Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **albumgatefold** » 07 Nov 2015, 03:06

Anyone using the PH-3 and/or BF-3?
I'm thinking about getting a PH-3 and a BF-3 for my "on the road" board. I have a MIJ BF-2, HF-2, PH-1R & PH-2 and I don't want to cart everything around, risk damage or loss.
I don't really care about the tap tempo feature of the BF-3 or PH-3 pedals so that's not a selling feature.
Versatility is key for me. I've watched lots of YouTube videos and I read a lot already but was looking for 'Success Stories' from good people on this forum that employ these pedals.
Here's what I'm thinking for "Road Ready" Gear:
Strat> {BCB-6} TU-2, OS-2, (PH-3), (BF-3), PS-6, DD-7 > Fender Hotrod Deluxe III.

albumgatefold

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **zentropa** » 07 Nov 2015, 03:36

I have had both as well as all of the analogs.
They arent bad, but they tend to have the same issues i have with other digital stuff: clean it sounda good. With distortion it sounds harsh rather than warm (the CH-1a and CE-5a are this way as well).

I especially didnt like how the PH-3 sounded when running before dirt. The wave just doesnt seem to "push" the signal in the same way as an analog. Im not a PH-2 fan though so if I had to pick one I'd probably go PH-3 because of its 4-stage mode.

That being said, live sounds bad no matter what so i wouldnt worry about it too much and would probably go more off of availability and price. Eg here BF-2's are in cheap abundance right now (i could probably get 3 used ones for less than 1 new one). Any Ph not so much.

I ended up selling my BF-3 and picked up another BF-2. Also in the process of selling my PH-3 but this craigslist douche has no showed twice.

zentropa

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **zentropa** » 07 Nov 2015, 03:43

A quick elaboration on thr reasons for not liking digi modulations in general:

-with dirt they tend to pick up a "buzz saw" type grind in the upper mids and highs when they sweep through the treble section. This can actually help you cut better but it makes my ears want to cry.

-most analog modulations tend to kind of ebb and flow and cause certain amp and dirt dynamics. Eg when they sweep through the mids you get a boosted feel that tapers off when it reaches the low or high end. With phasers pre-dirt you pick up quite a bit of cutting power when this happens. The same goes for post dirt effects. It adds a depth and texture that makes things stick out more. With digi effects this seems to flatten. You get the effected sound but not the same change in cutting power or air push from the amp. This can be a good or bas thing depending upon what you want.

zentropa

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **charmonder** » 07 Nov 2015, 04:38

Personally I would lean on the PH-2. There have been a couple times as an audience member I've been blown away by the guitarist's phase tone and went to see, both times turned out to be the PH-2. I used to have one, it seems a little over the top at home but it really hit the mark in a band mix!

you know what would be nice feature on phasers? since they aren't stereo anyway, it might be nice and versatile if there was an included effect loop so it could quickly/instantly swap before and after some dirt pedals.

charmonder

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **albumgatefold** » 07 Nov 2015, 05:12

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *I have had both as well as all of the analogs.*
> *They arent bad, but they tend to have the same issues i have with other digital stuff: clean it sounda good. With distortion it sounds harsh rather than warm (the CH-1a and CE-5a are this way as well).*
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> *I especially didnt like how the PH-3 sounded when running before dirt. The wave just doesnt seem to "push" the signal in the same way as an analog. Im not a PH-2 fan though so if I had to pick one I'd probably go PH-3 because of its 4-stage mode.*
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> *That being said, live sounds bad no matter what so i wouldnt worry about it too much and would probably go more off of availability and price. Eg here BF-2's are in cheap abundance right now (i could probably get 3 used ones for less than 1 new one). Any Ph not so much.*
>
> *I ended up selling my BF-3 and picked up another BF-2. Also in the process of selling my PH-3 but this craigslist douche has no showed twice.*

Thanks for your comments. I would be pushing the OS-2 thru the phaser and flanger so I think I may pick up another BF-2 like you suggest. They do seem a abundant and if I find one $30 or less I think I'll pull get one. Not sure what to do about the phaser though cause the PH-1R (w/that good 4-stage) & PH-2 (10/12 stage) seem to be a bit more expensive.

albumgatefold

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **albumgatefold** » 07 Nov 2015, 05:15

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *A quick elaboration on thr reasons for not liking digi modulations in general:*
>
> *-with dirt they tend to pick up a "buzz saw" type grind in the upper mids and highs when they sweep through the treble section. This can actually help you cut better but it makes my ears want to cry.*
>
> *-most analog modulations tend to kind of ebb and flow and cause certain amp and dirt dynamics. Eg when they sweep through the mids you get a boosted feel that tapers off when it reaches the low or high end. With phasers pre-dirt you pick up quite a bit of cutting power when this happens. The same goes for post dirt effects. It adds a depth and texture that makes things stick out more. With digi effects this seems to flatten. You get the effected sound but not the same change in cutting power or air push from the amp. This can be a good or bas thing depending upon what you want.*

Good to know. I appreciate you sharing. I haven't used digital pedals so I'm only used to the good warmth of analog units.

albumgatefold

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **albumgatefold** » 07 Nov 2015, 05:25

> *charmonder wrote:*
> *Personally I would lean on the PH-2. There have been a couple times as an audience member I've been blown away by the guitarist's phase tone and went to see, both times turned out to be the PH-2. I used to have one, it seems a little over the top at home but it really hit the mark in a band mix!*
>
> *you know what would be nice feature on phasers? since they aren't stereo anyway, it might be nice and versatile if there was an included effect loop so it could quickly/instantly swap before and after some dirt pedals.*

