## Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 10 Jan 2014, 11:22

Hello all,

Hopefully an easy one to answer. I have a virtually all Boss pedal board with the only exception being an 80's RAT 2 which I have modified as per the basic Ruetz mod shown here: http://www.diyguitaramp.com/rat.html. I am very happy with this mod as it means I don't lose any bass frequencies when engaged, in fact it gives a very even response across the whole frequency range when used as a slight gain boost to my already distorted JMP Marshall. I just need it for a little extra for soloing.

My question is does anyone know which Boss overdrive or distortion unit would be the closest in sound in this application to my RAT? I would really like to have an all Boss board and to be able to use an old BCB 6 carrying case which won't accomodate my RAT.

So far I have tried an SD-1 and a DS-1 but neither are as good as the RAT. I had a thought that the OD-3 might fit the bill but I'd very much appreciate any suggestions.

Cheers
Chris

Jailbreak

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 10 Jan 2014, 11:26

Some guys say that the distortion section of the OS-2 sounds pretty much like a RAT.

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Johnnyseven** » 10 Jan 2014, 12:48

I was going to say the OS2 as well.

Johnnyseven

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 11 Jan 2014, 12:27

Thanks guys. I'll give an OS-2 a try.

Jailbreak

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Ricey** » 11 Jan 2014, 22:25

I'll bet someone has a mod for either DS-1 or OS-2 that would get you close.

Ricey

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 12 Jan 2014, 12:06

I've done a lot of reading and research on the web since my original post and it sounds like the Turbo Overdrive OD-2 might be what I need. I believe it doesn't lose bottom end when engaged as the OS-2 does. I'm a little bit concerned though about reports that there is a volume drop issue. My amp is already distorted so just using a pedal for a little bit of extra drive so not needing it as a volume boost so I probably should be ok I think. Anyone experienced with this pedal?

Jailbreak

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Laurie** » 12 Jan 2014, 13:24

> *Ricey wrote:*
> *I'll bet someone has a mod for either DS-1 or OS-2 that would get you close.*

Still very different to the Rat, but swap the clipping diodes in a DS-1 to Germanium and you will be heading in the right direction.

Laurie

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 12 Jan 2014, 13:47

> *Jailbreak wrote:*
> *I've done a lot of reading and research on the web since my original post and it sounds like the Turbo Overdrive OD-2 might be what I need. I believe it doesn't lose bottom end when engaged as the OS-2 does. I'm a little bit concerned though about reports that there is a volume drop issue. My amp is already distorted so just using a pedal for a little bit of extra drive so not needing it as a volume boost so I probably should be ok I think. Anyone experienced with this pedal?*

The OD-2R has **LOTS** of headroom. I prefer it over the OD-2. But it doesn't have a RATty tone in my opinion. I like its elegant and unobstrusive sound. And the OS-2's DIST channel doesn't have such a low-end problem. The OD section does, yes, but not the distortion.

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **zombiwoof** » 12 Jan 2014, 16:47

Not Boss, but Ibanez made a Rat-type pedal, I think it was in the 10 series. I have one stashed somewhere, but never compared it side-to-side with a real Rat. You can find them on Ebay.

Al

zombiwoof

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **charmonder** » 12 Jan 2014, 17:53

is it the fc-10 fat cat? http://www.effectsdatabase.com/model/ibanez/10/fc10

charmonder

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 12 Jan 2014, 18:36

And what about the XT-2? I only know the sound of the RAT from some Jeff Beck albums - I never had one. The XT-2 produces sounds that come near to the RAT how I know it.

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Clean Channel** » 13 Jan 2014, 00:07

Funny coincidence with this thread and everyone talking about the OS-2...

The OS-2 is one of the few Boss dirt pedals I don't have and haven't tried. I figured I'd grab one if and when one popped up for a good price nearby, but I've never seen any.

Today I glanced at Kijiji, and someone had posted this one, for just $40, and was located about a 5 minute drive from me! I shot over an email, and he got back right away. A few minutes later, the OS-2 was mine.

He was the original owner, and said he used it for about a year before putting it in the closet. Just found it and stuck it up for sale.

Won't get a chance to really try it out until later this week, but here's a pic:

Clean Channel

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 13 Jan 2014, 00:14

Hah! Very cool! Do you have a RAT to compare it to?

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Clean Channel** » 13 Jan 2014, 00:18

Gah, good question!

Worth noting various RATs sound quite different.

I used to have one of the White Face RIs, but a friend really wanted it (and I wasn't using it), so sold it. I also came to realize that I prefer the Turbo Rat with the LED clipping, so I thought sometime I'd grab one of those.

So, long story short, currently don't have a RAT to make the comparison, sorry!

Clean Channel

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 13 Jan 2014, 08:38

But you can remember the "real" RAT sound, I hope! You can still tell us if it comes near to what you know.

Oh, and tighten the right screw, please!

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 13 Jan 2014, 12:03

Thanks again for all the suggestions guys.

The Ibanez Fat Cat would I'm sure fit the bill as a close RAT clone but it is not a stock RAT I'm trying to emulate. My RAT has the Ruetz mod applied and is much more like an overdrive pedal, albeit one with a lot more gain than usual for an overdrive unit. The Ruetz mod does mean I have a bit less gain on tap than a standard RAT 2 but there is no loss of bass frequencies and no boosted mid range. Note, I am only using the RAT as a slight gain booster to an already overdriven JMP Marshall Master Volume (same as but a precurser to a JCM 800 model).

Basically I need a pedal which will boost the gain a little but not change the eq too much - a nice flat eq response I suppose. Perhaps I should look at an OD-3?

