BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 01 Sep 2013, 09:44

Played this today (through Bognor EL84 amp/cheap strat copy) in a shop and couldn`t stop playing - I loved it!

The Fuzz Face setting I spent a good deal of time on - has that real grind recalling a vintage unit, more fun that the Dunlop Mini FF I demoed prior. Maestro setting although trebly does the job and the Octavia mode had a good range.

I am still in shock, as a fuzz collector, analog purist and pretty picky about fuzzes chap, this was huge surprise

For the price/practicality and access to three very useable sounds, this is going on my list.

Anyone else have thoughts on the FZ-5? I despise COSM but this one made me smile

(NB. Maybe the Brit voiced good quality amp allowed it to shine?)

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **Laurie** » 01 Sep 2013, 10:37

Had one for a while... couldn't sell it, even for $30 locally. No love for it at all around these parts.

Very interesting to hear your experience. Perhaps this pedal requires very specific amp voicing to sound good and the Bognor nails it?

Laurie

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **sclitheroe** » 01 Sep 2013, 15:56

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *No love for it at all around these parts.*

Not entirely true at the time, but I didn't love it enough to have two of them

FuzzBuzzBuzz, is the Bogner a fairly neutral sounding amp? My theory is that's where the FZ-5 does best - the less amp character imparted on the FZ-5 the better.

-Scott

sclitheroe

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 02 Sep 2013, 11:00

Well it was my first time with the Bogner amp as this happened to be the setup in the store. It certainly is a high quality/priced valve amp, the clean channel - which I used, did seem very neutral, no Fender sparkly/treble, nor warm papery Marshallness, so your theory may hold some weight. I predominantly used the front Strat pickup (and it was a $100 Strat copy).

Here`s a link to the amp.

http://altomusic.com/shop/Bogner-SHIVA- ... d115897.am

In short its got a nice big 12 inch speaker and a darker British voicing, perhaps this is the key? (I guess having a wonderful amp makes most of the BOSS sound fantastic!)

I did note the FZ-5 is quite treble heavy and I think the options for the 3 fuzz sounds require fairly radical shift in amp EQ to accomodate.-

Curious. I`m still quite baffled, it was at the bottom of my list before!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **visserman** » 03 Sep 2013, 11:15

I have not heard the FZ-5, but a good test to the capabilities of any pedal is the try the pedal through various small, basic amps, and then go for bigger amps.

Fuzz, what you mentioned about your surprise, I have that often with other pedals as well, when I check them through various amps.
I guess a really good pedal will keep its character, regardless amp- and speaker set-up. Sometimes basic amps can make some pedals really sound inspiring.

Clear Channel made a comment on the FZ-5 a while ago, how this pedal does sound consistent, not matter what you put it through.

Another test for the FZ-5 could be, to plug it into a mixer and then listen back with headphones. My guess is you will hear the same sound, or almost. Trying this through guitaramp will make it sound better.

Whenever I get a new pedal, I alway play it first through small, basic amp: If is sounds good through that amp it will only get better when you go to bigger, better quality amps. Sometimes the pedal will make that small amp sound much better, sometimes not, but again, this is a good measure for yourself to see what pedal is capable of.

visserman

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 04 Sep 2013, 13:33

This

By virtue of its unibiquity in retailers here in Japan and "flat" EQ/dull sound I favor the Roland JC-120 for my test bed. It contributes nothing to a pedal overdrive tone wise, and often the sound is very dry and exposed for better or worse. If it sounds good through the JC then I generally give it the thumbs up - a hard test to pass My first big purchase into "pro" land was a reissue TS-808, it passed, and served me well for the next few years. Same goes for an OD-808 Maxon that I have now, SD-1 MIJ and hopefully down the land an OD-1 - sounded great through the small JC (70?).

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **sclitheroe** » 04 Sep 2013, 20:03

In my opinion, the JC-120 is a bit like a hi-fi stereo when it comes to pedals (without claiming to know a ton about it technically, I think that's essentially what it is - a high powered high fidelity audio frequency amplifier with instrument compatible inputs and speakers) - it exposes tons of details about the pedal that other amps don't.

sclitheroe

Re: BOSS FZ-5 Fuzz

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 06 Sep 2013, 12:04

Yes, quite right, really a neutral tone zone.

Surprisinly I did get a ripper sound with my beloved AD-50 Roland Fuzz through one, again, good pedals show their merit through the JC

fuzzbuzzfuzz