The DS-1X thread

by **sclitheroe** » 26 May 2014, 01:28

We have a fairly healthy and enthusiastic OD-1X thread, so I figured we should start a DS-1X one as well.

Initial thoughts:
- it's quiet
- it has lots and *lots* of gain.
- EQ section is as powerful/wide-ranging as the OD-1X (to be expected I suppose)
- guitar cleanup is good (not as good as the OD-1X, but that's a function of how much gain it has on tap)
- it tightens up in response to palm muting something fierce - it's a very tight pedal when you want it tight

As an experiment today, I tried to get the DS-1X to sound like a current DS-1 running at full gain, tone around 10:30, volume at unity. I've come to the conclusion you can't make the DS-1X resemble a DS-1. For some, that's probably a good thing, but to be honest I was hoping it would be just a smidge closer to the tonal heritage of the DS-1, with the added benefits of MDP.

Which brings me to my one criticism of the pedal so far - maybe it's the nature of a digital distortion vs a digital OD, or maybe it's what they were going for, but there's something about the tone I can't dial out with my rig (telecaster with alnico2 pups into a '59 Bassman LTD) - it sounds a bit boxed in, and more like a recreation of a modern high gain amp driving hard, rather than a distortion pedal. It's not got the presence of the DS-1, and when I brought the high tone control up to compensate, it's brighter (it can get very bright), but it's not the same. It's like the bees had fled the jar on the DS-1X. Another way of putting it, perhaps, is that it lacks the rawness of a DS-1, and it also lacks the openness of the OD-1X that I like so much. It's like a much more concentrated/focused kind of distortion that I'm not sure I really like.

It could just be that I need to tinker more with it, and if you read my initial thoughts on the OD-1X, you know I was a bit underwhelmed with it as well at first (and I very much like it now - it's supplanted my OD-3), but I've been using the DS-1X since I got the OD-1X, and to be honest, I prefer the classic DS-1.

Disclaimer: It's finally summer here, and the DS-1, in all its lo-fi scuzzy glory, sounds delicious playing punk and old 90's alt tunes in a garage at night with some friends, so I might be having a bit of a DS-1 renaissance / fling going on. That being said, I really wanted the DS-1X to stay on the board and complement the OD-1X, but it's not sitting right with me tone wise.

If you've got a DS-1X, what are your thoughts?

-Scott

sclitheroe

Re: The DS-1X thread

by **charmonder** » 26 May 2014, 02:08

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
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>
> *If you've got a DS-1X, what are your thoughts?*
>
> *-Scott*

I can't speak on the DS-1X, but are you saying the DS-1 sounds better in the summer? I completely agree. That might be in part nostalgia for college days, living in cheap apartments(no air conditioning) recording DS-1 direct to 4-track tape. tone knob always at 11 oclock.

charmonder

Re: The DS-1X thread

by **sclitheroe** » 26 May 2014, 03:32

Yup! I think you're on to something. It definitely sounds better in the summer.

sclitheroe

Re: The DS-1X thread

by **Dirk** » 26 May 2014, 16:46

Maybe that's why Axl Rose is always late, his voice sounds better after midnight!

Dirk

Re: The DS-1X thread

by **visserman** » 27 May 2014, 16:02

The neatness of the sound I can agree on, remember I only tried in a shop.....

I also like the kind of dirty sounds DS-1 can give you, it is maybe rawer that OD-3.

Maybe the X range is more consistent with different guitars and amps?: Similar sound no matter what you use. That is not so with the other, older pedals in the Dist./Overdrive Boss range.

Since you have them both you may be able to check this idea?

visserman