CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Ptak** » 15 May 2013, 00:00

So until recently I've been a CS-2 fan but I purchased a CS-3 to try out. At first I felt the CS-2 was the clear winner, well that was until I modded my CS-3. Right now I'm leaning towards the CS-3! Pretty sure it will replace my CS-2 but I've been really testing both out a lot. Likely wont make a final decision for a week or so. As for a CS-1 I cant really comment because ive never tried one!

Anyway, just curious what the forum's preference is?

Ptak

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 15 May 2013, 10:33

CS-1 - Treble booster esque, but "organic", can get too squishy - least effecty
CS-2 - good all rounder, clear not to clinical tones.
CS-3 - adds a modern crunch, obvious compression, bit too much?

I like the old school CS-1

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **nathanscribe** » 15 May 2013, 15:01

Not tried the 1 or 2, though I'd like to. As for the 3, the only use I ever found for it is making everything sound like crap. 8) I mean that in a good way though as it's staying in my arsenal for that 'knackered cheap tape' sound without having to actually record to knackered cheap tape.

nathanscribe

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Dirk** » 15 May 2013, 16:23

After having modded the living daylights out of my CS-3, for more low end and tubey tone (I use it with bass btw.) I got a CS-2 from DasBeef in a previous CPEWT only to find out Boss got it right the first time..!!

I actually did just mod the 2 for a little more treble, but I equally use and love 'em both.

Never tried a CS-1, but if it's anything like a Dynacomp then it's probably too squishy for my taste, I like when a compressor adds a little tube-like compression.
My favourite compressor by far is the RCL-10, that's studio quality for a bargain price!

Dirk

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **zombiwoof** » 15 May 2013, 17:11

CS-1 is nothing like a DynaComp, and it's different from the later CS-2/CS-3's (photo-optical vs. VCA):

http://bossarea.com/loadpage.asp?file=boxes/cs1.xml

Al

zombiwoof

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **DasBeef** » 15 May 2013, 19:53

I've had all three. Hated the CS-3, but could be used as a decent clean boost. Quite liked the CS-2, but it was nothing compared to the super squishy CS-1. It can make so many great sounds.

DasBeef

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 16 May 2013, 00:48

Ive never tried a compressor before
but bought a CS-2 in good cond cheap a while ago.

didnt even try it with guitar but just got it cause it was another cool old BOSS pedal and I got it cheap.

then a few weeks ago I bought a lapsteel.
tried the compressor with it and immediatly discovered the lapsteel sounded way better with it than without it.

Ive found a second CS-2 cheap that Im probably buying soon.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 16 May 2013, 13:15

I believe there are two versions of the CS-1 - although it can be easily modded (info online). There is also the issue of the "momentary LED" CS-1 (silver screw) which is apparently the better stock, alas I`ve never got my hands on one. Modded my CS-1 to improve the volume to unity (and a tad boost) - sounds good. Only annoyance is a slight delay from stomping the switch, to the compressor being active, which sort of kills the instant boost function I would otherwise use it for. My Maxon pedals (the TS808 type box units) also suffer the same delay FWOW. Anyway the CS-1 is thin, bright, natural, super squishy

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **71Smallbox** » 17 May 2013, 18:01

What versions of the CS-3 did/do you guys have, which opamp, the THAT or DBX?

71Smallbox

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Dirk** » 17 May 2013, 20:00

I've had both for a while, comparing them I concluded that the dbx sounds a little dirtier, more tube like whereas the THAT sounded a little more sterile and lifeless if you will.

Needless to say, I kept the dbx pedal. I've been using that same pedal since 1995.
I've modded it a little to be more bass friendly, but I love that thing!

Dirk

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **71Smallbox** » 17 May 2013, 20:06

Cool, I just picked up a CS-3 with the DBX chip. I haven't had a chance to try it out yet, but I'll gladly report back!

71Smallbox

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **nathanscribe** » 17 May 2013, 20:50

Yeah mine's a newish one, 2008 I think, so it's a THAT model. I just can't get it to do good clean compression well. Luckily I have several to choose from, haha.

nathanscribe

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **71Smallbox** » 21 May 2013, 21:58

So I tried it out and it works really well, very adjustable in comparision to the MXR compressor and it doesn't seem to be as squishy sounding as the MXR. Not a bad score considering I got it for really cheap due to it needing a repair. All that I had to do was resolder a resistor on the board and put on a new batter clip and it works perfectly!

71Smallbox

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Laurie** » 21 May 2013, 23:07

I have both. I like the dBx. Opinions vary.

Laurie

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Ptak** » 22 May 2013, 17:32

Its been a while now of comparing the compressors (CS-2/CS-3) Ive come to realize theres positives and negatives to both. The CS-3 sounded modern and tight to me but was thin and light sounding. On the CS-2 it was the opposite. I modded the CS-3 first because I didn't like it at all stock where as the CS-2 I did like stock but felt it needed a bit of improvement.

