Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **visserman** » 26 Apr 2016, 16:00

I say Fuzz-like because you may feel it is not the same as a real Fuzz.
Let us leave out any of the Boss dedicated Fuzz pedals out of there, or maybe turn the question around :"Are there any of the Fuzz pedals which can give you a good overdrive tone?" Probably not as the Fuzz takes over your tone.

Anyway, going through most of the overdrive and dist. pedals and checking out for the Fuzz tone I feel the HM-2, PW-2, XT-2 and SD-2 are great candidates: They all can produce that singing tone when you hang on to one note, they also can give you that synth. sound when you play on your low strings. I did keep my tone controls down and mainly used neck pick up to keep the artificial treble out of the signal.
The more primitive your guitar is the better your Fuzz sound, so the Guya works like a treat since it is such a bare basic instrument.

Actually keeping your tone controls down may make you change your mind out dirt pedals you did not like that much but that may be another matter for another discussion.

visserman

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Pepe** » 26 Apr 2016, 16:24

BOSS PW-2 and XT-2 for sure. The HM-2 in certain settings as well.
I also like the KORG DST-3 Hard Dist in the highest EQ settings, because it sounds very much like a fuzz without low-end.

Pepe

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **sclitheroe** » 26 Apr 2016, 23:34

PW-2 definitely.

Some people like to use a dimed BD-2 as a fuzz as well.

The DS-1X goes into fuzzy territory as well to a degree, albeit a well-behaved fuzz.

I've been fooling around with a PW-2 lately - it cleans up shocking well with the volume on the guitar, which is another good fuzz pedal attribute.

sclitheroe

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **charmonder** » 27 Apr 2016, 00:14

I second the HM-2, it can kinda sound like jesus mary chain's psychocandy

charmonder

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 28 Apr 2016, 13:54

The HM-2 makes a great fuzz particularly - in my view - if you feed it 9v as opposed to 12v. Warms up, softens and adds that Superfuzz octave tone. I always think I've found a "good one" until I realize I'm using the wrong adaptor lol.

As for fuzzes as overdrive most vintage fuzzes excel in that department and are my preference for an old school overdrive tone. Fuzz Face, Tonebender, Tone Machine, with the knobbie rolled back are great to my ears.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Guga Ramone** » 30 Apr 2016, 20:51

A Pro Co Rat, with the gain maxed gets pretty fuzzy IMO.

Guga Ramone

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Pepe** » 30 Apr 2016, 21:19

Yeah, right! The Turbo RAT as well, but not as much as the normal RAT.

Pepe

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 01 May 2016, 23:25

If you only had one gain choice to cover all drive bases - RAT. Gets quite tonebendery for leads, I believe in the later years Mick Ronson switched from a TB to a RAT. Very worthy pedal. Got a germanium clipping You Dirty RAT on the way to try

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **visserman** » 04 May 2016, 13:52

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *The HM-2 makes a great fuzz particularly - in my view - if you feed it 9v as opposed to 12v. Warms up, softens and adds that Superfuzz octave tone. I always think I've found a "good one" until I realize I'm using the wrong adaptor lol.*
>
> *As for fuzzes as overdrive most vintage fuzzes excel in that department and are my preference for an old school overdrive tone. Fuzz Face, Tonebender, Tone Machine, with the knobbie rolled back are great to my ears.*

That is good to hear about the HM-2. A few days ago I had some experience with dying batteries in various pedals and one battery being weak but still working and then noticing how much softer it makes the sound compared to using it with a fully charged battery.

Also good to hear you views about overdrive pedals and them being able to give you a vintage kind of Fuzz sound.

I think the term Fuzz itself maybe misunderstood but I want to open up another thread which deals more with those issues.
It all comes from me using dirt pedals in another way: Maxing out the gain to get a more Fuzz sound, but yep, with those settings you need to adapt your playing as well as your sound becomes more organic.

RAt is indeed good to give you that Fuzz sound. The PW-2 does have more colours of Fuzz compared to both the RAt and the HM-2.

visserman

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 05 May 2016, 14:44

You're welcome my friend, an excellent topic. I'll check out a PW-2 based on your thoughts, thanks.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **visserman** » 06 May 2016, 10:05

Fuzz, do you actually have one of those Tone Benders? Or played through one of them for a while? How does the sound compare to any of the pedals we mentioned above?

I tried last night the MT-2 with Maxed out Dist. setting and was very surprised about the sound: Probably the best Boss pedal to give you a great 60s Fuzz tone, very organic, warm and not tight at all. I did not expect it to be that good, but that I do not often dial in that sound. You just need to dial in the EQ for a fairly bassy setting. Oh and yes, I keep tone control of my guitar down for all of this kind of playing, when you open the tone control the sound does not remind me anything about a 60s Fuzz sound. It all depends on brightness of your pick-ups and guitar, but in general work that tone control to get you closer into the ball park.
I is amazing to see when you have a sound in your head how close you can get with almost any pedal.

Now dialling in maxed out sounds on the overdrives, you will need a pedal with a lot of gain. So far the OD-1 does not do it very well, it just lacks gain and the sound does not change that much compared to using more moderate levels of dist.
The SD-1 is much better, I usually do not like the SD-1 all that much but for this sound it seems to work fine. It is not overly powerful as some of the others mentioned before but is convincing enough to give a pleasing sound.

