MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **visserman** » 13 Jun 2014, 14:01

Maybe so.
I know, some of you may not like it. It is, after all, the ultimate tweak pedal. Once you get on with that you can make is sound like anything really, especially on a simple, single channel amp.

I have been playing with pretty extreme settings which I normally do not tend to do. Opening up Dist. control really brings out all the overtones and artificial harmonics. Great for when you need to get those sounds out of your guitar, so easy to get them with all that gain.

The HM-2 does not do this very well compared to the MT-2.

I do think the MT-2 is (was) unique with it being able to give you all those sounds from a single pedal. Not many dirt pedals were able to do that in the early 90s. The Sans Amp Classic was out before the MT-2, but still the feel and idea behind that pedal is so different, no comparison really.
Easier to dial in sounds on the MT-2, even though some of you may disagree.
PW-2 and XT-2 may be unique too in sound, but they give you one sound which you can tweak, not really the library of sounds you can from the MT-2.

visserman

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Dirk** » 13 Jun 2014, 17:01

What do you mean, library of sounds?
Pretty much the only sound I ever hear guitar player's coax from this pedal is the faux metal tone with the scooped mids:

Skip to 3 mins. in this video to hear my point: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SI9rpu1UJo

Granted, most player's who use this pedal are beginners, or bedroom players with mostly small solid state amps, who can barely
control their instrument, let alone the amount of gain that lets you get away with murder and hides every sloppy note.

No, Metallica does NOT sound like this, nor does Slayer! *or* Megadeth for that matter.

So, what I'm trying to say is; we need a video to prove your point Mr. Visserman.....

Dirk

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **deancrean** » 13 Jun 2014, 18:52

Prince uses one on his board and his sounds are far from Metal. I don't have one at the time, but will probably pick one up again at some point to add to the collection. They are dirt cheap on the used market.

deancrean

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 13 Jun 2014, 19:26

Marty Friedman used an Mt-2 while in Megadeth. I don't know what he uses now

http://www.bossus.com/experience/podcasts/

he talks about boss pedals like the sg-1

Pieces Of The Night

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pepe** » 13 Jun 2014, 19:28

I like mine for non-metal tones as well.

Pepe

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **charmonder** » 14 Jun 2014, 06:09

I wish there had been a whole line of "zone" pedals. the general guideline being you get some basic usable flavor of dirt followed by a semi parametric EQ(hi, lo, mid, mid freq).
o-zone-drive.
distort-zone.
fuz-zone.

charmonder

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Dirk** » 14 Jun 2014, 09:34

> *Pieces Of The Night wrote:*
> *Marty Friedman used an Mt-2 while in Megadeth. I don't know what he uses now*

Yes, you're right, I've seen pictures of his rack including one.
I don't know how he used it though, he used Crate blue voodoo heads in those days for his dirty tones.

Dirk

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **visserman** » 14 Jun 2014, 12:27

> *Charmonder wrote:*
> *I wish there had been a whole line of "zone" pedals. the general guideline being you get some basic usable flavor of dirt followed by a semi parametric EQ(hi, lo, mid, mid freq).*
> *o-zone-drive.*
> *distort-zone.*
> *fuz-zone.*

Yep that is an interesting idea, I think I would like that as well: All very tweakable pedals

visserman

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **visserman** » 14 Jun 2014, 12:53

Okay Dirk
, watching your suggested video now.

Just a few thoughts: This Guy may be using amps for his Metal Tone? He may play a lot of Metal?

You know how I feel about pedals and amps eh? No pedal will ever beat an amp where its tone is based on.

Having said that, it is nice to have pedals which mimick amp tones, and being able to play that pedal through totally different amps than the one where its sound is based on.

Okay first three min. Good Tone, I like that general "metal sound" very workable, especially when you do not really play Metal.

Scooped tone: forget the term, it does sound fuller with the added bass. Cool!!
Okay, still watching, he keeps playing with this tone without changing settings. He also plays very much using the Metal voc.

