DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 28 Jul 2015, 13:26

So you love this delay. Okay I think I may be in the minority when I say that is sounds to me like any other analogue delay from that period. Nothing special so why the DM-2 did get that respect is a wonder to me. Was the DM-2 an original? Maybe but there are other, cheaper ones which are as good or even better.

Could those of you who love the DM-2 tell us what other delays they have to see what you are used to.

I do not say DM-2 is bad, no, but also not special. The DD2 and all the other ones after it is really special, and they still are, in how they sound and their clarity and the whole lot.

As far as analogue delays there are different approaches: You have the really primitive ones, usually earlier than the DM-2 or the ones like the DM-2 which will give you a fairly clean sound but yes, a tad darker than the newer digital ones. Some of the early ones may delay all that much for some of you, the EH Memory Man is one of those, but some of those pedals can give you sounds which are far beyond the DM-2.

Okay so let us open up a discussion based on the DM-2 and all other analogue delays of that period.
Cheers!!

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 28 Jul 2015, 17:30

I completely agree with your assessment of things but I will fully admit that I'm not a huge delay fan in general (I just can't seem to find applications for it most of the time and when I do, it's generally more of a digital delay sort of usage/tone).

I think the appeal of the DM-2 for me was more from a value/rarity standpoint. I've had 2-3 of them along with a DM-3, original Ibanez AD9, etc. I have never kept one because I couldn't justify having $150 sitting on my pedal board not being used.

There is a trend that I have noticed when it comes to pedal tones in general which I think has some bearing on this. One of my guitar friends is about 25 years older than me and has been gigging for 40+ years. Any pedal that remotely resembles being hifi (or works in frequencies above ~4khz) tends to sound shrill to him. From what I have gathered from him and from observing aging family members is that they seem to lose their hearing in the low end and low-mids earlier than other frequencies (although I think extreme high frequencies are lost early as well). His entire rig is extremely loud in the 1khz-2.5khz range and cuts almost everything above ~3-3.5khz. This goes from pickups to amp to effects etc. Another example is when I plugged a very organic sounding '81 DS-1 into his rig with the tone set to 9 o'clock and he hated it, citing it was too "tinny." Most digital delays (every boss digital delay I have played with the exception of the DD-2) is very "clacky" in the upper mids and above. I can imagine that this would sound extremely bad to someone with similar ears to my friend and having a much darker primitive delay that sits right in their tonal sweet spot excites them.

I could be wrong but I get the feeling that popularity of some of those Analog delays is rooted in:
If you were 25 in 1985, a digital delay was probably amazing as it was clearer and more articulate as well as greater versatility.
This would make you 55 in 2015 and with low end frequency loss in hearing, digital delays now sound too bright making darker analog delays highly sought after.

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Laurie** » 28 Jul 2015, 19:22

Errrr... as someone in this age range I can't agree with the hearing loss theory.

I don't have an alternative explanation. ..

Laurie

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **skugga** » 29 Jul 2015, 02:22

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *If you were 25 in 1985, a digital delay was probably amazing as it was clearer and more articulate as well as greater versatility.*
> *This would make you 55 in 2015 and with low end frequency loss in hearing, digital delays now sound too bright making darker analog delays highly sought after.*

The problem with this theory is that hearing loss due to age (Presbycusis) affects the high end frequencies much faster than mids and lows. So things wont actually sound as bright as you get older.

I don't have a DM-2 but have spent a decent amount of time with one along my continual quest for the perfect delay. As someone with diagnosed hearing loss (mild) it's not the brightness or darkness that draws me mainly towards analog delays it's the character of the sounds they create. I've loved some very bright digital delays as much as really dark analog delays.

It comes down to the DM-2 having a really nice basic character to the repeats that breaks up in a pleasing way.

skugga

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **sclitheroe** » 29 Jul 2015, 02:56

What pedals was the DM-2 competing with at the time it was introduced?

sclitheroe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 29 Jul 2015, 21:35

> *The problem with this theory is that hearing loss due to age (Presbycusis) affects the high end frequencies much faster than mids and lows. So things wont actually sound as bright as you get older.*

This is true but mostly in much higher frequencies, e.g. 10khz+
A bright sounding guitar is still dealing mostly in the upper mids. Beyond just age, gigging at high volumes will have cumulative long-term hearing damage, being older just gives more time for this damage to happen. I often joke with my friend about his "old guy tone," which is often found in the more boutique shops in the area (barely anything over 4.5khz).

