Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **albumgatefold** » 15 Nov 2015, 23:41

I'm looking to get a high gain distortion and would appreciate anyone sharing their experience with either one or both of these stomp boxes. I've watched YouTube videos, researched, etc. I value the opinions of the forum members greatly. Thanks in advance.

albumgatefold

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Pepe** » 16 Nov 2015, 00:19

Those two models are completely different beasts. The Heavy Metal is dirty and rough and it has a somewhat special sound of its own that screams "'80s!" The Hyper Metal is straight-forward thick distortion with a more modern sound and tons of gain. What surprised me was that it is the best distortion I have come across for down-tuned stuff. The HM-3 is often very cheap and it's worth to try it out.

Pepe

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **albumgatefold** » 16 Nov 2015, 01:01

Thank you Pepe. I ALWAYS appreciate your insights. Although the 80s kid in me is emotionally leaning towards the Heavy Metal (and rightfully so; it has "Heavy Metal" printed on the box. Excuse me while I step on "The Heavy Metal,"---right?!) the musician, tone junky, and financially responsible citizen in me is logically leaning towards the Hyper Metal. I'll let you you once I pull the trigger.
Cheers.

albumgatefold

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 16 Nov 2015, 05:21

The best way to describe the HM-3 is the HM-3 is basically the Hm-2 with scooped out mids. It also has a bit more gain then the HM-2

Pieces Of The Night

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Pepe** » 16 Nov 2015, 08:37

The mids aren't exactly scooped out. The HM-2 has a strong impact on the 1kHz section which can create a huge mid-hump in high settings (and totally scooped in low settings!). The HM-3 has a somewhat more traditional treble control behaviour, but it is fantastically able to cut through the mix. I actually wanted to sell it two years ago, but then I took it to a gig and now it's a keeper.

Pepe

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **zentropa** » 16 Nov 2015, 08:58

I have owned several of each and tend to put them in different categories (assuming you are planning to use the HM-2 "as intended" and not the entombed settings).

Easiest summary I could go with is if you want to sound like Randy Rhoads go HM-2 (eg pedal boosted JCM800) If you want to sound more like Alice in Chains go HM-3.

The HM-3 gets a lot sludgier while the HM-2 is tighter and crunchier. HM-2's also have quite a bit of variance depending upon the year.

Other under the radar pedals worth considering:
The MZ-2 is more of a tubescreamer boosted plexi sound if that's your thing, with a good range of variance across the drive knob.
The SD-2's lead mode is incredibly under-rated and in the realm of a JCM900 lead channel. This has gain and sustain for days.

zentropa

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **albumgatefold** » 17 Nov 2015, 01:17

Got a MZ-2 on the way. Got what I consider a steal of a deal compared to the prices I've seen on eBay. So I'm looking forward to experimenting with the digital metalizer. The heavy metal pedals seem to be really expensive compared to the hyper metal. Like 1/2 as much. Guess that's a nostalgic thing.
What about the dreaded Metal Zone. Heard lots of horror stories all over the web. Never seen anybody play one. Never known anybody that had one.

albumgatefold

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Gasgano** » 17 Nov 2015, 02:25

Always been wondering the same thing about those two, thanks for the thread albumgatefold and thanks for everyone's input.

I hate the Metal Zone, personally, and I've seen quite a few of them since I'm a 2000's teen and pretty much every guitar player in my surroundings at the time had an MT-2. Lots of guys on the forum have said it lacks "plug and play" ability, because it needs fine tuning in settings to sound good. I can relate to that, since I never really took the time to set it up (or only took it when I was young and dumb). I enbded up getting rid of it. Everytime I try one, I surrender after a few knob turns because I can't make it sound like I want.

As far as price though, it's probably the most available and cheap on the after-market after MIT DS-1s 😎.

If I can get hands on a very, very cheap one I'm actually willing to give it another shot, but the Digital Metallizer is actually a lot higher in my wishlist. Please keep us posted on your impressions of the MZ-2, I'm quite curious. David Gilmour was using it, so it can't be that bad 😁!

Gasgano

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **albumgatefold** » 17 Nov 2015, 03:12

Yeah metal zones can be found $30 or less. I've heard it's a bitch to fine tune it. The digital metalizer has a long way to make it me but I'm excited about potential there. I was looking for another high gain pedal to use with "line 2". I've got two loops setup and a third that both of others run thru. Think I'll post a thread on that. I'm thinking I'll get the hyper metal b/c it's more affordable ~ $40 bucks or so. The heavy metal can't be had for less than $75.

albumgatefold

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 17 Nov 2015, 05:36

edit

Pieces Of The Night

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **zentropa** » 17 Nov 2015, 18:49

> *The heavy metal pedals seem to be really expensive compared to the hyper metal. Like 1/2 as much. Guess that's a nostalgic thing.*

The price on this pedal has been heavily driven by Scandinavian metal. 5 years ago it was $35. The 4 I picked up 2 months ago were $100 for a Mint MIJ and the 3 MIT's were $75, $50, $50. If you are patient and don't care about condition they aren't too expensive.

