"No Love" pedals

by **zentropa** » 21 Oct 2015, 22:22

It always seems like there's a handful of pedals that get no acclaim but probably should. These aren't pedals that are often hated but sold well over the years (MT-2, BF-2, etc.). These aren't pedals that had miniscule production numbers that no one has them (VB-2, FT-2). These aren't pedals that have some oddball gimmicky effect that has inflated their values due to a niche market (PN-2, DF-2). These aren't pedals that (while relatively useless) hold price point remains high due to collector value (SP-1).

These are pedals that no one ever seems to talk about as something they like a lot or receive criticism due to being poorly marketed or failed to hit their target demographic.

OD-2. It has its flaws. Volume loss. No "boost" feel on a clean amp. This pedal probably has the best low-end response of any OD in the Boss line. Its bypass is excellent. It's amazingly articulate. I think this pedal is sort of "trapped between" markets due to its gain levels... too much gain to appeal to the BD-2/OD-3 crowd, not enough gain to really replace a DS-1 level of dirt. It does do a great plexi-type sound and performs really well as a booster to another pedal or an amp's dirty channel. It's not amazing, but it has enough merits where it should be in more conversations. I feel its biggest weakness is that it behaves more of an "on/off" switch for dirt rather than a "push" feeling that you are driving the amp input harder... but this doesn't seem to be the reason a lot of people don't use them.

MZ-2. I'm not a fan of the effects and the fact that this pedal doesn't seem to be as durable as pretty much every other boss pedal on the market. Its gain levels aren't over the top and I believe this was attempting to counter the ADA MP1 (which was designed to sound like a boosted plexi + digital effects). IMO its closest Boss counterpart is probably the OD-2 on turbo mode. I'm not sure if the metal moniker scares people away on this one. This one seems to retain value more as a collector piece than a player pedal.

SD-2. I'll be honest when I say that I think the crunch mode sucks. Very harsh and jaggedy. The lead mode is my favorite high gain boss dirt box by a wide margin. Guessing this misses the mark because it has too much gain for most and current metal players tend to avoid anything with "overdrive" in the name.

MD-2. Great pedal? No. Versatile pedal? Very. The product lit on this pedal misses the mark by a wide margin IMO. It will get dirty in a 90's american 6L6 high gain tube amp type of crunch tone. If you avoid boosting the lows, dial down the boost/gain, and feed it single coils you get a very responsive, pick sensitive overdrive that has a bit of a unique tone. I think the most comical thing about this pedal is that I think it is terrible for trying to crunch hugely saturated low end tones... it gets muddy and flabby. For more middle of the road dirt (think 1-1.5 notches over a DS-1) it does decently well and in addition to the "gain set to 0" settings I think it should get more use. It does get a lot of hate, probably because it sucks at what the lit says it does and people who would use it avoid it because of what the lit says it does.

OS-2. This pedal doesn't really get any hate. It pretty much gets ignored in conversation. With the color mix set between 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock you get a really interesting set of sounds ranging from an overdrive with more sizzle to a distortion with less muddy fizz. It has its flaws... in that it's a bit noisy and doesn't have a ton of gain range control but I tend to wonder if it just isn't considered since it isn't really a generic formula pedal (e.g. it's not a better tubescreamer).

CE-3. It has its flaws (volume drop). It isn't a CE-2. It sounds pretty good, really hits the 80's chorus type sound and has some interesting (albeit not great) versatility with mode II vibrato. Amazing pedal? Not particularly. Good pedal? Yes. No one seems to care about it and I'm not sure of a better reason than "it's not a CE-2."

CE-5. It has its flaws (volume drop, crappy bypass). It seems like everyone in their brother has had one of these at some point. It seems like everyone has 1 distant cousin that likes it a lot. This is by far the most versatile of the Boss Chorus pedals and will do a ton of sounds that none of the others will do. It's not an amazing pedal but I've never figured out why everyone seems to think every other chorus is vastly better (I strongly prefer to the CE-5 to the CH-1). I believe it's a tossup between "it's not a CE-2" and metal-zone syndrome: too many controls for people to easily dial in something good.

zentropa

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 22 Oct 2015, 01:19

That's a comprehensive summary! Thanks.

I think they all suffer from a plug in and play disappointment factor. And unbiquity due to large production numbers. That said I have an OD-2 to repair and saw a couple of Boss drives going super cheap locally, OD-2, OS-2, and DN-2. I might have a flutter. Oh and a XT-2. In testing that had some crispy fender esque drive tones for rhythm.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **charmonder** » 22 Oct 2015, 04:33

OD-2... haven't tried one, can anyone really say the OD-2r is not a complete improvement? seriously, I have the OD-2r, love it, it's perfect for like a first in chain pedal because you get both a boosty to overdrive, and turbo mode is overdrive to nearly fuzzing(also good first in chain). I might snag an OD-2 just to see if there is any difference the the overall flavor, from what I understand they fixed the volume issue along with the added remote switch but the turbo mode runs at a different voltage so it could be a little fuzzier?