The DD-3/DD-5/DD-6/DD-20/RV-3/etc. (I haven't owned a DD-7) all sound very "plinky," "plucky," or "clacky" to me in their delay nature and also the delay reproduction seems to be more prominent in the upper mids and high end (e.g. sounds below 1.5khz feel like they drop in volume on the delayed tone in a fairly "chopped off" way). The DM-2/DM-3 don't really have that those issues and in turn sound more organic and warmer (they have less high end but it feels more "rounded off"). A lot of it is timbre-based than anything more quantitative. My 36 year old ears find the "clackiness" somewhat unpleasant.

I seem to remember having a conversation with Laurie about timbre about 5-6 years ago on the phone.

My DD-2 is the only delay I have that I have made a conscious effort to hang onto but mostly as a combination of liking the sound and it not being worth a whole lot so it wasn't worth dumping if a financial crisis popped up.

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 31 Jul 2015, 14:24

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *What pedals was the DM-2 competing with at the time it was introduced?*

Ibanez AD9, DOD FX90?? Maybe MXR had something as well at the time. There must be quite a few more but these are the only ones I can think of at the time.

Could it be that people were looking for clearer repeats at the time since most of the older delays were not that clean hence DM-2 sounding fairly clean on the repeats?

Comparing the DM-2 with the analogue setting on the DD-7: I like how the DD7 trials of with the repeats, you get something which sounds like crickets. The repeats on the DM-2 do not get that long to sound anything like it. It may be a digital fault but still, it sounds good.

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Dirk** » 31 Jul 2015, 15:38

> *visserman wrote:*
> *Could it be that people were looking for clearer repeats at the time since most of the older delays were not that clean hence DM-2 sounding fairly clean on the repeats?*

You maybe on to something here, in the 80's most guitar sounds were processed enough with lots of chorus and the trend towards high gain distortion, as opposed to the 70's.
At least their echoes were clean...

Dirk

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 01 Aug 2015, 11:43

Dirk, yep 80s is start of early digital recording technique and with a lot of the music they went over the top, sounding way too bright for the style of music etc. For some of the synth pop it worked quite well but not for rock, metal, country and blues.

Would be great to hear from more people who use different delays apart from same period.

Zen not seeing application for delay? What about this: Use it to add reverb, to add repeats to your sound, do the sound on sound trick---works well with delays with longer delay-time, try to use the settings mentioned in the manual as a starting point and go from there.

For your regular playing the adding reverb will work most of the time, once you get started you will start to see more what you can do.

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 02 Aug 2015, 16:27

Thanks viss.

Honestly, I'm a pretty crappy guitarist right now. Too many hand/wrist injuries have crippled my playing pretty badly over the years. I can play with precision but the speed/strength/dexterity is weak. I'm more of a rhythm guitarist/vocalist now and do very little lead work.

It's odd but i never really got much into playing with delay or reverb, especially since i havent been able to open up volume-wise in over 10 years (apartment living) so when i do play i tend to stray away from things that eat signal clarity/push.

I will give it a whirl though and see if i can find a way to integrate it naturally. I just sold off my RV-5 so this may have to fill the void.

My playing style most closely resembles
http://youtu.be/TZRHvHxxFO4

They use quite a bit of delay so i guess that gives me a starting point

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 03 Aug 2015, 13:52

Okay Zen,

Well adding a touch of delay is just like adding a bit of reverb, will work well on chords etc. and if you use a digital delay your signal will still be bright.
I think once you start to use delay you will find other applications.
Enjoy!!

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 03 Aug 2015, 22:52

Hehe, I never use reverb either.

