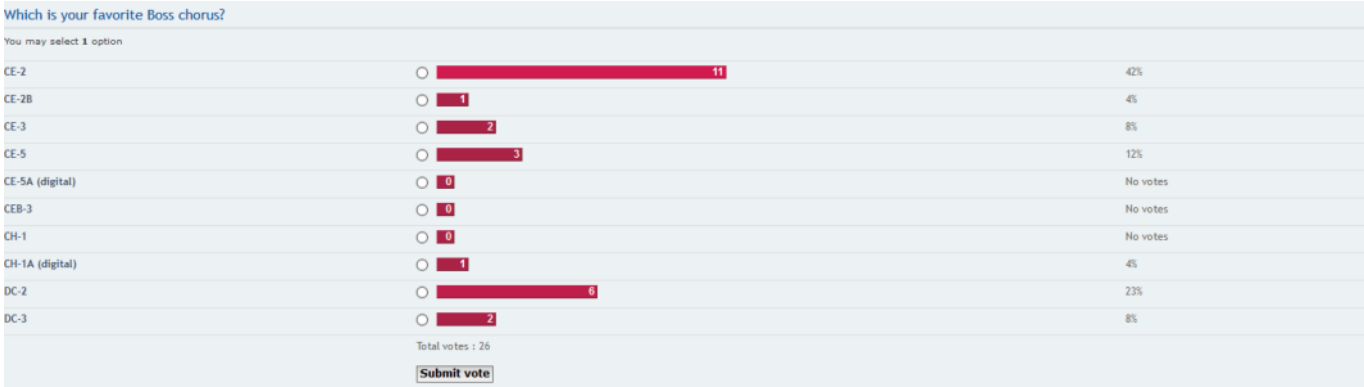

Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 12 Oct 2015, 19:59

Bored so it's poll time.

zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Chorus?

by **Pepe** » 12 Oct 2015, 20:05

I'd like to have two options in this poll, please!

Pepe

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **nathanscribe** » 13 Oct 2015, 12:03

Also, the racks/half-racks are not on the list (RCE, etc)

nathanscribe

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 13 Oct 2015, 16:41

Max poll size is 10, so there were other items I wasn't able to fit, e.g. twin pedals, pre-compact, half-rack, etc. Kept them with just the compacts so it would be consistent, although I just realized I did list the BF-1, not sure how that slipped through.

Keeping it at one option so you are forced to agonize and choose if you are on the fence about it

zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Guga Ramone** » 13 Oct 2015, 20:15

I only tried the CE-3 and the CH-1 (digital) and my favoutrite by far is the BF-2.
Seriously, I LOVE the sound of the BF-2 with both "Res" and "Manual" controls on zero, rate at 1 o'clock and depth at 11 o'clock.

Guga Ramone

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **ChristoMephisto** » 13 Oct 2015, 22:51

Mine was a bit of a toss up, I have a CE3 modded towards a CE2 but the 'wet cap' is still the CE3's stock .068uf, I use it in a parallel loop of a LS2, and just the wet signal is used.

For a bright chorus, i use my HF2 HI Band Flanger with the suggested settings above

Also love my DC2, but i too quiet for bass.
Tho i think i may have figured out how to fix the DC2 volume drop

ChristoMephisto

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Ashton** » 14 Oct 2015, 01:07

I have a CE-5 and a CH-1, I think the CH-1 sounds better than the CE-5, how does the CE-2 compare to the CH-1???

Ashton

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 14 Oct 2015, 04:24

Ce2

Pieces Of The Night

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **charmonder** » 14 Oct 2015, 05:02

DC-2 is a real winner for me. At times I wish it were possible to add a mix knob but frankly those are times that I could get away with simply not using chorus so no complaints. I love my CH-1 but it's EQ knob stays center(12oclock). I still haven't tried a CE-5 but I'm hoping the EQ options are more to my taste. I also want a CE-3 that's the only one that does simple sum/difference type stereo chorus which is missing from the boss multiFX and I crave it, one of my favorite songwriters ever uses the sum/difference type chorus to great effect

charmonder

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Boogieman** » 14 Oct 2015, 05:59

This is a tough one. I like quite a few of them:

CE-2 and DC-2 for the great sounds and their simplicity to operate.
RCE-10 for that '80s chorus sound in stereo.
CE-20 for the SDD-320 Dimension D sims.

Wish I had a CE-300, even just for a day to try out.

Sometimes I would use this setup in my amp's FX loop:
CE-2 or CE-5>a delay pedal>DC-2 or CE-20 (set for Dimension D sims)

If the studio has 2 amps and there is time to fool around, then I would do a stereo setup from the output of DC-2 or CE-20.

When I use the RCE-10, I often use a EQ (e.g. RGE-10) right after it, before the DC-2.

Boogieman

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Johnnyseven** » 14 Oct 2015, 12:47

CE5 analog for me. The CE2 is nice clean but sounded bad with dirt into it, I find the CE5 sounds much better with dirt and is far more versatile. The digital CE5 doesn't sound quite as good, but if you'd never played the analog version you probably wouldn't notice.

