BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **The_Doc** » 07 Dec 2014, 14:53

I've only had this for 48 hours but here are my first thoughts. I compared it with a 'standard' BD-2 and a Keeley Modded (with 'fat' switch) version.

Used a Fender Custom Shop 1960 Relic Strat and a Gibson SG Standard through Marshall JVM 410c.

Up front first impression - the 'S' mode is true to the original BD-2 - as advertised - perhaps a little brighter but minimal difference really.

Now...the 'C' mode. Definitely an increase in clarity, definition and fatness but...it's quite subtle - not a socksbloweroffer ! If anything, I'd say it makes the pedal sound more 'pro'. The harmonic response is better with the BD-2W - it's fun to really dig in with your pick. As expected, it's much closer to the Keeley modded version - it has the same warmth and feel. I think Boss have done a good job to get it this close to the mod. With the 'fat' switch engaged I think the Keeley has a little more mid range and, of course, bottom end. But, both pedals are a pleasure to use and I don't think I'll be able to go back to the 'standard' BD-2 any time soon.

The Keeley version had a place in my live rig when I was doing some blues material a while back and I wouldn't have any hesitation in substituting it with the BD-2W now - it's just as good.

I did find the S/C switch very fiddly and I wouldn't want to have to change it on stage - especially a dark one. There isn't a lot of room to get at it easily and cleanly. The other controls do get in the way. I'd set it and leave it on the 'C' setting anyway - so not a problem.

If you are looking for something very different to the original BD-2 you won't find it with the Waza Craft version. Imho this is simply a BD-2 with more guts to it and my ears and fingers do seem to be getting on well with it. It's a winner for me.

Some other things I've noticed. There is an additional white sticker on the backplate which seems to show the manufacture date - in this case 20140820. The pedal came into store in the UK on 20141204. Three months from factory to store.

In addition to the backplate serial / batch number sticker we are all familiar with, there is now another sticker on these pedals, next to the DC socket. It says 'INSPECTED IN JAPAN' and shows another five character all numeric serial number. This might explain the 3 months to store - after manufacture - the pedals in this range are shipped to Japan for inspection? I guess also that the new s/n is the specific Waza Craft pedal s/n and the other remains a general batch number?

I bought a new RC-1 on the same day and I noticed that it ships with a 'standard' GP alkaline 9v battery but, both Waza Craft pedals (I got an SD-1W too), ship with a GP 'Extra heavy Duty' 9v battery. Premium batteries for custom pedals - nice touch Boss or maybe I'm just reading too much into this !

One final thing - I noticed that the new black boxes now have a Boss logo on the inside - this wasn't there on the OD-1X and DS-1X. Not exclusive to Waza Craft though as this is also on the RC-1 box.

Hope this was helpful.

The_Doc

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **Pepe** » 07 Dec 2014, 16:04

This is helpful, indeed! Thanks for your review!

Pepe

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **thealien666** » 07 Dec 2014, 16:14

"inspected in Japan"...

Marketing bull.

Nice detailed review though, thanks !

thealien666

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **BearBoy** » 08 Dec 2014, 12:28

Thanks for the review Doc

Intend to pick one of these up at some point so interesting to read your thoughts.

BearBoy

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **visserman** » 12 Dec 2014, 13:01

Good review Doc!! Cheers!!

visserman

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **The_Doc** » 12 Dec 2014, 18:34

Thanks everyone - you are very welcome Here's a little update.

I took it along to a full band rehearsal (2 guitars, bass & drums), today and used it on and off for 5 hours in a large live room; set up as we would as a band. It shared the pedal board with a Keeley Modded TS9, the Waza Craft SD-1W, PQ-4, DD-7 and a DM-2. The amp was a different one - this time I used my Fender Super Sonic 22 - guitars were a PRS Custom 24 and 60' Relic strat.

The BD-2W exceeded expectations and was every bit as useful & satisfying as the Keeley TS9 - which is my regular gig rig overdrive. The Boss is not as smooth as the Keeley but it did the job perfectlly once I backed the treble off as bit to fatten it up. I think that amp is bright anyway and I don't, personally, like too much treble.

As I had expected, I used it exclusively in the 'C' mode and it produced a cracking tone for blues & rock on both the Vintage / Clean channel and also, surprisingly, on the 'Burn' channel. The 'Burn' channel is an excellent overdriven sound anyway but I just backed off the gain and the BD-2W pushed it into a nice, fat, juicy overdrive. I've said this before but it responds really well to some serious digging in with your pick - very satisfying - Billy Gibbons would probably like this one

I had the BD-2W on for fast up tempo blues rock stuff and also for slow blues. I know the tone must have been good judging from the grins & nods coming from our other guitarist - always a good sign

I can also confirm that the BD-2W is extremely quiet. With the amp at near gig volume (not mic'd up though), it remained noise free. Nice job Boss

This one is going to get some regular use.

The_Doc

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **tharoadwarrior** » 14 Dec 2014, 00:13

Can't help wondering how it will sound with bass....

tharoadwarrior

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **sclitheroe** » 14 Dec 2014, 00:45

I popped into Steve's Music in downtown Toronto today and they had the BD-2W - for $159 CAD, sigh. Interesting from a pricing perspective was that the OD-1X sitting next to it was $159 as well.

I've already got a BD-2 (I've had it since they were introduced) so I'm slightly conflicted about buying another for that kind of money. Is the C mode a substantial enough upgrade to justify it if you are a fan of the basic BD-2 (I am)?

sclitheroe

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **sclitheroe** » 02 Mar 2015, 05:34

I posted my thoughts on the BD-2W in the new boss pedal thread, but I'll say The_Doc's review is bang on.

The BD-2W is a BD-2 lover's BD-2

sclitheroe

Re: BD-2W Waza Craft first impression review

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 02 Mar 2015, 06:25

A brief in store compare was all I needed to confirm that the BD Waza turns a "maybe" pedal into a contender. All the niggles I have with the regular mode are given a pleasing overhaul - less fizz, more defined, more pro and

natural. Now I just sit and wAit for the used market to get one!

Good review Doc, thank you for taking the time to detail your thoughts and analysis

fuzzbuzzfuzz