## Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consistant

by **visserman** » 09 Jan 2013, 13:06

When you try most of the boss dirt pedals which one do you think is the most consistant in its sound when you use it over various amp/speaker sets? (or a mixer or PA system for that matter)

This is not easy, as there are so many ins and outs.
Most of the pedals sound fab. when being used over small amps. There are some pedals, when you try them over bigger amps, their character is kind of lost: You do no longer hear the partcular colour it is good at.

I will go more into detail, will also create some articles on my own site http://www.guitartutorleeds.com but for now I will just hightlight the handful of pedals which really shine, not matter which amp you use:

OD-3 must be one of the best in this regard: No matter which amp you use you will get that sound. Even better: When tried over a JCM 900, the sound of the OD-3 is very very close to the ampsound. None of the other boss dirt pedals can do this. Absolute winner!
Remember, this is not about how good or bad a certain pedal is, no, it is about how well a pedal is in putting out its sound under different cirumstances.

Close contenders: DS-1, OD-1, XT-2 (Yes that one, absolute winner for VOX sounds!)

I have to do more close testing to get to finer details, but in the meantime, I am sure some of you will have your own take on this.
Have fun for now, keep on playing, and partying ---if you must---

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Clean Channel** » 09 Jan 2013, 15:07

Agree on the OD-3; great sounding pedal for sure.

I'd also say the HM-2 is a pedal that works well with every rig I've tried, including big ones. Blasted it recently through a friend's high powered rig, and it sounded awesome.

Clean Channel

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **DarrinPA** » 09 Jan 2013, 19:57

This is a really good question. But my answer is I haven't really found any of my boss OD/distortion pedals to be very consistant, but I've played in such different situations I don't know if any brand pedal would be consistant. The SD-1 is the one I'd trust the most, not that the sound is always going to sound the exact same but at least I can work with what it gives me. The least consistant is the ODB-3. I use it for guitar and have gotten amazing tones out of it, and at other times have been to the point of almost throwing it away.

DarrinPA

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **sclitheroe** » 09 Jan 2013, 23:21

FZ-5 takes the crown. It cares not what the impedance of your pickups are, nor what kind of amp or pedals you're driving downstream. It isn't affected by temperature, battery chemistry, or public opinion about itself.

Pure, unadulterated digital fuzz. You could play it on the moon and it would sound the same.

sclitheroe

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **Laurie** » 10 Jan 2013, 01:01

Except in space, no one can hear you fuzz.

Laurie

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **Pepe** » 10 Jan 2013, 08:32

Pepe

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **visserman** » 10 Jan 2013, 15:24

*DarrinPA wrote:*

> *This is a really good question. But my answer is I haven't really found any of my boss OD/distortion pedals to be very consistant, but I've played in such different situations I don't know if any brand pedal would be consistant. The SD-1 is the one I'd trust the most, not that the sound is always going to sound the exact same but at least I can work with what it gives me. The least consistant is the ODB-3. I use it for guitar and have gotten amazing tones out of it, and at other times have been to the point of almost throwing it away.*

Good observation about the SD-1. My own experience with this one is somewhat different: The SD-1 one is one of those pedals which sits in between OD-1 with it very old school sound, the brighter BD-2 and the versatile OD-3.

Soundwise the SD-1 is Marshall early 80s, but very mild, not as midrangy as OD-1.~
When I try it over the Fender Twin I hear a general distortionsound, nothing like when I try the SD-1 over (any, for that matter) Marshall amp equipped with Celestion speaker: SD-1 and Marshall is a guaranteed success.
Whatever chip they used, they must have got that one right, but you must use Marshall and Celestion. But why use that combination, as most people would feel they can do without an SD-1 in that set-up? True, but then the SD-1 may be able to add a bit of brigtness or boost or whatever.....

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **visserman** » 10 Jan 2013, 15:33

Coming away from the whole thing, I can almost say that a lot of Boss dirt pedals will put out a similar sound, but I need to get biased here: Some pedals have a sound you may not want during a whole night. DS-2 is so specific, it may be great for some solos or a quick blast, but using it for a whole gig?

