Boss DD3

by **Johnnyseven** » 17 Sep 2013, 13:24

I'm thinking about picking up a used DD3 but i'm a bit confused about all the versions, I believe there are 4 but what are the differences in sound between them?

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss DD3

by **Pepe** » 17 Sep 2013, 13:33

I have kept the DD-3 with the long chip. Only MIJ DD-3'a have it (and later Japanese models don't). It has a nice, somewhat natural sound. The DD-3A is the follow-up model which has SMD components and a square chip. It sounds pretty sterile in my opinion. The repeats are very clean and are almost the same as the input signal. I didn't like this one too much, since my DD-7 does that as well (and longer and with a somewhat better quality, especially at higher volume peaks where the DD-3A made "plopping" sounds from time to time). I haven't tried the thrid (and latest?) version.

Pepe

Re: Boss DD3

by **BearBoy** » 17 Sep 2013, 14:56

There's some information about how to identify the different versions of the old BossArea site:
http://www.bossarea.com/loadpage.asp?file=boxes/dd3.xml

Mine's MIJ (a later MIJ one I think) but I've never compared it to any other versions tbh.

BearBoy

Re: Boss DD3

by **Johnnyseven** » 17 Sep 2013, 15:07

Thanks chaps.

Having looked into this, it seems that the DSD2/3 are also very similar to the original DD2/DD3, can anyone tell me if there is any difference in the delay sound of the DSd pedals compared to the DD's? They seem to go for quite cheap on ebay.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss DD3

by **Clean Channel** » 17 Sep 2013, 15:11

I own all three (DD2, DD3 long chip, DSD2, and DSD3). They all sound the same. If you're looking for the best price on a long-chip Boss digital delay, the DSD3 is your best option.

Clean Channel

Re: Boss DD3

by **Johnnyseven** » 17 Sep 2013, 15:26

Thanks for the advice. I think i'll look out for a DSD, that way I reduce that chance of ending up with a MIJ DD3 without the long chip.

Johnnyseven

Re: Boss DD3

by **Dirk** » 17 Sep 2013, 16:15

And even if you should opt for buying a new model DD-3, you still couldn't go wrong.
They're great solid delay units, maybe some of the best general purpose ones out there.

Dirk

Re: Boss DD3

by **charmonder** » 18 Sep 2013, 01:43

agreed! the other DD models are good too but maybe a little cluttered looking compared the DD-3.

Personally I'm on the fence between the long chip DD-3 and a DSD-3/2. I definitely use hold mode on the DD-3, I'm not sure the DSD-3 can do that the same way by footswitch but I'm almost certain it's the DSD's rec/play function is featured as the main melody for one of my favorite songs: "The Pink" by Medicine.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIssW1Qw4ZE

charmonder

Re: Boss DD3

by **Jeremy** » 18 Sep 2013, 07:05

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *And even if you should opt for buying a new model DD-3, you still couldn't go wrong.*
> *They're great solid delay units, maybe some of the best general purpose ones out there.*

good enough for Joe Bonamassa

As a general point, I think these finer differences would only be evident in the studio - and then only to trained ears. At a gig in a crowded pub with glassess clinking and drunk teenage girls screeching, no-one would pick the difference in quality of repeats between a long chip DD-3 and the other versions. Same with overdrives. I have a great collection of fancy dancy overdrives, but if I take an OD to a gig it will be a cheap TS9 or an SD1 - and I can't pick any significant difference in my end product between that and my DGTM or my Expandora or whatever. I am sure no one else could either. This is why so many proper professionals use Boss. They are cheap, reliable, good quality and a drunk 19 year old can throw up on them and they will still work fine. I also take a $50 MIT DD3 and leave all my old DD-2s and DSDs and whatnot at home.

Jeremy

Re: Boss DD3

by **Dirk** » 18 Sep 2013, 16:47

> *Jeremy wrote:*
> *a drunk 19 year old can throw up on them and they will still work fine.*

This should be added in boss' advertising campains!

Dirk

Re: Boss DD3

by **Guga Ramone** » 18 Sep 2013, 18:04

Totally agree with Jeremy.

Guga Ramone

Re: Boss DD3

by **Laurie** » 18 Sep 2013, 20:45

Versions. These are called various different names... I've listed them in chronological order using names that make sense to me.

