Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by 1bottlerocket » 20 Feb 2013, 22:21

Hey all, I have been on a bit of a tear with Boss DM-2 pedals. I have landed about four and found something I thought was interesting. The latest unit I picked up has ssn 060400, which dates it to May 1981. This is the earliest example of a DM-2 I have ever seen. According to the product reference production began in June 1981. A couple things I found interesting about the build are that the clock driver chip has purple/red color lettering and there is a component soldered on the trace side of the board. I am not sure if this has been documented here but I thought I would share.

Please check the photos. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on this. Admittedly, I am a novice when it comes to boss so this may be well documented here and a run of the mill find. Regardless, I hope you find some interest though.

Note the clock driver chip lettering color

Note the trace side of the board with the component soldered

Here is another DM-2 for reference:

Component side:

Trace side

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **Clean Channel** » 21 Feb 2013, 06:25

Very cool, thanks for posting! I've copied this thread to my computer's 'DM2 info and facts' folder for future reference.

Clean Channel

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **visserman** » 21 Feb 2013, 17:21

It may have been documented on the old bossarea site, but all that info is gone.

I never knew the early DM's go back as far as having a whole in the box, I always thought they came later, around beginning of HM2 period.

Anyway, I have commented on the early ones being "real" delays and the later ones being "repeaters"
Could you comment on the sound of any of those four you have.
"repeater" stand for just after slapback, but no real long delays here. Earlier ones should fare better, according to posts on the older site.
Cheers!!

visserman

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 21 Feb 2013, 22:23

Okay, I can do that this week. I briefly played the 3205 and the 3005 next to each other and the the 3005 had more of a 'tape' feel to it, if that makes sense, whereas the 3205 seemed more of a simulation. I could get the earliest models to go into self-oscillation, whereas the newer model would not. I have not had a chance to sit down with the newest addition yet, as I just got it this week. The main reason I bought it was because of the very early serial number. Perhaps the product reference page can be updated to reflect this new finding? I forgot to mention the hole in the box, thanks for pointing that out. I have found some older Boss pedals here in Japan but they are getting fewer and far between sighting.

I will report back once I have had a chance to sit down with them a bit more.

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **visserman** » 25 Feb 2013, 11:38

What you mention about the self-occilation is interesting. I think that was mentioned in the earlier reports on the older Boss forum as well. It is also a clear give-away as to which version you have without opening up the pedal.

What about the trimpots? Are they sealed on all your versions. The one I have is sealed, which makes adjusting the trimmers a no-no. My guess is by adjusting the trimmers the sound of all of the different DM2's can come close, but I could be wrong eh.....

visserman

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 26 Feb 2013, 13:13

Regarding the trim pots, they are all sealed. There is an Ebay seller, worldisround, that seems to somehow get a hold of a lot of DM-2 pedals and move them on Ebay. I never really thought about looking at the trim pots but the seller was pushing it as a selling point and justification for a price premium. I started to pay attention to it and every model I have bought so far, five in total, have all had sealed trim pots. I guess that makes them more valuable!

Joking aside, I have heard people discuss adjusting the trim pots on the Maxon AD-999 models to sound like the earlier MN3005 equipped AD-900 delays but I have never touched them. Also, I still have not had a chance to sit down and play my newest DM-2 addition.

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **Pepe** » 26 Feb 2013, 13:17

Is there a way to "break" the seal these trimpots, or do you have to solder in new trimpots if you want to recalibrate it?

And does the DM-3 have sealed trimpots as well?