My whole experiment started out with receiving Dirk's Double Drive: Any Sans-amp pedal is great at giving you a lot of different sounds, but these things do take over your amp. Not so with the Boss pedals: Some may give you the right sound, others may take a bit of tweaking or will not do it at all.

I was looking for some dirtpedals which could augment the amp's sound (Marshall and Fender Twin)

I felt BD-2 was very good for both Twin and Marshall. On the Twin I was not looking for turning it into another Marshall, and on the Marshall the BD-2 can be very subtle and bright while still not being to dominant: Perfect for Blues and Americana sounds!!

XT-2 sounded good on both Twin and Marshall: It kept its own character of the pedal, at whatever setting, and the amp was there more or less the amplify the sound rather than colour it.
Similar with the PW-2.
This pedal is far more subtle than the Double Drive, and can be in a similar category.
MD-2 is a cary on from the PW-2, and also quite consistant is its sound, but maybe not a versatile, more a heavy, lowdown pedal

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **visserman** » 10 Jan 2013, 15:52

I need to open up more posts, because I cannot create long post in one go, the letter play up, yes it is still the case, anyway.

The DS-1 is very consistent: no matter what amp you try, you will get that bright distorted sound. Probably one of the reasons why so many players take to it, after all that time.
Personally I like it as well, but I have to say I do not use it too much. More a guy who plays with dynamics and overdrive and the ampsound. The DS-1 will oven be too much, or too specific in what it can give me: It almost defines what you need to play for it to sound good.

One person mentioned the HM-2.
HM-2 on the JCM 900 sounds bad, it is almost like someone sticks a sound onto the amp I cannot get away from, not matter what I do about volume, preamp and eq settings. Strange that is, because on the Twin, no problem: HM-2 sounds like what it often does. Of course, I would not like it on the Twin, as it turns the amp into a Marshall Some of you may like this, but that is a personal matter: Most Fenders are very transparent and take pedals very well. Me? I would like the amp to stay in the Fender sound with a touch of broken-up-ness from time to time, or full tilt with some kind of FUZZ.

OH Fuzz? YEp, FZ5 was mentioned as the ultimate Space companion. Well FZ2 and FZ3 are quite consistent whatever you put them through. Maybe this goes for a lot of Fuzzes because of the nature of the sound and it taking over you overal sound in general.
Have I missed anything??

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Clean Channel** » 10 Jan 2013, 16:10

No, fuzzes are not consistent; in fact they're perhaps the most inconsistent dirt pedals ever made. The point is that the digital FZ-5 fuzz is consistent because it's digital. Analog fuzzes are notorious for sounding different from unit to unit, or from day to day (particularly germanium). Heck, a change in temperature can affect the way a fuzz sounds.

I also don't find the HM-2 to sound anything like a typical Marshall voiced pedal (brown-sound pedal), and I never use it to emulate a Marshall tone. To me it sounds and responds much closer to a Proco RAT.

And I think this thread is the first time I've ever heard someone compare the sound of the XT-2 to a Vox. Personally I completely disagree there as well.

Clean Channel

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Dirk** » 10 Jan 2013, 17:13

> *visserman wrote:*
> My whole experiment started out with receiving Dirk's Double Drive: Any Sans-amp pedal is great at giving you a lot of different sounds, but these things do take over your amp.

I guess that's the point with Sansamp pedals, they're designed to do that.
I really liked the class A drive (Vox sound) for more smoothness into the real Marshall jcm 800.
But I also really liked the BD-2 into the Marshall for a little gain boost giving me that 80's/Megadeth type of boosted Marshall tone.
These days I'm using a combo of Laurie's SQO/FDD into a clean Marshall, I really love that sound. Very consistent also.