I went ahead and dialled in my DD-2 to behave like a short reverb and i actually like it better than my now sold RV-5 for that. I will keep tinkering with it

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **71Smallbox** » 05 Aug 2015, 19:08

I really tried to like my DM-2, but it never could keep up with my Deluxe Memory Man(cord version) as far as warmth, repeat length and overall feel. I don't know whether its due to the different BBD's used, but the DM-2 sounded very sterile in comparison.

71Smallbox

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 06 Aug 2015, 13:52

I think the Memory Man is a different kind of delay all together, the DM-2 may have been one of the first, early compact delays. Similar other compact delays share a similar sound, but the Memory Man is not a compact, and a totally different pedal. You can even use them as a pre-amp, try that with a DM-2.....

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **soldout** » 30 Aug 2015, 18:10

I just saw a DM-2 go at 143,50 € in ebay.

I didn't bid as it was from March 1984, should be one of the latest to be produced.

Great price though.

soldout

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 04 Sep 2015, 15:23

I too - after years of lust - finally played a DM-2 and thought "Hmm, standard". And that's probably it. It's balanced so well betwen bright and desk, overbearing vs sitting in the mix, hi-fi to low-fi that it literally set the "standard reference". We've heard an "analog delay" tone emulated a million times in the modern age and got rather too used to its ubiquity. Now we crave added flavor or mojo.

On that note I found the Carbon Copy dull too, it was perfect but no surprises - heard it before syndrome.

One caveat: MN3005.

Any delay containing this chip is almost without fail GOLD.

I have an original AD-80, Pearl AD, two Guyatone's. All a tad different with "mojo" - all worthy up against the DM-2 albeit all their own thing. The AD-80 has the clearest buttery repeats of any delay bar non. But its not easy to dial into the background.

I was up against against a chap with a SIB echo at the weekend - nice delay but it wasn't my Dual Delay magic!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pepe** » 04 Sep 2015, 17:51

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *I too - after years of lust - finally played a DM-2 and thought "Hmm, standard". And that's probably it. It's balanced so well betwen bright and desk, overbearing vs sitting in the mix, hi-fi to low-fi that it literally set the "standard*

reference". We've heard an "analog delay" tone emulated a million times in the modern age and got rather too used to its ubiquity. Now we crave added flavor or mojo.

