BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 12 Feb 2013, 14:16

So before I get all guilt ridden about pedals not being used (its a big list) does anyone have any good suggestions for the BOSS Fuzz department?

I find the FZ-2 quite useful for classic octave-ing but beyond that its a bit industrial and harsh. Might do as a boost though...

FZ-3 is a weird beast, simple, but a little dry to my ears. Should I mod it? Can it be done? I have some BC-108s that might be shoe-d in if anyone knows how?!

Muse on

Current non-used/gathering dust/maybes...

PH-3 - I wanted the wibbly step filter, but its not continuous..bah
FZ-3/FZ-2
Digital Dimension DC-3 - Actually quite like it maxxed for a psuedo Leslie thing
PN-2 - ahhh to own *two* amps!
CS-2 *and* CS-1 - I`m addicted to *trying* compressors but non have dwelled on my board more than a flash.
FT-2 - not bad but I have a Maxon AF-9 - to sell or not to sell...
TW-1 - When I get another BCB-6 it`ll be on!
FW-3 wah

and of course non-BOSS items

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 12 Feb 2013, 18:25

I like both the FZ-2 and FZ-3.

I think they both have lots of great tones right on their own, but if you're looking for more, try stacking them before an OD.

While I post pics of my all-Boss board, the truth is that in practical use there one essential change I sometimes make: at the end of my dirt chain I replace the OD-3 with a Paul C. Timmy. The Timmy stacks really well with the two Boss FZ pedals, and the EQ on the Timmy has a huge affect on the sound of them.

For example, normally the FZ-3 is pretty straight forward, and the built-in EQ has a minimal affect, but the Timmy can transform it into all kinds of new tones.

Personally, I wouldn't want to mod them, they're both beautiful, straightforward, analog circuits.

Clean Channel

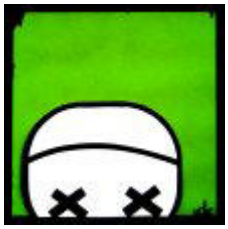
Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **natthu** » 12 Feb 2013, 21:14

Fuzz is not Boss' strong point IMHO. I'm not saying that the FZ-* pedals are bad, but for me they just never "sparkled".

There's also a lot of competition out there for fuzz... I've tried many fuzz pedals which blow Boss' offerings away.

I wouldn't bother modding a Boss fuzz, I'd just buy a different fuzz.


natthu

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **WhereBoysFearToTread** » 12 Feb 2013, 22:39

I recently bought a second FZ-2.
the one I already had is a bit beat up and needed fixing a while ago.
hadnt seen one in an ad here(Sweden)
for years and I grabbed this second one for around $100.
(which I think is a pretty normal price for one here).

Ive only used mine at home.
I like mode I. mode II sounds a lot like Nintendo and is fun sometimes but maybe not too usable.

I´ll pick up a FZ-3 if I ever see one at a good price but I haven´t seen one in years in ads here.

Ive got a Maxon AF-9 too btw but I´d rather get a FT-2 again.
it works better I think.

WhereBoysFearToTread

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 13 Feb 2013, 04:27

> *natthu wrote:*
> *Fuzz is not Boss' strong point IMHO. I'm not saying that the FZ-* pedals are bad, but for me they just never "sparkled".*
>
> *There's also a lot of competition out there for fuzz... I've tried many fuzz pedals which blow Boss' offerings away.*

> *I wouldn't bother modding a Boss fuzz, I'd just buy a different fuzz.*

Honestly, I don't agree. I think the FZ-2 and FZ-3 sound killer! Kinda like some other stuff out there, but different enough to have their own thing going on too.

I have a bunch of other top-tier and vintage fuzz pedals kickin' around, and I feel the FZs hang with the best of 'em!

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 13 Feb 2013, 04:29

> *WhereBoysFearToTread wrote:*
> *I like mode I. mode II sounds a lot like Nintendo and is fun sometimes but maybe not too usable.*

Don't forget that hitting a hot amp with Fuzz II or stacking it into an OD totally opens it up/changes the character of the sound. Fuzz II is killer when used as a fuzzy boost! For a lot of FZ-2 fans out there, that's what they mainly use the pedal for!

