NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **The_Doc** » 15 Sep 2013, 18:21

Through some happy circumstances I've managed to bag a CE-1 which has been on my 'must have' list for a long, long time. Pix below.

A very good friend asked if I could do a brief review of it for him and I thought it might be helpful here too. The set up for this run through was a 90's US Standard Tele through a POD HD desktop (*various amp emulations*) and Genelec monitors - all in mono....

Good stuff

Chorus - rich and with lots of depth. Has something extra. It's like a CE-2 with a bit of extra chorus mojo dust. Completely nails the Andy Summers clean tone - perfection. Even though the rate is fixed it still has a huge array of effects through the single chorus Intensity control - from a gentle chime to Godzilla under water with a kazoo. Combine it with some meaty distortion or overdrive and it adds a vocal, rich movement - think of Trower with a light Univibe in the mix.

Vib - a real surprise as I had expected this to be next to useless. Setting Depth to 8 o clock and Rate to 10 brings a subtle swirl that adds some life and vintage soul to proceedings. Turning up the depth reduces it to an effect that should only be used on special occasions - spin the rate too and it all goes a bit bonkers.

There's much less background noise than I had expected - in fact I'd go as far as to say that it is extremely quiet for such an old thing.

To think about stuff

The LEDs are a bit confusing. The left one is not an effect on/off as I had expected but shows input clipping. The right one blinks at the rate set but can't be used to differentiate between chorus and vib. Not a problem when you get used to it.

As I've read elsewhere the High input position is useless for a guitar - it overloads very easily. Alternatively, set the input to Low and crank the level control knob to 100% and things become more sensible.

There is definitely a volume drop when the effect is engaged. I had read about this before and isn't a problem as long as you know it's going to do it. A (*Dingo Tone*) HZD works wonders with this pedal and can be used to bring the volume back up again if so desired.

Summary

Very, very glad I invested in it. It has a warmth and mojo of an old pedal and with lots of variety in the effects it can deliver. It's as solid as a brick and the mains power avoids any faffing about with batteries and wall warts. The one downside - I cannot stop smiling which is making my angry old man face hurt !

Hope you found this interesting Here's the pix - with a few friends too...

The_Doc

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **Clean Channel** » 15 Sep 2013, 19:00

Great review and cool pic!

I also have a CE-1 and love it. A definite must-have for any hard-core Boss fanatic.

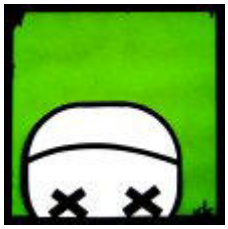
Clean Channel

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **natthu** » 15 Sep 2013, 23:18

I was lucky enough to score a CE-1 for a good price recently. I really just bought it thinking I would try it out and resell it and easily get my money back... However, it completely lives up to the hype. Completely worth keeping. I've never been a huge fan of the CE-2, which is probably why I wasn't expecting much from the CE-1. The CE-1 just has that extra special something though.

For me the CE-1s size is a huge minus, it's far too big to sensibly fit on my pedalboards, but it is as solid as a rock.


natthu

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **Laurie** » 16 Sep 2013, 00:14

The circuit doesn't use any unobtanium parts... wonder why there aren't more clones?

Oh, and THANKS FOR THE GAS. B@stard.

Laurie

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **sclitheroe** » 16 Sep 2013, 01:41

Much more portable than a JC-120 😄

sclitheroe

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **The_Doc** » 16 Sep 2013, 09:07

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *The circuit doesn't use any unobtanium parts... wonder why there aren't more clones?*
>
> *Oh, and THANKS FOR THE GAS. B@stard.*

.... pleased to be of service mate

The_Doc

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **nathanscribe** » 16 Sep 2013, 21:23

The CE-1 is possibly the *only* Boss pedal on my wishlist now. Nice review.

nathanscribe

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **Franzoni** » 17 Sep 2013, 13:59

Nice score Doc....

As chance would have it for the first time in many moons i don't have a chorus pedal on my board but am using the CE-1 simulation in the Line 6 multi effect yoke....i have one patch saved just for chorus with a bit of reverb.....sounds really good in stereo.....

Franzoni

Re: NPD.... a CE-1 at long last + a brief review

by **Ptak** » 18 Sep 2013, 15:40

Would love to have one. STP use's it so it must be a winner.

Ptak