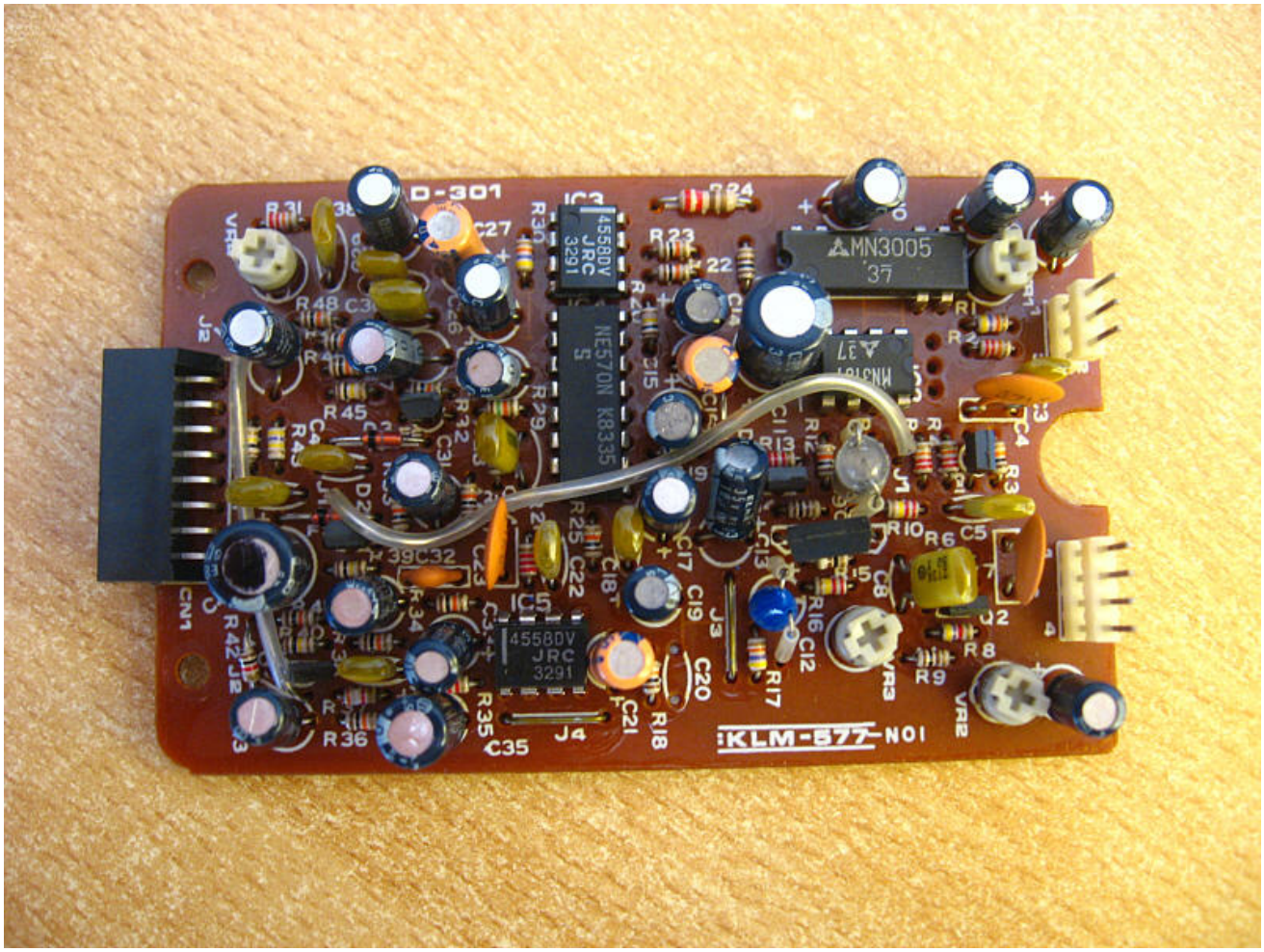
On that note I found the Carbon Copy dull too, it was perfect but no surprises - heard it before syndrome.

I simply love this one:

It has such a lovely sound that made my GAS for a BOSS DM-2 (or DM-3) cool off within seconds when I first played it.

fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:
One caveat: MN3005.

Any delay containing this chip is almost without fail GOLD.



Pepe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by fuzzbuzzfuzz » 05 Sep 2015, 11:27

Bingo! That's on the list! Nice Pepe!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 07 Sep 2015, 14:41

However I have to raise you Pepe, it's not compact but....

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **visserman** » 09 Sep 2015, 12:46

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *I too - after years of lust - finally played a DM-2 and thought "Hmm, standard". And that's probably it. It's balanced so well betwen bright and desk, overbearing vs sitting in the mix, hi-fi to low-fi that it literally set the "standard reference". We've heard an "analog delay" tone emulated a million times in the modern age and got rather too used to its ubiquity. Now we crave added flavor or mojo.*
>
> *On that note I found the Carbon Copy dull too, it was perfect but no surprises - heard it before syndrome.*
>
> *One caveat: MN3005.*

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I have an original AD-80, Pearl AD, two Guyatone's. All a tad different with "mojo" - all worthy up against the DM-2 albeit all their own thing. The AD-80 has the clearest buttery repeats of any delay bar non. But its not easy to dial into the background.

I was up against against a chap with a SIB echo at the weekend - nice delay but it wasn't my Dual Delay magic!

I like you observation about DM-2 being balanced, I think that sums it up very well. Many, many delays of that period carry that chip, and I think you need to play a fair few to hear where the differences are. At first play you may have a feeling "all those delays sound fairly similar" True, but the details are different, some of them are smoother, some of them sound darker, more overbearing etc.

Thinking about the early digital delays, they sound very smooth compared to the older analogue, compact delays. DD2 sounds very smooth, again compare that with other delays of similar time and they all have that feel without being too bright like the DD5 and the later ones.

visserman

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 09 Sep 2015, 21:46

Thinking about the early digital delays, they sound very smooth compared to the older analogue, compact delays. DD2 sounds very smooth, again compare that with other delays of similar time and they all have that feel without being too bright like the DD5 and the later ones.

