BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 13 Apr 2013, 13:55

I have used BOSS compacts as part of my effects chain for a fair few years now and have never really noticed any great tone suckage (as opposed to the time I decided to take a board full of Dani Mini pedals!).

Anyway tonight I had a bit of a shock when plugging my tele into my usual BOSS sequenc, into a Blues Jr and then figuring out a slot for a re-discovered overdrive. Running through my 5 BOSS + AD-80 Maxon (and two true bypass Malekko`s) the clean tone is very thin and sterile and my OD tone brittle. Pulled the plug on the board and voila, full rich clean tone and OD back to its full bodied self

So I guess I have some options:

- PSM-5 or LS-2 for a loop
- A true Bypass loop
- TB mod the pedals (probably not!)
- Change the cables - mostly HOSAs at the moment.

My BOSS at the moment board installed are a TU-2 > OCTAVER > PH-1R > CE-2 > TR-2.

My question is are some worse than others for tone suck bypass issues?

(I do know my DD-3 and PS-2 are clearly audible even when switched OFF, if boosted by a high gain pedal before them)

On a similar issue I love my OC-2, but the snag is it needs gain *after* it to hold tracking, but gain boxes after (such as a nice fuzz) are thinned out and get ratty because its not TB/has a buffer) - catch 22!

Thoughts?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 13 Apr 2013, 14:15

** UPDATE **

Well the AD-80 is a definite "thinner" sound wise , after trying it in a TB loop. However adding an MI Audio Boost and Buff helps bring back most of the tone though, so it looks like I need a board rejig

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Franzoni** » 13 Apr 2013, 20:03

Yeah i used to use a heap of boss stuff(11 in total)...i kept all the modulation/delay stuff looped with an LS-2 which helped but i only use two boss pedals now..the CS-3 and the PS-6....all the others are True Bypass and i did notice a better direct sound....Laurie designed a great pedal called a HZD which is basically a TB clean boost with volume,bass and treble controls based on the old Boss FA-1 i think..... some sort of boost like this or your MI audio booster really is the way to go if your running a long pedal chain to boost your signal...

I have a little Lehle loop switcher now to keep a small rack i use for delay/reverb out of my direct signal chain when not in use....i've alo in the past gone the whole hog and miked the amp or tapped the speaker signal with a line level box to feed the rack into a stereo power amp and and couple of 1x12's either side of the main amp to keep a lot of the effects out of the way and out of my main sound.....i have recently been given a couple of old celestion monitors,very compact and small but powerful...i might go down that route again instead use a small mixer and add the effects in after the miked signal via the submixer and out to the poweramp/monitors and just keep the overdrive and wah in front of the amp.....

Franzoni

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Clean Channel** » 14 Apr 2013, 00:58

My personal experience is that the 'tone-suck' from Boss pedals is highly overstated on the forums etc.

Almost every day I spend hours (sounds crazy, I know, but it's part of my primary gig) playing through my big board with a bypass strip, dedicated buffer, etc. I'm very familiar with what my guitars and amps sound like direct.

Recently I put together a fun all-Boss board for grab-and-go stuff with ten Boss pedals on it. I'll admit, when you A/B the board vs straight in you can tell there's a little bit of high end loss. But the truth is, it's very little; so much so I deem it completely inconsequential. I play through the Boss board regularly, and all of my musician friends agree it sounds incredible.

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Ptak** » 14 Apr 2013, 03:28

yeah I have an all boss board. No tone loss for me... if there is its not really noticeable.

Ptak

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Clean Channel** » 14 Apr 2013, 03:31

Pics please!

Clean Channel

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Dirk** » 14 Apr 2013, 10:20

> *Franzoni wrote:*
> *i only use two boss pedals now..the CS-3 and the PS-6.*

You finally got yourself a PS-6 huh?

How do you like it and how do you use it?

I was promised a new one from Roland, but it still hasn't shown up, this is taking forever...

Dirk

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 14 Apr 2013, 11:12

Thanks gentlemen for the replies.

I do/did(?) also think the *BOSS* tone suck is overstated to a certain degree, and their buffers are nice enough to keep the signal relatively good. But I`m super glad to have an extra buffer handy (The MI Audio pedal), as this time round I did definitely notice a big difference, mostly I think down to the AD-80 which being a vintage bit of kit probably lacked a decent buffer itself. I`ll do a few A/B comparisons.