Dirk

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **charmonder** » 10 Jan 2013, 19:11

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *FZ-5 takes the crown. It cares not what the impedance of your pickups are, nor what kind of amp or pedals you're driving downstream. It isn't affected by temperature, battery chemistry, or public opinion about itself.*
>
> *Pure, unadulterated digital fuzz. You could play it on the moon and it would sound the same.*

yes! I didn't want to be the first person to say digital, but it's true.

charmonder

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **sclitheroe** » 10 Jan 2013, 19:16

I spare no opportunity to give the FZ-5 a tiny bit of love.

sclitheroe

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **visserman** » 11 Jan 2013, 16:31

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *No, fuzzes are not consistent; in fact they're perhaps the most inconsistent dirt pedals ever made. The point is that the digital FZ-5 fuzz is consistent because it's digital. Analog fuzzes are notorious for sounding different from unit to unit, or from day to day (particularly germanium). Heck, a change in temperature can affect the way a fuzz sounds.*
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> *I also don't find the HM-2 to sound anything like a typical Marshall voiced pedal (brown-sound pedal), and I never use it to emulate a Marshall tone. To me it sounds and responds much closer to a Proco RAT.*
>
> *And I think this thread is the first time I've ever heard someone compare the sound of the XT-2 to a Vox. Personally I completely disagree there as well.*

Don't you think HM-2 sounds like early Marshall when pedal is being used on mild settings?
The Rat may be close, and can do a lot more that what the HM-2 can that is for sure.

Vox and XT-2: It depends on what you define as the Vox sound, as there are many different kind of Vox sounds. In general, midrange. The XT-2 does create that sound very well, and does it on any amp. The sound does remind of Vox, but of course is nothing like the real thing, like with so many of these pedal. The thing is, if it sounds close than that is good enough. If you want a better sound, get an amp which gives you that sound.
The OD-3 is so great because it is more than close to a Marshall JCM 900, it is actually almost like that particular amp.
Fuzz: I do not have any real Fuzzes, I can see what you mean there. The general idea of Fuzz takes away all your dynamics and eats up your whole sound, that is what I meant with "it being consistant".

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **visserman** » 11 Jan 2013, 16:36

How well does a real Fuzz sound over different amps? Are some of the details of the sound lost?
I am not sure, because of what I mentioned before about dynamics being lost I feel the Fuzz sound is kind of similar over whatever amp you use, but heh, maybe I am a little green and tonedeaf when it comes to Fuzz.....

Dan Armstrong's Blue Clipper: Sounding like a Fuzz? probably not, but again, one of those pedals with a hell a lot of gain, and its sound is almost the same on any amp you try it on. Me thinking "This one acts like a Fuzz"

visserman

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Pepe** » 11 Jan 2013, 16:50

> *Clean Channel wrote:*

> *I also don't find the HM-2 to sound anything like a typical Marshall voiced pedal (brown-sound pedal), and I never use it to emulate a Marshall tone. To me it sounds and responds much closer to a Proco RAT.*

I only know that I love the HM-2 for the instant Steve-Lukather-mid-80's-lead-sound. It can sound like a Marshall IMO. But who am I? I know more new amps than vintage ones...

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *And I think this thread is the first time I've ever heard someone compare the sound of the XT-2 to a Vox. Personally I completely disagree there as well.*

Yup! I wondered about the VOX comparison as well.

Pepe

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **visserman** » 11 Jan 2013, 17:00

The "Bown Sound"= Marshall Plexi. Yep, not HM-2, more like OD-1

visserman

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 12 Jan 2013, 11:12

XT-2 as a VOX? Yeah, I`m baffled there, other owners opinions?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **charmonder** » 12 Jan 2013, 17:43

I personally thought there was a big difference in the MIJ and MIT HM-2s. I've had 2 taiwans which were basically fuzz, and the japan one I have is definitely more towards the "marshall in box" sound, maybe not like a real marshall amp but a closer to a marshall guvnor than sound the taiwan HM-2 sound.

charmonder

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Pepe** » 12 Jan 2013, 18:33

I heard that there was no difference whatsoever between HM-2 MIJ and MIT models. I only had two MIT models so far - and it sounds great!