I think part of the DD-2 is that it seems to duplicate a "truer" sonic range of the actual signal. I just had a chance to A/B a DD-2 vs. an MIJ short chip DD-3 that I sold to a buddy a few years ago and the DD-3 kept me wondering "where's the low end?". I think the bright feel is more of a loss of low end than addition of excess treble.

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 10 Sep 2015, 02:11

...of course there's also the fact in analog delays of essentially a non pure grainy/gritty signal which tends to sound more natural or magical (to some!).

Newer analogue delays leave me a bit cold I suspect because of the sophisticated noise filtering removing that grit. I found this with the new Waza DM-2 and also the newer (yet very well spec) Maxons.

And indeed all MN3005 delays are not necessarily equal.

One thing I consistantly find with vintage Boss is how big a gap between them and their relative peers of the same age in terms of purity and "magic" in the sound, CE-2 is a prime example. Bell like clarity and warmth. Makes anything else sound flat!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 10 Sep 2015, 02:12

..and now I want a DD-2!!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pepe** » 10 Sep 2015, 06:37

Did you never have one (or a long chip DD-3)?

Pepe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Time Traveller** » 05 Oct 2015, 07:03

I had a DM-2A some years ago and it was an amazing pedal! It sounded better than a DM-3, but that's my opinion. I remember that I traded that pedal plus some stuff for an amazing G&L (that's still with me), because you know, I was living in Brazil that time, and things are very expensive there so I don't regret on doing that. I used the DM-2 as a "reverb" and it sounded unique and amazing live! I don't like to exaggerate when using delay pedals so I even sold my RV-3 (too much delay!!). I was thinking about getting another DM-2 BUT since Boss released DM-2W, I changed my mind! They sound the same to my ears and it has more options. I don't know about you guys but NOWADAYS I would get a DM-2W instead of any DM-2.

Time Traveller

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Mark123** » 08 Oct 2015, 06:21

I got a DM-2w about a month ago. The first one I saw on the second hand market. I simply love it.. It is just like my DM-3 (or any of the DM-2s I had) but just a tad bit clearer in the first repeats, which I like. As if the DM-3 had aged a bit (which it had of course). The difference was minor though, because when I a/b-d blind I had trouble telling them apart.
Sold the DM-3 with no regrets, or actually traded it for a very nice overdrive pedal. Didn't get any decent bids, maybe because of the success of the waza version?
I use it primarily in standard mode but it's great to have the option of long delays.
Great pedal!

Mark123

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pepe** » 08 Oct 2015, 06:30

> *Mark123 wrote:*
> *The difference was minor though, because when I a/b-d blind I had trouble telling them apart.*

That's a good sign.

Pepe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Mark123** » 11 Oct 2015, 11:00

Yes indeed, Pepe! Even the analogue mode on the dd-20 gets close with eyes closed. But I miss that true dm-vibe. That nice reverbish nature that the DM pedals have.

But to bring the thread back to visserman' observation that the DM-2/3 is maybe a bit overrated and certainly overpriced in the used market... I,d say it's a great analogue delay with maybe a bit more clarity than other analogue delay pedals. I think it's particularly good when used mildly between 250-300 ms with only one or two repeats to be well heard (I remember dirk mentioning something similar in another thread!). It being a bit clearer - with a bit more high end maybe- is perfect for that use. And it seems that many people buy a DM for slapback specifically.
And yes for higher volume, multiple repeats and longer delay times other delay pedals may be just as good or better. But hey, it's super compact, boss-solid and a good looking pedal as well.
I have a Yamaha AD-10 pedal with 2 MN3005 chips as well which goes up to about 400 ms. Very nice dark repeats, perfect for longer and deeper echo's but less effective for my everyday mild use of delay. And taking a lot of space on a pedal board. Longchip DD-3 (or DD-2) is great as well, but still, I like the DM better.

