily, they almost sound identical this way:

If you use the pedals with much gain, they pretty much sound the same. On low gain settings, the MD-2 sounds *smoother*, but not really *better*. The PW-2 has a rougher and a bit harsher tone in these gain regions.

I think that the MD-2 acts like a PW-2 with a treble control instead of a mid control ("Muscle"), it has even more bass than the PW-2 and two ways to increase gain. "Gain Boost" leads to less noise if used with DIST at the lowest setting and sounds a bit smoother than "DIST" alone.

Pepe

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **visserman** » 07 Jun 2013, 11:19

Pepe, I think you deserve an award for putting images here very quickly!

visserman

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **DB Cooper** » 07 Jun 2013, 14:34

And excellent images as well! BONUS!

DB Cooper

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Pepe** » 08 Jun 2013, 08:55

Nothing but a decent compact camera.

Pepe

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 11 Jun 2013, 11:06

I tried my MD2 at rehearsal last night. I wasn't using my amp (a Fender Bassman 50 from 1975) but a house Laney 50 watt head and cab. The pedal seemed to have the same issue that i've had with Big Muffs in the past in the the amp doesn't have enough headroom to handle the sound from the pedal. The pedal sounded really quite through it no matter where I had the volume, turning the bottom control down helped a bit but it was still pretty quiet. No wonder this pedal gets bad reviews. I'll have to try it through my Bassman, I think it'll probably be able to handle it a bit better.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Pepe** » 15 Jun 2013, 13:44

The MD-2 is very loud through my Marshall MA50C and my Fender Stratocaster. Volume at noon position was already pretty loud. Do your pickups have too much output volume?

Pepe

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 15 Jun 2013, 15:19

I have a Dimarzio Pre B1 in my Tele and it's a pretty high output single coil.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **71Smallbox** » 17 Jun 2013, 15:06

Hey Johnny, check out this thread, maybe it will shed some light on your issue:
viewtopic.php?f=3&t=2303

71Smallbox

Re: Boss MD-2 Mega Distortion

by **Johnnyseven** » 18 Jun 2013, 11:49

Thanks for that.

I think i'm going to try the pedal with a few different amps before I come to a conclusion about what the issue is, after all I only noticed it when using 1 studio amp - not my own amp. When playing the MD-2 through my Bassman at home i've noticed no issue, but i'll know for sure in a couple of weeks when I get to rehearse with my Bassman.

I've had issues with heavily distorted pedals not being able to run with certain amps before, with some they only get to a certain volume but with others there's no issue at all - i've been told that it's to do with the amount of clean headroom the amp has. I had an IC Muff clone that would only get so loud using the Marshall valve amp they have in the studio we rehearse in but when using my Bassman or an old Carlbro 50 Top I had there was no issue at all.

Johnnyseven