After the CS-3 mod I got it thicker sounding with more bass and such. With the thickness and tightness I was loving it thinking it would replace the CS-2 but a/b'ing the two the CS-2 still gave me a heavier sounding tone so that led me to mod the CS-2 a bit. I did a few changes most notably increasing the attack and now the compressors are very similar sounding although the CS-2 has regained it's status of my on board comp. Im still going to mod the CS-3 a bit more because I ordered some parts but my CS-2 is a beast of a comp right now and doubt ill be able to make the CS-3 sound better than it. I do prefer having the tone knob and the look of the CS-3 so i'll at least try.

Ptak

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **2+2=5** » 24 Jun 2013, 07:52

my opinion
CS-1 is the best

2+2=5

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 24 Jun 2013, 11:40

I`m on my 2nd CS-1 (with a boxed CS-2 in the draw), I like the dry tonality, and treble boost like charm of the switch - aesthetics being a plus in my book
(Somehow the CS-2 and 3 I KNOW when they are on).

Two questions:

1) Is yours a silver screw and/or momentary LED issue or the later black screw/std LED?

I`ve heard myth/rumor regarding the former and negative press with the latter, which may explain disperate views on the CS-1.

2) When you engage it as a boost in front of an amp or OD pedal is there a minor pause between the overlap of the two sounds?

I know there is a minor component change between the two, (there`s a link on the net somewhere). I modded my later issue with a simple cap change - back to the older specs - for more volume to match and exceed unity. I`m still curious though!!

Cheers.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Arpeggiator** » 26 Jun 2013, 22:00

The CS-1 is easily the coolest looking BOSS pedal ever. It's also a very interesting effect - if you're into using a compressor as an *effect*. I don't think any other compressor can do what the CS-1 can do.

Still, the CS-2 will be the one and only comp to me forever. Such a "musical" pedal...it just makes any other pedal a tad more awesome

Tried the CS-3, didn't like it much.

Arpeggiator

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **fenderjapan** » 27 Jun 2013, 06:12

I just grabbed my first ever compressor, a used MIJ Green Label CS-2.

I love it.

I haven't tried a CS-1 ever and its been a long time since the CS-3. But the CS-2 does everything I need and want it to do...compresses my pick attack, adds sustain. I mostly use it for cleans.

fenderjapan

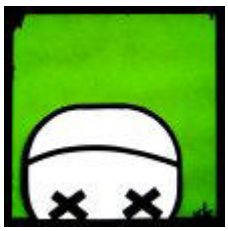
Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **natthu** » 27 Jun 2013, 09:26

The main purpose I used to have for a compressor was with bass guitar to tame the signal going into my OC-2. It helped to lessen the amount of glitchiness. A CS-3 worked fine for that (not sure if mine was a dbx or a THAT). I eventually ditched the CS-3 and replaced it with a Keeley C4, which was a much better compressor IMHO.

Now that I have the much more stable POG2 for octave effects (on bass guitar), I no longer use a comp. I think my guitar set up probably doesn't really require a comp either, I seem to get all of the compression I need out of existing pedals on my board.

I have had a CS-2 previously, and I currently have a CS-1 (SS)... but I've never really bonded with either. The CS-1 will probably go in the next gear purge I have



natthu

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **2+2=5** » 09 Jul 2013, 02:00

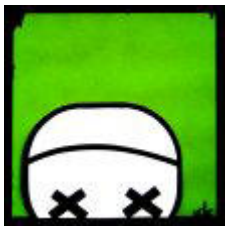
i tried a CS-1 on bass once, and i find it doesn't seems to be a good idea to do this
some low end lost, and it's too squishy for the middle-high frequency
i'm not a bass player, just have fun with bass sometime, maybe just my fault on this.

2+2=5

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **natthu** » 09 Jul 2013, 11:57

I can't say that I've bothered to try it with bass, but I certainly don't like its effect on guitars.



natthu

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **Dirk** » 09 Jul 2013, 16:55

I haven't tried the CS-1 as well, but I do know the squishing effect, not to mention the loss of lows (and highs).
The MXR Dynacomp is equally unsuitable for bass.

You'd be far better off with a CS 2/3 which non-modded will also eat some bass, but not as noticable, and are by far not as squishy.

Dirk

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **techhed** » 22 Sep 2014, 01:41

When did the CS-3 stop using the DBX chip?

techhed

Re: CS-1 vs CS-2 vs CS-3

by **charmonder** » 22 Sep 2014, 03:53

Laurie put together some good info about that,
http://www.stompboxzone.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=2673&p=27967&hilit=dbx#p27967

I can vouch I found a dbx version CS-3, MIT, with serial number beginning in "EC".

charmonder