Failure or Awkward Success?

by **zentropa** » 27 Jul 2012, 04:18

A few years ago I demo'd an MD-2 in a store and absolutely hated it. I was shooting out what was going to be my super heavy distortion pedal between the MT-2, HM-2, HM-3, ML-2, etc. and I remember plugging an Ibanex RG350 (the guitar that was hanging next to the boss display) at the store into the MD-2 and giving it my "crunch" test that I wrote about years ago on the old forum.

It farted instead of crunching and after several tweaks it still wouldn't crunch a palm mute at a reasonable volume.

Boss's description of the MD-2 was:
"The Mega Distortion has a dual distortion and gain circuit that produces some really heavy distorted sound. No other Boss pedal has as much gain as the MD-2. Focus is on the bottom end and 7 string players have been targeted by advertising campaigns. With the massive gain that this pedal can produce, it can easily become very noisy at high gain settings. "

An MD-2 popped up at a guitar center nearby for $20. Debated buying it so I did some youtube samples and found:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eycGYuwNVeY
2 sections of that sample really shocked me: ~1:30-2:00 and ~2:45-3:55.

I picked it up and man, it really sounds quite good when you drop the gain down to 9 o'clock or lower and keep the gain boost set to a similar level. The drive has a really nice bite that is very transparent and open but still overdriven harder than you can go with a tubescreamer, OD-3, BD-2, etc. The SD-1 has more "gain" but doesn't have near the attack. Sounded good at low volumes as well.

It makes me laugh though... PEDALZ DESIGNED FOR DROPPED Z TUNING AND A 21 STRING GITARZZZ... yet sounds better being played with single coils and with the gain off.

The XT-2 I think was probably the biggest marketing failure before this...

zentropa

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **Pepe** » 27 Jul 2012, 09:52

Nice to hear. I'm looking forward to receive my MD-2 from Canada soon.

The XT-2 has a huge variety of great tunes with a Stratocaster! I love it!

Pepe

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **Laurie** » 27 Jul 2012, 12:58

I think the MD-2 is a quite useful pedal. Can;t understand the lack of love for it.

Laurie

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **zentropa** » 27 Jul 2012, 15:40

I cant't see the 7-string metal players liking it at all. The mt-2 and ml-2 smoke it for for that style.
I cant see Someone that wants a nice and bitey hard overdrive immediately thinking "md-2 with the gain turned off" as their impulse based upon how it was marketed.

It's an amusing failure that sounds quite good at what it can do, the "can do" is just different from what it's supposed to do.

zentropa

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **Pepe** » 27 Jul 2012, 16:14

The HM-2 has several "can do's" as well! My YouTube demo gets hated for that, because I don't play the Swedish Death Metal sound all the way from the beginning to the end (booooring!). Some pedals provide great tonal possibilities if you turn the gain knob to zero; so does the HM-2, the ODB-3 and the XT-2. Oh, and the MZ-2 as well: if you also turn down your guitar volume you can use the delay and the chorus in a clean way. And did you know that the OC-3 is a great overdrive pedal for guitar or bass if you turn the octave's volume to zero? I love to explore all the possibilities of every pedal that I get.

Pepe

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **tunghaichuan** » 27 Jul 2012, 18:11

I have an MD-2. I like it, although I think the ML-2 sounds better and works better for my needs.

Thanks for the tip on keeping the gain down. I've found that the MD-2 sounds a tad fuzzy if the gain is too high. Not really a feature for me as I'm not really a fuzz person.

I don't get the 7 string thing either. The bottom end on the MD-2 doesn't stay very tight or focused. I had one of my strats tuned down to D with 14 gauge strings and I just didn't like it.

tunghaichuan

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **zentropa** » 27 Jul 2012, 21:19

That's the funny thing about it.

The MD-2 works a lot better trying to get something in the mild OD tone moreso than the heavy drive tone. Think BD-2 with a bit more gain.

zentropa

Re: Failure or Awkward Success?

by **Dirk** » 28 Jul 2012, 10:55

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Some pedals provide great tonal possibilities if you turn the gain knob to zero; so does the ODB-3.*

Funny you mention that pedal. I always found the cleaner sounds a lot better then the high gain sounds. And because of the lack of mids it's
easily drowned out by guitars, cymbals and other loud stuff in a band. But there's a sample in the booklet called Natural overdrive, that
sounds pretty good.

Dirk