Pepe

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **Clean Channel** » 12 Jan 2013, 19:23

I have a MIJ HM-2, but actually haven't tried a MIT. I'll keep an eye out for one so I can compare...

Clean Channel

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **charmonder** » 12 Jan 2013, 23:45

Yes please update us if you do. It's possible I just have a dud MIJ HM-2, maybe a bad capacitor in there. I'm certain the taiwans were a lot fuzzier sounding than this.

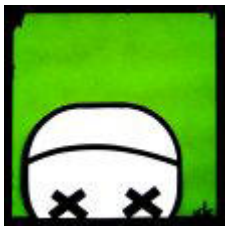
charmonder

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **natthu** » 13 Jan 2013, 00:22

I have had both, unfortunately not at the same time. I don't recall thinking there was any notable difference though. It will be interesting to hear what someone thinks when directly A/Bing them.

I suspect there won't be any difference. There are exceptions of course, but most Boss pedals with MIJ and MIT versions (especially those with shorter production runs) don't seem to vary in sound.


natthu

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **sclitheroe** » 13 Jan 2013, 04:31

I didn't hear any substantive difference MIT/MIJ HM-2 when I had both. But I kept the MiJ

sclitheroe

## Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis

by **visserman** » 15 Jan 2013, 12:55

YEp I thought all, or most of the HM-2 sound similar.

Marshall sound, which Marshall?: I often oversimify matters of sound, to make things clearer and trying to avoid long explanations.
My gereral view about the Marshall sound: Plexi--late 60s early 70s---darkish sounding but can be trebly if you want it, The JMP period (mainly 70s), the sound of the amp gets brighter. The JCM 800 series, 80s, a hot-rodded version of the 70s JMP. The JCM 900 series, more trebly distortion sounds plus most of the ampssounds mentioned above.
The 2000s up and till today: No new sounds as such, but more amps which can create most of the ampsounds mentioned before.

I guess for most of you the above will be working knowledge.

Which pedal can do which Marshall sound? OD-1:Plexi and JMP, maybe more JMP depending on your view. HM-2: early 80s, JCM 800 plus scooped mids which is no per se Marshall, but more Metallica, and other bands who followed in their pursuit of that scooped midrange sound.
SD-1: Early JCM 800 sound, less bassy, more treble and midrange.

OD-3: JCM 900 with all its versatility.

Okay now XT-2 and Vox: Maybe oversimplification, maybe I should say: It sounds like British amp, not Marshall but the other British, that is Vox, HiWatt, Selmer and WEM. The XT-2 can sound Marshallish, but maybe you could say this is a general overdrive sound, copied by so many companies. The Brit sound may have beenunique to find in a simple pedal like XT-2 when it came out mid 90s.
When I mentioned the Brit amps above, most of these can give more that one sound, so the sound from XT-2 is a hint towards the general sound you can get when using any of these amps.

visserman

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **FastEddie** » 15 Jan 2013, 16:33

I like the BD-2

FastEddie

**Re: Which of the Dist./Overdrive Do You Think is Most Consis**

by **Monotremata** » 29 Mar 2013, 03:21

Ive had both HM-2s at once and they were pretty much the same pedal. Sold my MIT and kept the MIJ just for kicks although it was mint with everything (I bought it new).
Thats funny you guys compare it to the Rat. I just got my 86 out last week and have been a/b'ing the two. Its like they made the HM-2 for those metalheads that were using maxed out Rats (my HM-2 has no problem nailing Obituarys Rat sludge tone). The Rat does the lower od and dirt better though. The HM-2 starts as a Rat with the gain at 1:00 and goes over the top from there, where a Rat you can back off the insane grind and clean it up.

Back on topic hehe. Ill vote for the HM-2 and the DS-1. They both always sound like themselves. As for the HM-2 and the JCM900 not sounding good.. The 900s in general just dont sound good. I dont think any pedal could save those! 😉

Monotremata