I do like that tone, but play totally different things, but let us keep on watching to see what else he gets, as the pedal can give you a hell more than just that tone!!

Okay, 4 min. plus and no change apart from his playing, now solos, but still using Metal-kind of ideas.....okay, Metal zone so.....yep but you do not need to play like that, it makes it too predicable.

Let us keep watching to see what happens next (oh his playing is fine, we are just talking about what kind of tones we find eh?)

"Reverse Scoop" : for solos.....hmmmm maybe not??

Changing Dist. from 50 to 35, you do not notice much change, go up further and the sound will change more, but he may not like this sound.....

Does he actually dial in One Tone? I do think so! but it is also related to how he plays, he plays long and starts repeating himself too much, therefore you hear similar sounds and ideas. I know, it is not easy, he did not really plan video, just went for it. Not bad, and the tones he likes are probably Metal.

Yes I could do a video, but there are other videos that need doing, but maybe at moment no videos at all.

All I can say is, I have not heard here what I actually get the pedal to sound like. I think Pepe will be the same. This may be partly because I am not a Metal guy, can do that sound but after one song I will be looking for something else, and maybe that is where the trick lies: MT-2 can do metal, but can also do more. It is good for ugly tones, which he does not dial in, maybe because he may not like 'em. We do not know and I should not anticipate this. He demonstrated his point and that is fine. Is he right? Again, this will depend on what you want from a pedal, do you want it to live up to its name, or is a pedal just a tool to get your various tones? Some pedals reveal their tone easily, while others may take a bit longer, but really, it does not take too long to find out how an MT-2 can sound like: You can even play open chords with lots of open strings, get certain tones to jump out, mute a bit. I think a lot of this is about playing and using certain aspects of the MT-2.

I think I would use an MT-2 on through out a whole set. I would kick it in for a short solo burst with a particular tone, then back to standard tone, whatever that tone would be.
So MT-2 as standard Metal sound, I think it is not bad, but yes, there is more on offer which may be more fun, but you may need to look outside of the genre.

visserman

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 14 Jun 2014, 14:02

This is the Metal Zone right? Oh my dear being in the sky. Of all the BOSS pedals out there this would be the one I would trade in an instant, no hesitation whatsoever. I had a free one (bane of the last band), and we all passed it on. Even this very day I noticed one lurking on the bottom shelf of a used shop, and I involuntarily winced. Downright nasty - pass!!

Still, if by some alchemy, voodoo witchcraft, jiggerypokery whatnot someone can get this to work without hurting my ears, well blessed be the miracle!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Dirk** » 14 Jun 2014, 17:12

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *Still, if by some alchemy, voodoo witchcraft, jiggerypokery whatnot someone can get this to work without hurting my ears, well blessed be the miracle!*

That's pretty much what I said....

It's not just the MT-2 I dislike, it's that whole genre of "Metal" type pedals.
Digitech has one called the Death Metal which is equally earshattering, and what to think of the EH metal muff with the top boost engaged.?

I never heard one, but I can imagine the ML-2 being in the same ballpark.

Dirk

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 14 Jun 2014, 19:01

You should try a DOD Death Metal pedal. My friends swore by it back in the day. The first time I heard it i thought it sucked and i still think it sucks
http://www.americaspedal.net/fx86/

Pieces Of The Night

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Dirk** » 15 Jun 2014, 12:22

Yeah, that's the one I meant earlier, I thought Digitech made it, but You're right; it's DOD (or is that a dud?).

Dirk

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 15 Jun 2014, 15:37

They are basically the same.Harman bought DOD and later released their designs under Digitech. Harman is also the ones releasing the reissue DOD's.

Pieces Of The Night

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **pitch shifter** » 15 Jun 2014, 22:53

Whenever the discussion is high-gain distortion pedals. there are two types of people who always make indispensable contributions: There's the "this sounds like a swarm of bees but then, again, I don't play metal" people and then there's "you can only get a real metal sound with an amp" guys. The former don't realize that metal has continued to exist since 1991 and the latter don't seem to realize that entire classic metal albums have been made with distortion pedals (i.e. the Boss HM-2 and At The Gates' Slaughter of the Soul).

