AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **zentropa** » 08 Oct 2015, 19:51

Anyone have a strong preference towards one over the others?
Anyone hate any of them for a particular reason?

I've never actually owned one of these. The closest was an old DOD envelope filter back in 1994.

Having full on gear-driven neurosis... thankfully I'm almost done with my pedal acquisitions... down to the last 2-3 pedals.

zentropa

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **Pepe** » 08 Oct 2015, 20:13

Right now I have an AW-2* and my beloved FT-2. I don't like the AW-2 too much, although the concept is quite nice at first glance. Some players really like it and (according to the BOSS Book) back then the FT-2 was a real flop, so BOSS designed the AW-2.

Let me quote from my AW-2 thread that I started in July (http://www.stompboxzone.com/forum/viewt ... f=3&t=3347):

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *After several years of playing and purchasing BOSS pedals I finally received an AW-2. Somehow I have never had an earlier chance to get my hands on this model. I'd like to know what you think about it!*
>
> *Here are my observations:*
>
> *- Two of the knobs have a bad range:*
>
> *- Manual doesn't get low enough for my taste and everything above the noon position sounds more or less the same (harsh!).*
> *- The same goes for the Sens control - it is a very fiddly task to set a proper sensitivity value for the envelope mode and the settings above the noon position are totally useless - in my opinion everything above 11:00h is already too sensitive (and I only use single coil pickups!).*
>
> *- The speed range is quite good, but I think that the AW-2 was more fun if the maximum speed was even higher.*
>
> *- The overall wah (band-pass filter) sound is good, although I definitely prefer the FT-2's low-pass filter sound.*
>
> *- But what's really off-putting: it is a very noisy unit, isn't it? Especially with dirt after it, the AW-2 produces a bad amount of hum. I don't think that my exemplar is faulty ... or is it?*

The FT-2 is a completely different beast. It has a lowpass filter and no bandpass filter like a typical wah. That's a totally different sound and it is also very useful for synthesizers and bass guitar, because the low-end doesn't get lost. I love that it can be controlled via an expression pedal and sadly the AW-2 has no "down" mode, while the FT-2 has it (and it can be really useful, as you can see in my old YT demo).

Pepe

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **charmonder** » 08 Oct 2015, 23:16

I agree with Pepe about the AW-2. It doesn't sound bad but it's just missing the typical frequency range I want from an envelope filter. Also I absolutely LOVE the downsweeping option included on FT-2 and TW-1 (and SYB-3 if you will!). DOD 440 reissue might be worth consider as well

charmonder

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **zentropa** » 09 Oct 2015, 16:54

Thanks a bunch for the input. Currently trying to fill the last slot on my board and debating between one of these or an OC-2. I don't expect to use it that much so I'm weighing the cost vs. performance vs. expected use factors. Currently I'm viewing things as FT-2 (within my price range) > AW-2 > TW-1, but I don't plan on using the down sweep ever.

zentropa

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **dogload** » 11 Oct 2015, 18:34

I really like the TW-1, but unfortunately it is a bit sonically limited. Many years ago I used to have an old EH Zipper which had a much bigger sweep and deeper sound. The TW-1 is superb for lead parts with fuzz or whatever, but I don't like it so much on chords.

dogload

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **albumgatefold** » 18 Oct 2015, 16:16

I used a TW-1 for a long time both with bass guitar and electric guitar. I was able to get some really unique feedback sounds and "all out assault" tones when combined with distortion/overdrive. Like an idiot I sold it. But recently I have added the AW-3 Dynamic Wah and it is really cool. I am still discovering what it can do. It has this really neat almost tremolo effect where you can strum one chord and it repeats. Also with my expression pedal attached it can give a traditional type wah-wah sound. Granted not even close to the real thing. I still keep my VOX V847 for real wah-wah applications. Good luck on your decision.

albumgatefold

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **zentropa** » 19 Oct 2015, 18:13

Thanks everyone for the input. I ended up buying an AW-2 on ebay this weekend as I wasn't able to dig anything else up in the budget range I was looking for on this pedal type. And of course within 12 hours of buying it (seller hasn't shipped yet) an AW-2 showed up on my local craigslist for $30 This will be my first AW-2 so will see how it goes.

This isn't a pedal I expect to use a bunch, but may end up snagging an FT-2 if I can find one cheap enough.

zentropa

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **zentropa** » 23 Oct 2015, 15:08

AW-2 arrived yesterday and got to tinker with it for 20 min or so. I don't love it. I don't hate it. The modulation mode isn't super but it makes it more likely the pedal will get used since it won't require a ton of fine tuning every time i switch guitars (or pickups on the same guitar).

zentropa

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **BearBoy** » 23 Oct 2015, 20:14

> *albumgatefold wrote:*
> *...recently I have added the AW-3 Dynamic Wah and it is really cool. I am still discovering what it can do.*

How are you getting on with the AW-3?

Anyone else got any views on how it compares to AW-2 / FT-2 / TW-1?

BearBoy

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **albumgatefold** » 01 Nov 2015, 01:52

It's rocking and sounds really good with SD-1 driving it. The humanizer vowel adjustments are pretty cool too!

albumgatefold

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **zentropa** » 30 Sep 2016, 07:15

Digging up a corpse here.

Finally got my first FT-2 today and I like it significantly more than the AW-2 and TW-1.

It has a good buffer/bypass and actually allows the low end to come through unlike the other two. I still think I like my old DOD envelope filter that I had 20+ years ago but from the boss lineup I definitely like the FT-2 a lot more than the others.

While I did like the AW-2's modulation mode I didnt like the effect enough in general to want to keep it on my board.

zentropa

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **Pepe** » 30 Sep 2016, 07:31

Good man! The FT-2 is one of my favourites as well.

It does also do a good job when you play a synthesizer or keyboard through it. Stevie Wonder auto wah'ed clavinet sounds for example.

Pepe

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 05 Oct 2016, 01:34

A note on the TW-1. I sold one several months back on Ebay, a lovely mint example that I couldn't justify keeping. I compared to my boxed "keeper" and noted it was a it weak. A tweak of the trimpot and voila, much more action! Like many pedals it seems the factory stock (or the result of aging components over time) is a little on the tame

side. I spent a few hours after playing it and really dug it. I recall a reggae player here using one very successfully for rhythmic chops.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **albumgatefold** » 15 Oct 2016, 23:49

Just recently re-acquired a T-Wah TW-1.
And oh yeah. There are sounds that are
truly exclusive to this pedal.

albumgatefold

Re: AW-2 vs. FT-2 vs. TW-1?

by **Mosher Zone** » 16 Oct 2016, 13:57

I've owned an FT-2 but i prefer the TW-1. The FT-2 seemed softer to my ears, i only ever used them with distortion, i love the T-Wah & will never part with it.

Mosher Zone