Jailbreak

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 13 Jan 2014, 12:16

OD-2R then. It doesn't affect the mids too much and I love it for that. It's the reason why I don't like Tubescreamers that much.

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 13 Jan 2014, 12:30

Thanks Pepe. Do you think the OD-2R sounds as good as the OD-2?

Jailbreak

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 13 Jan 2014, 12:51

LOUDER! Much more headroom, improved volume ratio between Turbo Off and On and an extra jack for an external footswitch... just perfect!

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Clean Channel** » 13 Jan 2014, 19:39

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *But you can remember the "real" RAT sound, I hope! You can still tell us if it comes near to what you know.*
>
> *Oh, and tighten the right screw, please!*

Lol, yep, screw tightened! Took this pic right after getting home with it. I actually have this whole ritual I go through when I get a used Boss pedal, that includes removing the knobs, using wipes and cleaners to remove all dust and gunk, and tightening everything.

I encountered one small problem, the switch was unreliable. I did the trick of spinning it around in the housing, and it works like a charm now. (Sorry Laurie, I know you hate that solution! But on the other hand, this is the third time I've tried it, and it's worked every time. I agree, it would be better to unsolder it and clean it properly, as per your guide, however I absolutely loathe soldering, so I avoid it whenever possible).

Now on to the sound...

Yeah, I can does seem very reminiscent of how my WF Rat RI sounded. Especially when the color is set between noon and 3. Something about blending the OD and Distortion gives it the thick layered clipping that the Rat had.

I'd rather reserve any strong judgement until I can do a proper A/B of the two pedals, but for now I'll agree with the comparisons others have made.

Clean Channel

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 13 Jan 2014, 20:42

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *Lol, yep, screw tightened! Took this pic right after getting home with it. I actually have this whole ritual I go through when I get a used Boss pedal, that includes removing the knobs, using wipes and cleaners to remove all dust and gunk, and tightening everything.*

I even unscrew everything, clean every part and the enclosure (partly with a toothbrush), etc. when I receive another used pedal. I really hate dirty pedals and instruments.

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *Yeah, I can does seem very reminiscent of how my WF Rat RI sounded. Especially when the color is set between noon and 3. Something about blending the OD and Distortion gives it the thick layered clipping that the Rat had.*

Yep. I also liked the 2:00h setting. I should acquire another one and make a demo with it. The OD is a bit thin due to the loss of low-end, but nonetheless it sounds nice. And maybe the OS-2 won't sound as good with the blend knob if the OD had more low-end...?

Pepe

## Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by bigtone » 14 Jan 2014, 22:37

This is a perfect experiment for this day off. I have a stock OS2 and a 1993 Rat 2 that I Reutz modded by just clipping the 47 ohm resistor, no trim pot added.

I set my boogie for clean, powered these up wither the same power supply, plugged in my EMG SA equipped strat and tried to cop a similar tone from the two pedals. The pic shows the settings that were as close as I could get in regards to boost settings. Using these settings for boosting a mid-gain tone on the amp were close enough for live spec and the convenience of the all BOSS pedal board would outweigh the slight tonal difference in my book. The color knob in the 2:00 region was very close, as mentioned in earlier posts. There was still room for more gain and volume boosts on both pedals.

The OS2 could use some slight modding to the tone and gain sections to be closer to Reutz RAT parameters, in terms of boosting. It would take considerable modding to cop higher-gain RAT tones, but as a boost, it is rock-n-roll close.
First, the tone knob fully *cut* on the BOSS was still a little brighter sounding than the RAT with it's filter fully *off*. A slight taming of the sparkly end of the highs and perhaps a little mod to allow a touch more bass and lower mids to pass through would help.
The OS2's overall overdrive texture is more fine and fizzy vs the RAT. Think of it in terms of the difference of the carbonation in Champagne or white wine (RAT) vs the carbonation in root beer, Guiness or Boddingtons (OS2). Not knowing how the OS2 generates it's clipping, I can only guess that changing a clipper or two for ones that are more raw and coarse would bring the texture into RATland. I dunno-perhaps LEDs for diodes?
Also, the OS2 had more gain than the Reutz RAT. The OS2's drive all the way down was equivalent to the RAT at 10:00. A little mod to increase the lower limit of the gain setting would cop the RAT thing. Perhaps the lower gain would also make the aforementioned texture more similar.

Of course all pedals are somewhat unique and +/- 20% from each other and your results may vary.

bigtone

### Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 14 Jan 2014, 22:57

Awesome! Thanks, bigtone!

Pepe

### Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Jailbreak** » 16 Jan 2014, 21:45

Brilliant stuff bigtone. I couldn't ask for more.
Oddly my Ruetz Rat settings are virtually the same as yours except I have the filter halfway. Which means I think that the Boss might work for me at a full cut setting.
Time I came clean though. I have now decided that a decent flight case is what I need for my current set up and so that's what I bought yesterday. Built up the board today and I'm really pleased with it. Thanks for all the advice though guys. Very much appreciated.

Jailbreak

### Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Monotremata** » 04 Feb 2014, 08:43

All wrong.
I have my stock 86 smallbox Rat sitting right next to my HM-2.. When the HM-2s eq knobs are set just right somewhere between 12-1:00, and you dont go crazy on the gain, I cant tell the difference between the two.
The only real difference is the HM-2's weird eq section. It can get scooped and go overboard into the Swedish death metal 'all knobs on 10' thing, where the Rat just has a simple LPF..

Dont start buying HM-2s though. Those are mine!!

Monotremata

### Re: Boss alternative to a RAT ??

by **Pepe** » 04 Feb 2014, 10:05

I also love the EQ knobs of my HM-2 at 1:00h. You think it sounds like a RAT? Maybe that's why I always loved the HM-2 since I tried one.

Pepe