Yeah I may just have to go with the PH-2 and for flanger pick up another BF-2 like zentropa suggested. I don't wanna roll out the MIJ one just because I've had it forever and they tend to be a bit more pricey as compared to Tiawan models. But in my experience there is little difference aside from probably an emotional attachment. Anyhow, thanks for sharing your thoughts.
Hmmm. Wondering if someone has put out a mod for phaser w/ loop like you suggest. Have to check that out.
The other night I was out a local show and the guitarist was using phase shifter a lot. I told my brother, "That's a Boss phase shifter --PH-1R) so I go up to the stage to check out his gear and to talk to him... Yep. Boss! Distinctive for sure.

albumgatefold

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **zentropa** » 07 Nov 2015, 06:56

Depends on where you are for the BF-2. On ebay right now you can consistently get an MIJ for cheaper than an MIT as there just seem to be more MIJ's available. Locally for me it's actually cheaper to get an MIJ than MIT on CL or in stores... kind of sad. If you adhere to a price point and just grab whatever pops up that might be the best option.

Phasers are kind of weird as I only really like the PH-1 and PH-1r from boss.
PH-2's vary a bit. I've found all the ACA versions have a bit of volume boost. The ACA MIT is usually the harshest sounding of them. The PSA MIT doesn't have the volume boost and is usually a bit more mild sounding than any of the earlier ones (although its frequency range is a bit smaller and it's less round on the bottom end). Playing the price point game on this one might be the easiest as well. I think the PH-3 is actually going for a touch less than the PH-2 right now.

I just recently purchased a BF-2, BF-3, PH-2, and PH-3 recently so I've been tracking these items quite a bit.

zentropa

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 09 Nov 2015, 07:45

> *charmonder wrote:*
> *Personally I would lean on the PH-2. There have been a couple times as an audience member I've been blown away by the guitarist's phase tone and went to see, both times turned out to be the PH-2. I used to have one, it seems a little over the top at home but it really hit the mark in a band mix!*
>
> *you know what would be nice feature on phasers? since they aren't stereo anyway, it might be nice and versatile if there was an included effect loop so it could quickly/instantly swap before and after some dirt pedals.*

Agreed on both points!

Really must test my cheap battered PH-2 out, could even Velcro the fella, sacrilege!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Pepe** » 09 Nov 2015, 08:13

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *could even Velcro the fella, sacrilege!*

Dirk always says that it's an easy thing to turn around the bottom plate of BOSS pedals so you can velcro the metal side and leave the label and the rubber unharmed. I have never tried it out, though, because I don't use velcro.

> *charmonder wrote:*
> *you know what would be nice feature on phasers? since they aren't stereo anyway, it might be nice and versatile* ***if there was an included effect loop so it could quickly/instantly swap before and after some dirt pedals****.*

I have a self-built "ABX" effects loop pedal in the works (still in my head and in a png-file only) that can do exactly that. When I did the Hotone FURY fuzz demo it had been an easy way to put the fuzz before or after a buffered pedal with such a loop pedal, because that results in totally different sounds.

Pepe

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Dirk** » 09 Nov 2015, 17:27

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Dirk always says that it's an easy thing to turn around the bottom plate of BOSS pedals so you can velcro the metal side and leave the label and the rubber unharmed.*

I'm an authorithy on pedalboard building now?

It works like this, maybe not on some on the digital pedals that have a little fork thingy that attaches to the bottomplate for grounding.

Dirk

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **charmonder** » 09 Nov 2015, 19:48

Wow! Inverting the backplate, now that is a really good idea, I've never seen that before.

charmonder

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Danpol** » 09 Nov 2015, 21:55

Must be a dutch invention, cause I've done that too.
Recently I use chain links cause the plates didn't close very well to the bottom of the pedal.
And the pedals remain firmer to the pedalboard with these chain links. (is that the correct translation?)

Danpol

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Gasgano** » 10 Nov 2015, 02:45

I don't know how it is in your respective countries, but getting blank backplates from Roland parts (e-mail parts@roland.ca) is easy as 1-2-3 in Canada. I replace the original plates with the blank ones and velcro the replacement plate. If I want to get rid of the pedal, put on the original backplate and voilà!

I originally tried the backplate reversal solution but some of them I felt were applying pressure on the circuits, so I decided to go for the blank plates.

Gasgano

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Danpol** » 10 Nov 2015, 09:18

In Belgium they say the Dutch are thrifty, and maybe they're right!

But a blank backplate is a great solution!

Danpol

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Mark123** » 10 Nov 2015, 09:38

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *I'm an authorithy on pedalboard building now?*
>
> *It works like this, maybe not on some on the digital pedals that have a little fork thingy that attaches to the bottomplate for grounding.*
>
>
>

Not sure if you are an authority (on signal paths maybe), but i think it's a great idea! I'll try that for sure.

Mark123

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **visserman** » 10 Nov 2015, 12:04

> *charmonder wrote:*
> *Personally I would lean on the PH-2. There have been a couple times as an audience member I've been blown away by the guitarist's phase tone and went to see, both times turned out to be the PH-2. I used to have one, it seems a little over the top at home but it really hit the mark in a band mix!*
>
> *you know what would be nice feature on phasers? since they aren't stereo anyway, it might be nice and versatile if there was an included effect loop so it could quickly/instantly swap before and after some dirt pedals.*

Your idea about an effects loop installed on phaser pedals deserves a lot of bonus points!!!

Both Ph-3 and Bf-3 are good, they have unique features, forget the tap tempo idea, their sound is good. No need to compare to older phasers and flangers as we all know who wins the contest, but for a live set-up they are both good pedals.

visserman

Re: Anyone using the PH-3 or BF-3?

by **Dirk** » 10 Nov 2015, 18:51

Thanks guys, but I probably stole the idea somewhere too. I just can't remember....

Dirk