Lauries pedal sounds good

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 14 Apr 2013, 20:00

http://www.petecornish.co.uk/case_against_true_bypass.html

Pieces Of The Night

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Johnnyseven** » 15 Apr 2013, 11:00

My pedal board has 13 pedals on it, all but 2 are Boss. There either isn't any tone suck or I haven't noticed it/doesn't bother me. I do run modded CS3 at the beginning of my chain with the volume up quite high though.

Johnnyseven

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 15 Apr 2013, 13:36

If the "tone suck" can be corrected by EQ-ing/volume boosting at the end of the chain its not so bad.

I`m never normally bothered with it using BOSS, it was just this time around, Thinline Tele has a habit of well being thin, the pedal chain zapped a thump of bass and sort of compressed/flattened out the frequency. Of course if your style isn`t particularly based on say a natural warm valve amp tone its often neither here or there, I`d rather have my FX than not! Still nice buffer at the end and a few loops too make sure if pos = all good

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 15 Apr 2013, 13:39

I`m still curious though - any "worst offenders" BOSS wise for bypass issues?

Non BOSS would include my first Russian Muff and Crybaby

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **BearBoy** » 15 Apr 2013, 14:46

I thought Cry Babys were true bypass?

BearBoy

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **skugga** » 15 Apr 2013, 15:14

Nope, some of the older ones have really bad tone suck as well.

It was the main reason for upgrading my 90's era GCB95 Cry Baby recently. It was so bad that I stopped using wah for a while.

The newer ones are 'True Hardwire Bypass' which is almost true bypass but not quite. There's some circuitry in there to reduce the pop of the switch apparently that never fully disengages.

My new 535q sounds close enough to true bypass though.

skugga

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Franzoni** » 15 Apr 2013, 16:09

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *You finally got yourself a PS-6 huh?*
>
> *How do you like it and how do you use it?*

I was promised a new one from Roland, but it still hasn't shown up, this is taking forever...

Yeah i picked one up going so cheap it would of been a crime to let it slip..

I've only used it on the detune on one gig so far instead of a chorus which it did very well... but i've messed around with the harmonizer and the whammy which i hope to get some use out of down the road....

Whats the story with your PS-6.....did you have some sort of problem with it...?.....

Franzoni

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Dirk** » 15 Apr 2013, 18:20

Yes, the mode switch was acting up, only major worked correctly, minor did nothing, and pitchshift, detune and S-bend were all turned into S-bend....
So, I emailed the Roland dealer over here, and since it's still under warranty I send them the pedal.
This was back in october when I first emailed them, I send the pedal in December, those guys are so slow replying, it's unbelievable.

Then the waiting started, last month they said a new PS-6 would come from Roland.
Today, I actually get an email stating that they send my old pedal to Belgium, for whatever reason....??!! I don't know anynmore.

I do know that I've been asked to be patient one too many times, and that repairing/replacing a pedal for over 6 months isn't a very good commercial statement in my book.
I'm so tired of waiting, I'd almost tell 'em to stick it somewhere very dark, you know..?

But hey, it's my bloody pedal, I want it back! And I want it back now!

sorry, angry mode off

Dirk

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **zombiwoof** » 15 Apr 2013, 18:42

As far as the bypass of the Dunlop pedals, their terminology is misleading. There is an article on their blog pages, where their bypass methods are discussed, and a chart of most of their pedals and whether they are true bypass or not. It hasn't been updated for a while, so not all of the newer pedals are listed, but here's the scoop: if a Dunlop pedal says "True Hardwire Bypass", it actually is true bypass with the board out of the circuit when in bypass mode, if it says it's "Hardwire Bypass", it's the older MXR-type tone-suck bypass, where the circuit board is still connected when in bypass, this is the not-quite-true bypass you referred to. Old vintage wah pedals were notorious for bad bypass tone, it's only in recent times that real true bypass has become common on them. Surprisingly, the vintage

Fuzz Faces WERE wired for true bypass, they were one of the few pedals in the vintage era that were wired that way.

That article in the Dunlop blog is good reading for anyone wanting to know if their Dunlop-made pedal is really true bypass or not, it's worth checking out:
http://www.jimdunlop.com/blog/what-is-true-bypass/

Al

zombiwoof

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **BearBoy** » 15 Apr 2013, 19:24

Ah, think I've been getting my terminology confused. I knew it wasn't buffered after seeing but that's clearly not the same thing as being true bypass.

Cheers for clearing that up

BearBoy

Re: BOSS bypass poor? Worst offenders?

by **Franzoni** » 16 Apr 2013, 00:57

Surprised at Boss/Roland.....they should of just given you a new pedal at this stage....

Franzoni