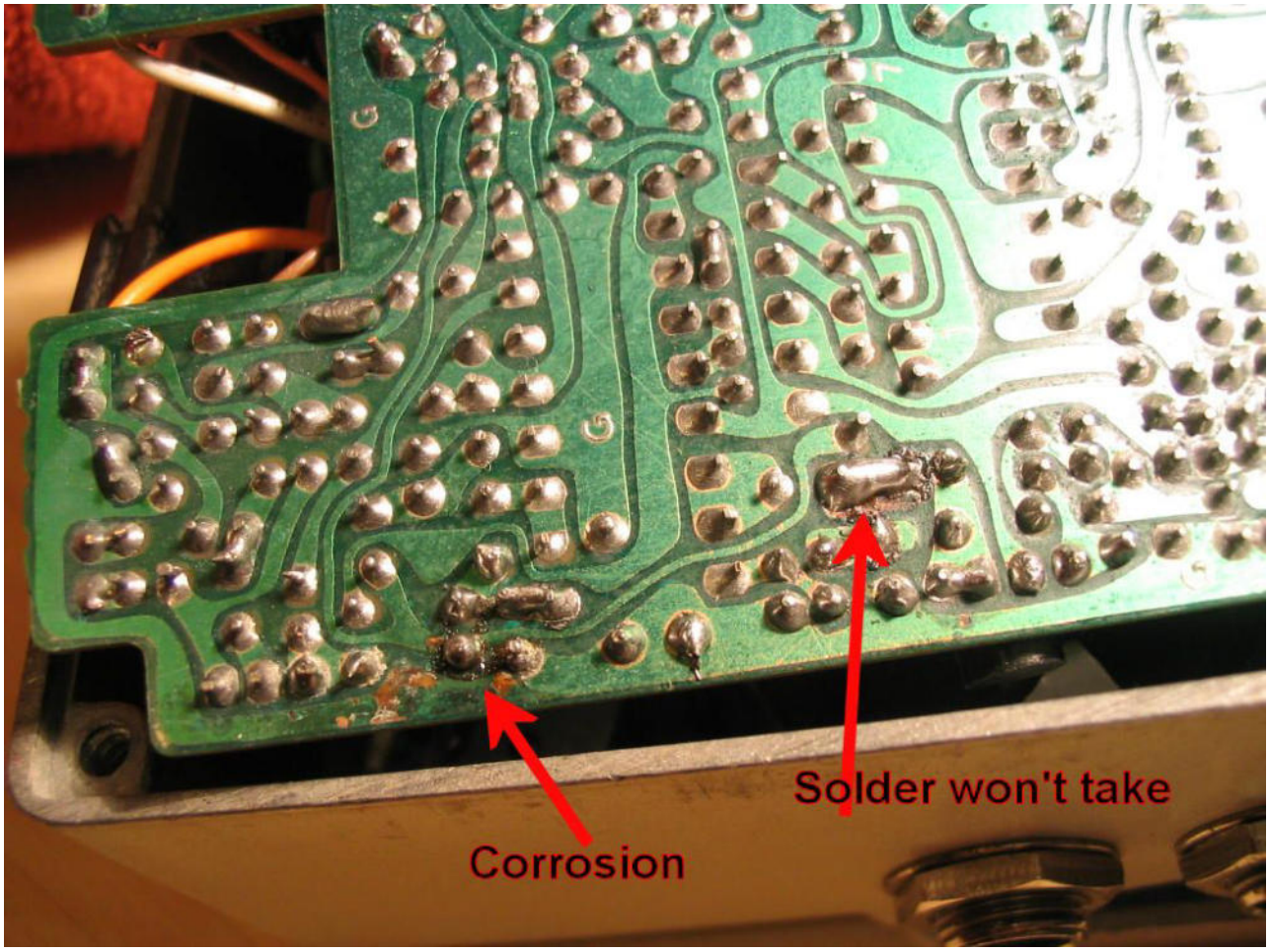
- long-chip. Same as the DD-2
- sqaure chip, old DC jack. Same logical implementation as DD-2, different chip-set, very similar sound.
- sqaure chip, new DC jack. Same logical implementation as DD-2, different chip-set, very similar sound.
- digital. Different logical implementation to DD-2 (using SMD etc). Surprisingly similar sound.

DSD-2 and DSD-3 are identical circuits. Both based on the DD-2 and using the long-chip but with slightly different functionality.

