Of Boss and Buffers

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Of Boss and Buffers

by sclitheroe » 26 Nov 2012, 05:21

QUOTE

Easy question that I bet has been asked a million times, but as usual, there are more opinions out on the web than you can shake a stick at...

Is there much, if any, of a difference between the buffering capabilities of say a BD-2, compared to any of the numerous dedicated buffer pedals out there? How about tonal differences (I'm guessing this has to be _very_ slight at worst and probably not worth worrying about).

Obivously not all Boss buffers are built equal, such as the issues I've read about with the SD-1 and bleed, but how about the BD-2? Are there other Boss pedals that are known (or infamous) for the quality of their buffer besides the SD-1?

-Scott

sclitheroe

Posts: 1453
Joined: 25 Nov 2011, 21:02
Location: Stoney Creek

Re: Of Boss and Buffers

by cctsim » 29 Nov 2012, 22:21

QUOTE

Boss has used quite a few buffer types over the years which I listed below. For overdrive and distortion pedals they seem to have settled down to option 4 which is used on BD2 and it is a decent buffer. I personally think the one in OD2 is the best. In general, people think opamps as buffer sound "sterile" but I could never tell and if there are "tone sucker" cases it's probably down to tolerances of components.

1. BJT -> BJT (DS1, SD1, OD1.v2)
2. BJT -> Opamp (Pre-emphasis) -> Opamp (De-emphasis) (CE2, BF2, DM3)
3. JFET -> BJT (OD2, PW2)
4. JFET -> BJT -> BJT (BD2, SD2, FZ2)
5. JFET -> BJT -> Opamp (Pre-emphasis) -> Opamp (De-emphasis) (DM3)
6. JFET -> Opamp (Pre-emphasis) -> Opamp (De-emphasis) (CE3)
7. Opamp -> Opamp (OD1)
8. Opamp -> BJT (CS3)
9. Opamp -> BJT -> Opamp (DC2)
10. Opamp (Pre-emphasis) -> BJT (De-emphasis) (GE7)

BJT=bipolar transistor
JFET=field effect transistor
In the examples above I didn't add the switching JFETs . All boss pedals have at least one of those.

cctsim

BOSSAREA GOLD

Posts: 119
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Location: United Kingdom

Re: Of Boss and Buffers

by sclitheroe » 29 Nov 2012, 23:40

QUOTE

Good info, thanks!

sclitheroe

Posts: 1453
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Location: Stoney Creek

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