Mark123

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 11 Oct 2015, 18:00

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Did you never have one (or a long chip DD-3)?*

Have had a DD-3 since my early days and a DD-2 just for the last three weeks or so - now shipped to Europe (sales required!). DD-2 was surprisingly a tad warmer - perhaps due to aging? With a dash of reverb in front it was magic. I shall seek out a good condition one where possible in the future.

I've also noticed s slight price drop here in Japan for DM-3s - so agsin when I'm a little richer - it's on the list!

Tried a Maxon AD-999 in store on a great deal. Too much clarity , no hiss or noise - no mojo! Lovely if you like perfect repeats though.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **nathanscribe** » 11 Oct 2015, 20:28

I like the old long-chip Boss delays, they sound really good - characterful but still with some fidelity.

Interesting to hear the new DM sounds close to the old ones. The EHX Deluxe Memory Man 1100 (currently selling mine, nudge nudge) has 4x MN3005 in it, and sounds like you'd expect when it's pushed to full delay time - at over a second, it breaks up just as the max times on more common pedals - but at the more useful times of up to say half a second, it's got the analogue qualities without so much grit. I mean it's still not a hi-fi delay at any setting, there's always that layer of BBD-ness to it. I find BBDs are good to tweak on the fly, the way they crunch up with feedback is like no digital unit I've ever used.

I used to have a few cheap old BBD delays, sold them all, and kind of wish I kept one or two. They're fun.

nathanscribe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 13 Oct 2015, 18:18

The DM-2W's in standard mode are very close to the 3205 DM-2's. The buffer on the bypass seems a touch better on the 2W. The 2W also feels like there's a tiny bit of signal squish when engaged, but I don't have a DM-2/3 anymore to compare it to. If memory serves me correctly, the difference between a 2W and a 3205 DM-2 is probably going to be about the difference between 2 3205 DM-2's made a couple of years apart: it's still obviously a DM-2, but there will be some subtle nuances between them.

IMO, where the DM-2W's separate themselves is the custom mode. This pushes the delay time up to 800ms and lets you do a lot of the things that a DD-3 can do that a normal DM-2/DM-3 cannot. That being said, in custom mode the delay isn't quite as gritty, so it sort of treads the line between the originals and a digital delay. The first repeat is clear but it smooths off with subsequent repeats so you won't get the "perfect copy" of a digital delay on every repeat but it's still very articulate without walking over your new tone, and also won't "eat itself" if that makes any sense.

It looks like the DM-3 that eluded me a month or so ago may be ending up in my possession here soon and I will be shooting it out heavily against the DM-2W before I decide which one to keep.

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **zentropa** » 01 Nov 2015, 06:16

Picked up that DM-3 today finally. I sold my last one around 2008 when a DM-2 fell into my lap. I regretted getting rid of it, but now that I have one again I do feel I like the DM-3 better than the 3205 DM-2 or DM-2w in standard mode.

Decided to put the DM-2w up for sale today even though I do really like its custom mode.

zentropa

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Mark123** » 04 Nov 2015, 00:05

Bought back the same DM-3 that I traded a couple of weeks ago. But keeping the DM-2w that replaced it. Just gotta have a DM-3.

Mark123

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **jjone** » 28 Jan 2016, 21:43

I've been lucky to find last october a DM2 with MN3005 chip at 100 euro. It works fine but I prefer my DMM and Rockman stereo echo.
I don't like dark repeats

jjone

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Mark123** » 29 Jan 2016, 09:49

You risk execution here, with such comments!

Mark123

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pepe** » 29 Jan 2016, 09:56

Welcome to the forum, jjone! As always, everyone has own preferences. I love digital and analog delay, depending on what I want to do.

Pepe

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pieraga** » 12 Feb 2016, 20:40

I use my Boss DM2 as my first/shorter delay, then followed by a DD3 set at a longer rate,, I also love the warm tone it produces when set as a reverb-like effect,

Pieraga

Re: DM-2 Fans, Comments Please

by **Pieraga** » 12 Feb 2016, 21:12

Since I only got dm2 and dm3 as my analog delays, I put the dm3 at the end of the chain and set it as a reverb-like effect, the the longer digital delay signals pass through it coated like analog delays,,

Pieraga