Johnnyseven

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Dirk** » 14 Oct 2015, 16:02

> *Guga Ramone wrote:*
> *I only tried the CE-3 and the CH-1 (digital) and my favoutrite by far is the BF-2.*
> *Seriously, I LOVE the sound of the BF-2 with both "Res" and "Manual" controls on zero, rate at 1 o'clock and depth at 11 o'clock.*

Dude, I do the same thing!

Dirk

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 14 Oct 2015, 16:15

Overall the CE-2 has a similar range to the CH-1 in regards to its rate/depth. In regards to the "feel" of their tone the CH-1 is probably closer to the CE-2 than the CE-3/5 but they are still different.
When playing clean, the CE-2 is quite a bit warmer with more "depth" to the sound. The CH-1 is a bit more "up front" with its effect and a little more "dry" sounding imo.
The CH-1 (analog) is probably Boss's best chorus with distortion. It doesn't get harsh on the high end.

zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Mark123** » 14 Oct 2015, 18:05

I dont't see a list anywhere in this thread, bit i'm sure the CE-2b is on it. I prefer it over the CE-2 because of the effect-level knob.
Prefer the BF-2 or HF-2 flangers though, with manual and res down to zero. As mentioned above.

Mark123

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 14 Oct 2015, 21:29

The CE-2B is on the options you can vote for, but no one has yet.

This is the biggest traffic burst I've seen here in a while, I'm glad I posted these.

zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **charmonder** » 14 Oct 2015, 23:31

> *Boogieman wrote:*
> *Wish I had a CE-300, even just for a day to try out.*

yeah that seems like the real deluxe chorus/analog stereo dimension box. IIRC nathanscribe was selling one on the forum months ago, I had to pass, I cant get started with rack!

charmonder

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **nathanscribe** » 15 Oct 2015, 11:53

Ha! Yes, that went a while ago I'm afraid. It was a really good chorus, very flexible. I only sold it because I was trying really hard to minimise the outboard. I think that and the CE-2 are my favourite Boss chorus units. I'd love to try a CE-1 though.

nathanscribe

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Dirk** » 15 Oct 2015, 16:08

I picked the CE-2 here, although I used a CE-2b quite a bit on bass.
I found the CE-3 quite subtle, although nice with distortion, but I liked the CE-2 better.
Never tried the CE-5, and never liked the CH-1.

Dirk

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 15 Oct 2015, 17:29

Chorus pedals are a really odd beast since they all basically do "the same thing," but the flavor of their sound and what they can do differs so greatly from one another.

When I'm introducing new guitarists to chorus pedals I generally describe there as being two factors that give them some primary differences from one another:
1. "wet" vs. "dry" sound. Probably a bad analogy since wet/dry can pertain to signal but texturally it makes sense to me in this way. A "wet" chorus sounds very shimmery and generally has an upper end brightness to it... sort of a scoop in the upper mids with a boost in the treble section. It kind of gives it a feeling of depth to the effect. A "dry" chorus seems to be a lot more balanced tonally. This gives it more of a texture difference than an extreme effect and feels more "thick" than "deep."
Wet chorus: CE-3, CE-5 (Ibanez CS9/CS10, DOD stereo chorus/super/turbo/Ice Box, etc. are of this type)
Dry chorus: CE-2, CH-1

2. Oscillation rate/shape: fast vs. slow. Can it simulate a rotary without sounding horribly out of tune? (I believe this requires a square shape wave doesn't it?)
Fast: CE-5 (The Ibanez and DOD's listed above also fall into this)
Slow: CE-2, CE-3, CH-1

I think a lot of it is an era thing... what you liked to play/listen to and their version of chorus. If your idea of chorus is the Pretenders (or other early 80's sound), it's going to be a very different sound than if your idea of chorus is Smashing Pumpkins (or other mid-90's sound).

If you prefer 80's chorus, pretty much every pedal will do the low rate high depth sound common from that era. In that regards it usually becomes a matter of finding the warmest and fullest sound with a lush texture. The CE-2 generally wins out in this regard.

If you prefer 90's chorus, there aren't a lot of options since the CE-5 is the only Boss chorus that can pull that off. The CE-3 is probably next closest but it just won't oscillate fast enough to pull off a lot of the common sounds of the era. The wave shape also prevents some of the other chorii from doing this even with rate mods.

I was never a fan of the CH-1 either... always felt it sounded really sterile and bland. I had friends that had them

and was always curious why some well known guitarists used them. I ended up getting one (analog) for $20 a few years back and finally gave it a thorough run-through and figured out the one thing it can do better than the others, and that is to act as a lead/solo boost with a heavily saturated sound. It adds texture and mix cut without getting harsh or buzz-saw on the high end.

zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **visserman** » 15 Oct 2015, 17:43

I voted for the DC-3, the only vote so far. It sounds different form any chorus I know, it is light and special. Do not use it that much but it is nice.
DC-2 is over rated and yes you would like a bit more control. The reason why this pedal is so popular is because it looks so different, yes true, and it sounds fine but still.....