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 13 Feb 2013, 10:40

Thanks chaps, useful advice

Its been a while since I`ve used them at nice gig volumes, and I do recall now that stacking did take the edge off of the FZ-2 (Had an all BOSS day with a BD-2 once upon a time), and I actually ran them both together for a recording ages back. So when I have the chance I`ll experiment. I do dig the FZ-3s hammer tone type finish aping the classic Tonebenders My No.1 "BOSS" fuzz is my Roland AD-50 Double Beat which was a lucky find, but it isn`t quite as practical in size as the wee grey boxes.

And finally I did consider (if it were cheap enough) <cough> the COSM FZ-5. Heard a chap live with the Maestro setting, and although harsh it did the job, cut through. And the proguitarshop demo (I know Andy can make magic from anything), of the FZ-5 sounds remarkably good. COSM hmmm....I am aware the guitarist from Indie miserablists in black Glasvegas uses one (in a "wall of noise" context) too.

And finally on BOSS fuzzes, the HM-2 on one setting I demoed once did a good sixties Tonebender imitation, another one to hunt down!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Johnnyseven** » 20 Feb 2013, 15:42

I've had 2 x FZ2's and an FZ3 in the past. I love the FZ2 but never liked the FZ3, it sounded too dull to me and I couldn't get enought treble out of the tone control.

With the FZ2, I love it when I play and octave chord and bend just the string with the higher octave note - it produces a wobbling effect with the sound, the more you bend the more it wobbles!

Johnnyseven

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Pepe** » 20 Feb 2013, 16:38

Yes, the FZ-2 creates very wicked sounds if you play disharmonious intervals. I have never experienced it with another fuzz pedal. At least not as extreme! The FZ-2 is just great. I'd like to grab one again, if a decent looking and affordable exemplar comes my way. I shouldn't have sold my FZ-2 three years ago.

Pepe

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Johnnyseven** » 21 Feb 2013, 16:53

I sometimes find that the FZ2 can get a bit lost in the mix when playing with a band. Does anyone else find this and is there a way of solving the issue without adding a EQ pedal with a mid boost to my set up?

Johnnyseven

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 21 Feb 2013, 16:58

If you're running it straight into a clean amp, I say change to a dirty channel and boost the heck out of it (run the FZ-2 dimed), or stack the FZ-2 with another dirt pedal after, and EQ that one to taste. I love my FZ-2 into a Timmy!

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Johnnyseven** » 21 Feb 2013, 17:10

Thanks for the suggestion. I run amps clean and use pedals for drive as I rarely get to use my amps for gigs/rehearsals but I do run my FZ2 before my modded BD2 in my pedal chain so i'll try running the 2 together to see if it improves things. I'll try it at practice tonight and see what happens!

Johnnyseven

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 21 Feb 2013, 17:15

Great! Report back with your thoughts!

Always a good idea to try stacking your fuzz into OD. All those classic Fuzz Face tones that we know and love come from a fuzz being run into an overdriven tube amp.

Just last night I pulled out a vintage Sunn Buzz Fuzz that I have kicking around. On its own it's a dirty mess, but once I cranked (properly) cranked my preamp, there was a beautiful blooming, singing fuzz!

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **shaun_mac** » 26 Feb 2013, 21:06

I have an FZ-3 I bought in late 1997 right around when they were released. I bought it almost to the day it came in at the guitar store I used to hang out at every night after high school. The pedal , to my 16 year old ears, sounded like Cream, or like a 60's guitar which I was still learning about at that point.

When I saw a couple years later that John Frusciante was using one with his DS-2 it opened up new possibilites on how to use it.

Persoanlly I leave the FUZZ knob cranked and the level at about 3 o'clock. The tone knob is the only one I move depending on the "type" of fuzz I want. The rest of it I personally think can be tailored with the volume knob on the guitar since I find this pedal cleans up well through a high gain amp, like a Marshall for instance.

Cheers! 🍺 🙂

shaun_mac

Re: BOSS FZ-2 and FZ-3 Settings?

by **Clean Channel** » 26 Feb 2013, 21:12

Great post, awesome board with killer pedals! Thanks for the info!

Clean Channel