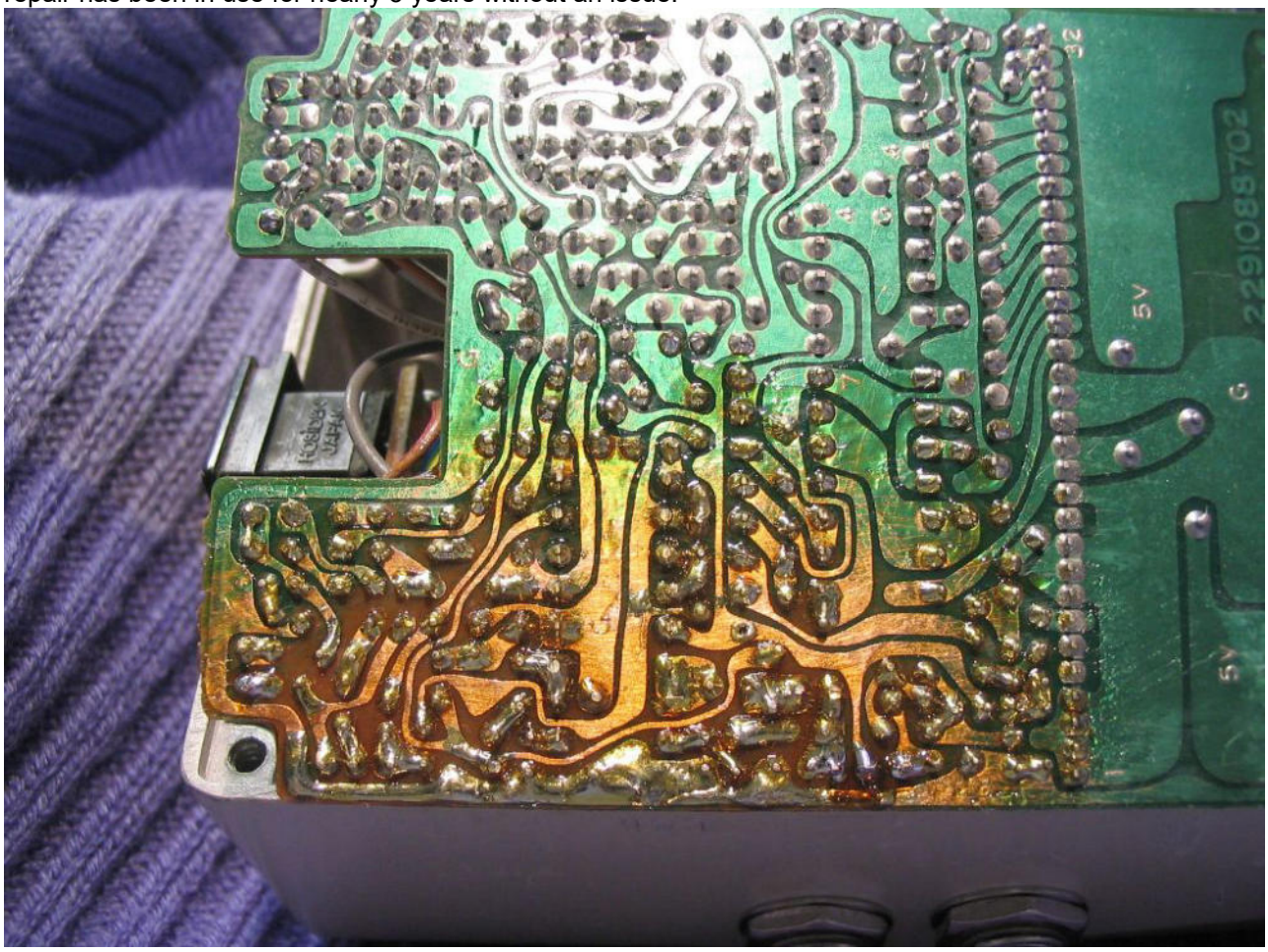
The long-chip DD-3 is my favorite. The sample-and-hold on the DSD is only a few hundred milliseconds so is a bit useless in my opinion.

Be careful when buying a long-chip DD-3. Many (many) of them have leaking electrolytic capacitors. Generally, all the 10uF and 1uF caps need to be replaced. If there has been a leak you will see brown discoloration on the circuit board and maybe smell "cats pee" when you open up the pedal. The brown discoloration is electrolyte and is a hazardous and corrosive material.

Discoloration with attempted historical repair.



Completed professional repair. The new conformal coating is clear instead of green so it looks a bit ugly, but this repair has been in use for nearly 5 years without an issue.



Laurie