Keep in mind the HM-3 isn't really a replacement... just something different. Although... if you are trying to do the Scandinavian metal thing, I think the HM-3 is superior to the HM-2 for that. If you want to do 80's metal, the HM-3 doesn't really do that all that well (although it will do Grunge, 90's metal/rock, etc.).

> *What about the dreaded Metal Zone. Heard lots of horror stories all over the web. Never seen anybody play one. Never known anybody that had one.*

If you spend the time to dial em in I think they are a decent pedal. Out of all the Boss analog distortion pedals it has the most saturation and most compression by a wide margin. Mine is set up as sort of a Tubescreamer through a Mesa type sound (but I don't scoop mids). We recently had a run on these locally in the $20-25 range. If you can score one cheap they are a fun pedal to tinker with.

I will continue to mention the SD-2's lead mode over and over again until someone acknowledges it can hang with any of the high gain dirt pedals

zentropa

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Gasgano** » 17 Nov 2015, 20:25

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *if you are trying to do the Scandinavian metal thing, I think the HM-3 is superior to the HM-2 for that.*

Well now I want an HM-3.

Gasgano

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Dirk** » 18 Nov 2015, 19:19

Sssst, don't say these kind of things.
What if every Scandinavian metal guitarist swaps his HM-2 for an HM-3?
Huh?
Then what?
Do you want to be held responsable for the biggest pedal swap massacre in the history of heavy metal?
Well, do you feel lucky now? Mr. I couldn't keep my mouth shut when dealing with the vintage pedal market?
What if you just single handedly changed the course of Ebay history.....?

Sorry, Zentropa. I just had to!

Dirk

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **zentropa** » 18 Nov 2015, 20:59

I don't ride the bandwagon, I drive it

zentropa

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Guga Ramone** » 19 Nov 2015, 12:43

Hahahahah Great answer!!

BTW, all this talking about the HM-3 is giving me G.A.S.... Guess I'll try to hunt one. Usually they can be found for a good price around here.

Guga Ramone

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Dirk** » 19 Nov 2015, 17:02

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *I don't ride the bandwagon, I drive it*

That depends on big your stash of HM-3's is...

Dirk

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **zentropa** » 19 Nov 2015, 21:11

I picked up a Micro BR a few months ago. I may actually try to record some pedal demos with its onboard mic, albeit low volume ones. Could probably do some shoot-outs between things like the HM-2 and HM-3 as well. I'm fairly lazy about this stuff though, so I probably wouldn't be putting them through a larger range of settings, mostly just what I use them at unless it's a comparison thing, i'd probably just EQ them at noon.

zentropa

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Ptak** » 22 Nov 2015, 10:51

> *zentropa wrote:*
> *If you want to sound more like Alice in Chains go HM-3.*

Is this accurate? Can anyone else verify if you can a great AIC sound from this pedal? I've been using the SD-2 for a bit of an AIC tone and the HM-3 is one of the few Boss pedals that have eluded me. For some reason I'm picturing a Dam That River tone haha is that what I should expect if I buy one?

Ptak

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **zentropa** » 23 Nov 2015, 04:14

It would actually get pretty close to Dam That River. The HM-3 is more hifi than the SD-2, with a lot more extreme low end and has more fizz on the top end. It's not quite as defined on the edge, but has plenty of sludge and lots of saturation.

Just keep this in mind: the HM-3 was attempting to allow solid state amp players the ability to get the sounds that usually required stacking 2 Dirt boxes into an overdriven tube amp. I haven't been able to open one up on it with tubes,but it seems that was the sound they were trying to get to with it.

zentropa

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Ptak** » 23 Nov 2015, 05:45

I'll try to pick one up. Always wondered what the HM-3 sounded like. Now I'm really curious! Might have been missing out on a gem all this time.

Ptak

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Ptak** » 24 Nov 2015, 06:32

Well boys, I pulled the trigger. HM-3 is on its way! I'll make sure to give a review.

Ptak

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **albumgatefold** » 24 Nov 2015, 15:13

Cool. I will appreciate hearing your opinion once you've personally tested it.

albumgatefold

Re: Heavy Metal vs. Hyper Metal

by **Gasgano** » 24 Nov 2015, 15:24

The GAS is strong with this one. Also looking forward to the review.

Gasgano