I mentioned the SD-2 before and how fantastic that one is as well. It really is like a Dist/Overdrive pedal with the amount of gain it has.

visserman

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 07 May 2016, 13:54

Yes, I built a germanium OC76 three transistor Build Your Own Clone tonebender which I then added a bias control too. It can sound focused or bitty, heaps of sustain. Later I was lucky enough to grab a Manlay Sound SuperBender, again a three transistor MKII with AC128 transistors. Thick sound. Both are excellent I think, however I'm toying with the idea of a Mk.1 copy at some point - more spit, bright snarl, think Yardbirds Jeff Beck. YouTube has some spectacular videos particularly JPs early Zep stuff with a telecaster.

I have tried various reissues by VPW/JMI etc. it's hard to truly nail that sound though, a good tonebender has cut, grit, bite, snarl AND bloom.

I also have a black wedge 90s VOX V829 Tonebender which is a more gated, trebly heavy "satisfaction" type tone, I love it though!

I'm a fuzz addict and a half

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **sclitheroe** » 08 May 2016, 16:36

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *I have tried various reissues by VPW/JMI etc. it's hard to truly nail that sound though, a good tonebender has cut, grit, bite, snarl AND bloom.*

I'm not fully qualified to comment on Tonebender pedals, Fuzz Face is more my realm of experience, but it sounds to me like you really want to check out a Catalinbread Katzenkonig. I just got one of these, and it's awesome - the gain knob controls the Tonebender gain, and the input knob lets you dial in as much or as little fuzz and bloom as you need - set your basic gain structure, then dial in how much explosiveness you want on the front end. Behind that, sculpt with the Rat style tone stack for as much bite or cream as you want.

It's a really, really good dirt pedal - tons of flexibility to be used as a distortion or a full on fuzz.

sclitheroe

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Starscream** » 08 May 2016, 18:48

DS-2, cranked full?

Starscream

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **visserman** » 12 May 2016, 10:16

Yes but it is a very specific sound. The midrange boost mode is good, mode one is not so great, sounds too dry and does not have enough character.
The problem with most of the Boss dist. when you try to max them out is that you hear a "static wah" sound, and this makes for a specific tone, whereas classic Fuzzes are without that tone and sound more natural and open.

visserman

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **visserman** » 12 May 2016, 10:33

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *Yes, I built a germanium OC76 three transistor Build Your Own Clone tonebender which I then added a bias control too. It can sound focused or bitty, heaps of sustain. Later I was lucky enough to grab a Manlay Sound SuperBender, again a three transistor MKII with AC128 transistors. Thick sound. Both are excellent I think, however I'm toying with the idea of a Mk.1 copy at some point - more spit, bright snarl, think Yardbirds Jeff Beck. YouTube has some spectacular videos particularly JPs early Zep stuff with a telecaster.*
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> *I have tried various reissues by VPW/JMI etc. it's hard to truly nail that sound though, a good tonebender has cut, grit, bite, snarl AND bloom.*
>
> *I also have a black wedge 90s VOX V829 Tonebender which is a more gated, trebly heavy "satisfaction" type tone, I love it though!*
>
> *I'm a fuzz addict and a half*

I think using the right guitar and pick-ups also makes a difference in to how good your Fuzz sound is going to end up.
The "satisfaction" sound is a good example: That sound is not heard too often, in the Stones's example they never used that sound again. The song was recorded in the States when the Stones were on tour and the Maestro pedal was suggested to create a bigger sound. I do not think that the pedal does have that sound out of the box, you will need to tweak your sound and using a particular guitar to get similar results. Heard a very similar sound on a George Harrison song, sounded almost the same but it was lower in the mix.

Anyway, I like the idea of using dist. pedals you already have and see how close you can get to a vintage, kind-of Fuzz sound. It seems that most of the Boss dist. do have the Static wah sound in them when you max out the gain, this makes for up for a different kind of Fuzz sound. I think even the FZ-2 does suffer from this.

When you try any of the Boss overdrives you will find the ones with a lot of gain will give you some kind-of Fuzz sound but still it may not be that great. I like the OD-3 in this setting, but it is not really a Fuzz sound, SD-1 is closer. Try any Tubescreamer type pedals and maxing out the gain will not alter your sound that much compared to more moderate settings, it will only make it louder and fuller in sound.

visserman

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Jnorm** » 17 Jun 2016, 20:14

Boss HM-3 Hyper Metal

Jnorm

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Pepe** » 18 Jun 2016, 09:00

With bass turned to minimum? I have to try that out myself. Otherwise the HM-3 is a massive sounding distortion with the right amount of bass and highs.

Pepe

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Guga Ramone** » 18 Jun 2016, 17:38

For me, the HM-3 is very rough sounding, bordering the line of fuzzstortion.

Guga Ramone

Re: Which Distortion Gives You a Fuzz-like Tone?

by **Pepe** » 18 Jun 2016, 19:52

Maybe it's the mix of my Stratocaster, the HM-3 and my tube amp why I like the Hyper Metal so much. Low EQ at 3:00 and High EQ at 1:00 sound superb with my setup.

Pepe