As far as CE-2, there are many clones and they all sound very good and full.
Most of the other Boss choruses are derived from the CE-2 apart from the CH-1, which is good as well. I think Metheny used it often at some point.

visserman

Posts: 948
Joined: 09 Dec 2011, 15:46
Location: Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, UK

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Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **zentropa** » 16 Oct 2015, 17:13

Yeah, the CE-5 gets very little love. I have always enjoyed it quite a bit (probably my 2nd favorite boss chorus), but I started in 1994, so right in the thick of that era's chorus sounds. The contemporary chorus pedals available at that time were pretty much the DOD Stereo Chorus and Ice Box (unless you could find NOS Super/Turbo Stereo Chorus) and the Ibanez Soundtank CS5. MXR's chorus was not in production and there weren't a lot of options. It was also common to dig up used Arion SCH-1s, Yamaha's chorus, and Ibanez CS10's at the time. It was sort of odd then as all of the readily available chorus pedals were more similar to the CE-5 than any of the other Boss Chorus pedals.

You'll find the CH-1 is probably most popular among metal players, especially those doing 80's metal and/or things with flashy lead guitar work.
zentropa

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **albumgatefold** » 17 Oct 2015, 23:10

They all have different applications
DC-2: use it to add presence/light flange in mode 1.

DC-3: use it to add shimmering ethereal airy effect and great combined with DM-3 analog delay or to add dimension to distortion
CH-1: use it for true/traditional chorus effect
CE-3: use it in mode II w/output a (effect only) for vibrato effect similar to the extremely expensive/elusive VB-2
What's really cool is to run the CE-3 & DC-2 together w/DM-3 and my Marshall sounds almost identical to Roland JC-120 amp.

albumgatefold

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Pepe** » 18 Oct 2015, 00:15

Welcome to the forum! You seem to have a nice collection of BOSS pedals.

> *albumgatefold wrote:*
> *CE-3: use it in mode II w/output a (effect only) for vibrato effect* ***similar to the extremely expensive/elusive VB-2***

I have a new demo in the making and it will contain an example of the VB-2 in direct comparison to the CE-3's Mode II. When engaged, the CE-3 has a lag which results in a moment of absolute silence and that's very annoying. The VB-2 doesn't do that, no matter if you use the Latch or Unlatch mode and the effect glides in in a beautiful way. And while the VB-2 sounds almost exactly like your original sound (but with pitch modulation - and a bit of noise, that's why it also has a bypass mode), the CE-3's modulated output has an enormous influence on your sound. If you run a dirt pedal in front of it and then engage the CE-3, your sound will change in a drastic way. The VB-2 has modulation with an extremely seemless triangle (it's not sine, or is it?) waveform that sounds very natural while the CE-3's vibrato mode wobbles up and down like some sort of square wave. And the VB-2 has much faster modes which can result in nice psychedelic and experimental sounds.

That demo will be finished around wednesday or thursday or so. The CE-3 does a good job, but I prefer its mode I in stereo and that one sounds gorgeous. So many guitarists believe that you can perfectly mimick a VB-2 with it. It doesn't come closer than 40% of the VB-2's sound. But if you have no VB-2, the CE-3 can still rock in a nice way. But use it before dirt in that case.

Pepe

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **albumgatefold** » 18 Oct 2015, 03:38

Thanks Pepe. Yeah sometimes I'll run the CE-3 in the mode 1 w/D+E to one Fender Hotrod Deluxe III amp and D-E to another Fender Hotrod Deluxe III amp w/the SD-1 driving them. I'll place the amps on either side the stage and the sound is huge! Of course mix in other effects too, but that sound of the CE-3 is very big!
The vibrato thing is not VB-2 but it is interesting nonetheless. Very creepy by itself. Actually used that sound for inspiration to an original song. I'll look for your demo/comparison.

albumgatefold

Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Mark123** » 18 Oct 2015, 07:35

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *So many guitarists believe that you can perfectly mimick a VB-2 with it. It doesn't come closer than 40% of the VB-2's sound.*

Looking forward to that video, Pepe. That'll be useful. I did a side by side comparison myself and i fully agree with your description.

Mark123

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **Johnnyseven** » 20 Oct 2015, 15:38

The youtube videos that I have seen of the CE-3 trying to mimic a VB-2 sound awful to me. It sounds like the top and bottom have been hacked off the vibrato wave giving it a square wave sound. I think the CE-5 does a much better vibrato like sound.

Johnnyseven

Re: Which is your favorite Boss Chorus?

by **albumgatefold** » 01 Nov 2015, 02:00

Now that I recently picked up a MIJ CE-2B I may change my opinion, especially for bass guitar. This pedal is really, really good. It has a really nice mellow sound that doesn't cloud up the bottom end. You can leave it on for everything and adjust to make it fit your own custom settings. Two thumbs up!!

albumgatefold