Pepe

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

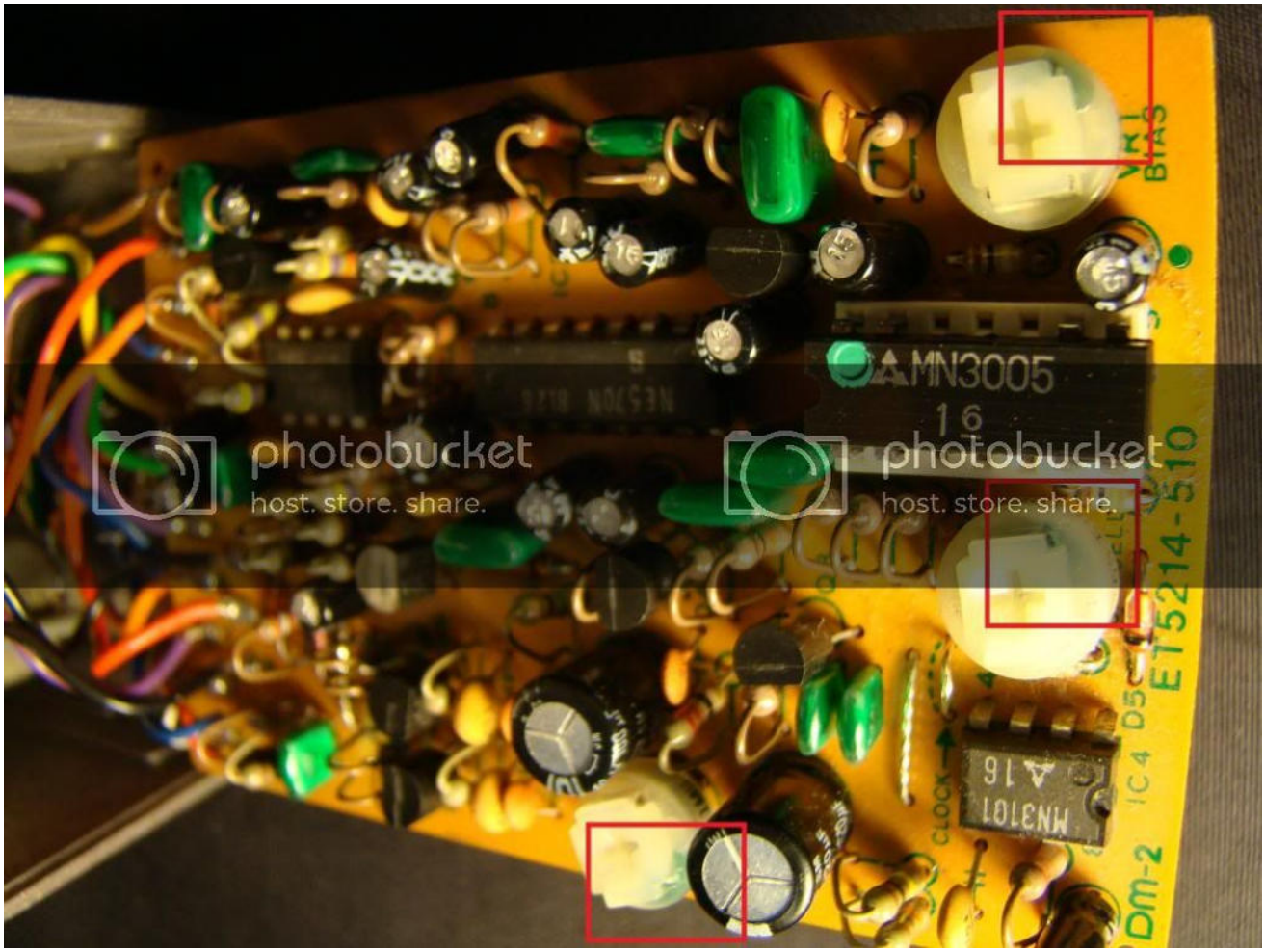
by **Clean Channel** » 26 Feb 2013, 14:13

The trimpots were sealed with little dabs of translucent green paint after they were calibrated by Boss. The seal is easy to break by simply turning the trimpot. DM-2s with unbroken trimpots fetch more money as the user can rest assured the DM-2 sounds exactly (or very close to, if one accounts for the age of the unit) as Boss had originally intended.

I've never owned a DM-3, and I don't know if Boss sealed the trimpots in them.

Here are a few gut shots of a DM-2, where I've drawn boxes around the green paint on all three trimpots. You can see that it's a small and thin layer of paint, and would be easy to break by adjusting the pot.

NEC JAPAN
C4558C
NE570N 8126
MN3005
16
IC2
IC3
IC4
MN3101
A16
CLOCK
VR3
CLOCK
ET5214-510
Dm-2


VR1
BIAS
MN3005
16
MN3101
A16
CLOCK
IC4
ET5214-510
Dm-2

Clean Channel

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 13 Mar 2013, 22:17

I just picked up (yet) another DM-2 last night. This one dates from June 81, the official listed date of production. It has the hole in the case for the battery wires and the board looks different than the May 81 version I posted earlier. I will get some photos up tonight.

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 03 Apr 2013, 02:35

I had a chance to play and compare and contrast the two earliest units I have, May and June '81. The May and June units are much more capable of a wide variarty of sounds, while the later unit, will not self-oscillate or do anything more than delay at the most extreme settings.

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **Clean Channel** » 03 Apr 2013, 04:32

Really, won't self-oscillate? That's weird. All Boss DM-2s should oscillate if you crank the intensity. Are you sure the trimpots haven't been messed with in your later unit? Sorry, I might have missed it as glanced through the thread, but I can't see any mention of when your later unit was made. Can you elaborate?

I have three DM-2s, one is from September 1981, and the other two are from October 1981. They're all mn3005 with intact trimpot seals. All three sound exactly the same and they all self-oscillate beautifully!

Clean Channel

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 03 Apr 2013, 04:59

The later unit has the 3205 chip, produced November 1982. That unit will not self-oscillate and the trim pots look sealed as best I can tell. I guess I could check it on a scope.

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **bossarea** » 08 Apr 2013, 19:14

I've seen two more DM-2s from May-81 but none earlier so this is probably the first month of production. Interesting about the diode on the solder side of the PCB. The number on the PCB is 2291045800 but for the second pedal it's 2291045801. Looks like they made a small mistake on the PCB and had to fix it by cutting into the copper and adding the diode.

bossarea

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **1bottlerocket** » 08 Apr 2013, 21:12

I was wondering why they put the diode on the back. Your explanation would make sense.

Do you remember if the clock driver chip had white lettering or the purplish color like that on the unit I found?

1bottlerocket

Re: Comparing Boss DM-2 production boards

by **bossarea** » 08 Apr 2013, 21:43

No idea about the purple text. I've collected loads of serial numbers and pedal info from Ebay pictures and Yahoo Japan auctions and I never wrote down any detail like that. It's something to look out for now that I know about it.

bossarea