MZ-2.

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *I'm not sure if the metal moniker scares people away on this one.*

probably a little of that, but I think more likely the word "digital" scared us off of the MZ-2. ironically the "digital" part was only the delay/chorus aspect. the drive is totally analog, and discrete components IIRC

SD-2 no love... yet! Everyone in the know loves the SD-2

MD-2. never tried it, I think I will snag this one eventually it pops up for very cheap and I am a boss collector and I like the color of MD-2.

OS-2. I love this pedal. It always seems to be a safe bet, the color knob kinda warps the dynamics as well as mid range. I tend to keep it drive on the lower spectrum and if somethings not right, it can be solved like you said, color knob somehwere between 10 and 2 oclock. What a genius design they made,

charmonder

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **zentropa** » 22 Oct 2015, 06:20

OD-2... haven't tried one, can anyone really say the OD-2r is not a complete improvement? seriously, I have the OD-2r, love it, it's perfect for like a first in chain pedal because you get both a boosty to overdrive, and turbo mode is overdrive to nearly fuzzing(also good first in chain). I might snag an OD-2 just to see if there is any difference the the overall flavor, from what I understand they fixed the volume issue along with the added remote switch but the turbo mode runs at a different voltage so it could be a little fuzzier?

The flavor is the same. There are subtle nuances that differ. I really like the OD-2R, but I only use it on turbo mode. I really like the OD-2, but I only use it on normal mode. OD-2 is smoother with a lot more articulation, especially on the low end (where the 2R gets a hair muddy). The OD-2R is a lot crunchier and has nearly double the volume of the OD-2. I was trying to get by with keeping only one of these two, but ended up keeping both because the 2R sounds like crap when A/B'd against the 2 on normal mode, but the 2R smokes it on turbo mode. I guess I just think the OD-2's strengths are so strong it just can't be ignored but it did take me a while to figure out what to measure its base tone against... but once I did, I really grew to appreciate it more.

MD-2. never tried it, I think I will snag this one eventually it pops up for very cheap and I am a boss collector and I like the color of MD-2.

The average ebay price on an MD-2 is right around that of an MIT DS-1, which is sort of silly. It is very crunchy but can be used in a variety of ways. I don't love it, but it's well worth the $20.

I think they all suffer from a plug in and play disappointment factor.

I agree.

zentropa

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **Gasgano** » 22 Oct 2015, 21:49

Very good summary.

I just changed my CH-1 for a CE-5 and I don't regret it a single second.
I also own the OS-2 after trying the DS-1, OD-1, OS-2, SD-2..... None came close to the OS-2 IMO.

Gasgano

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **sclitheroe** » 23 Oct 2015, 02:27

It kind of blows my mind they still make the OS-2 - I've never seen one in real life I don't think.

PW-2 was another pedal that didn't get any love - I regret now moving mine along. It was a coarser, ruder Big Muff basically that sounded good at volume - had some real crackling, electric overtones to it.

sclitheroe

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **albumgatefold** » 23 Oct 2015, 03:29

Well I really like the CE-3. Used it since the 80s. Maybe I like it because I really got into music and playing music in the 80s. It is unique. And yes it can get some spooky vibrato sounds in Mode II/output A, albeit Not VB-2 territory. But what really sounds huge, huge, like wall of sound huge, is driving if with a SD-1 and running in stereo mode to 2 amps. Wow! Big love for CE-3 here.

albumgatefold

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 23 Oct 2015, 04:50

I've always been surprised by the lack of love for the mz-2. Even Gilmour used to use one for years! Anything he seems to have touched everyone jumps on but not that. Oh well. I got mine fairly cheap with the box and the papers no less!

Pieces Of The Night

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **bigtone** » 16 Nov 2015, 09:40

The OS2 is a favorite of mine. I bought it on a whim to see what it could do and it did just what I needed! That 10-2 color setting with low to moderate gain is where this pedal lives large.

bigtone

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **Laurie** » 17 Nov 2015, 02:14

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *It kind of blows my mind they still make the OS-2 - I've never seen one in real life I don't think.*
>
> *PW-2 was another pedal that didn't get any love - I regret now moving mine along. It was a coarser, ruder Big Muff basically that sounded good at volume - had some real crackling, electric overtones to it.*

There is a pw-2 sitting in a pawn store here for months now.... Reasonable price but no love around here clearly.

Laurie

Re: "No Love" pedals

by **zentropa** » 17 Nov 2015, 18:52

I grabbed a NOS PW-2 about 2 months ago for $35. I like it as a specialty pedal but I can't play with enough volume to really do much with it. I played it for a friend and he immediately offered to buy it off me (he's a newbie guitarist that is a huge fan of non-traditional distortion sounds). I do regret dumping it for that, but I doubt I'll try very hard to get another one unless it falls into my lap for dirt cheap.

zentropa