The HM-2 is probably the most unique-sounding Boss pedal. the MT-2, because of the parametric eq, is probably the most versatile one (although I personally find its full-on sound to be thin). The most useless one is the MD-2, which is flabby-sounding and noisy (it is probably the only pedal I own for which I have never found a use for). My personal favorite is the ML-2. It doesn't seem to get much love because of the name ("Metal Core" is not (only) for "metal core"), and the fact that it is digital. However, it is one of the quietest high-gain pedals I have ever heard and the sound is a much thicker version of what the MT-2 tries to be(although it lacks the parametric eq). It is not versatile but it gives you thick, scooped-but-not-too-scooped sounding metal tone with some decent sustain.

pitch shifter

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pepe** » 16 Jun 2014, 00:56

Welcome to the forum, pitch shifter!

Great entry post! We all have a different approach and philosophy when it comes to certain distortion pedals. The HM-2 is one of my favourite pedals and I don't play metal. Due to its very effective EQ control it provides a lot of great sounds for different styles.

What did you try to achieve with your MD-2? Most of the adverts praise it for being a great pedal for 7-string guitars and so on, but I think that the MD-2 is promoted in a completely wrong way. In my opinion it is no metal pedal at all. Here's my demo:

http://www.youtube.com/v/vitFZulz8LM

A fantastic BOSS pedal for down-tuned stuff is the HM-3. A very nice and underestimated pedal. I almost sold it, but I gave it a try at a live gig and it blew me away.

Pepe

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **pitch shifter** » 16 Jun 2014, 01:45

Hello, Pepe!

I have tried to use the MD-2 every which way: as a high-gain distortion pedal for a variety of guitars including 8-strings (not good - no sustain; no pronounced bass response as advertised; too noisy; way, way too "mushy" to cut through a mix); as an overdrive (too noisy); as a clean boost (even the eq knobs add too much noise beyond 12 o'clock for this).

And believe me, I make use of all kinds of cheap-ish, relatively unheralded distortion pedals. Metal Core, Metal Zone, DOD Death Metal (actually quite fantastic for what it does), DOD Grunge (another underrated gem), Ibanez Smash Box (better than the Metal Zone with similar eq flexibility). The key, for me, is to have a different high-gain pedal in each channel combined in stereo. Split the signal with your favorite subtle stereo effect, plug one output into the DOD Death Metal, the other into the Boss Metal Core, and that is a SOUND! And never expect one to be a panacea like, say, a Tubescreamer or a an Boss OD, might be for overdrive. And, of course, NEVER buy new!

pitch shifter

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Guga Ramone** » 16 Jun 2014, 16:28

> *pitch shifter wrote:*
> *... entire classic metal albums have been made with distortion pedals (i.e. the Boss HM-2 and At The Gates' Slaughter of the Soul).*

Slaughter of the Soul (gotta love this album!!!) is a HM-2 set as a boost into a MT-2, than into a Peavey Supreme 160 (solid state amp), with a 2x10 homemade cab. Impressive tones for such a simple setup. The HM-2 is really well known for the "Buzzsaw tone" (also known as the Sunlight Studios sound) of the Sweedish Death Metal acts of Entombed and Dismember, along with the newer bands (Black Breath is my favourite) that try to revive this type of sound. It's a NASTY sound, but fits the music perfectly!

About the MT-2, my complaint is that it doesn't sound like a natural distortion from an amp. The mid honk it has is annoying and hard to get out of your dound. It is a pedal that has a million ways to set up, but just a few that are really useable. Besides all the drawback, I like it a lot because it brings me memories from when I started playing guitar. It was THE pedal if you wanted hi gain tones.

My biggest complaint with almost all high gain metal pedal are the harsh treble frequencies that you get on all of them...

Guga Ramone

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 16 Jun 2014, 18:48

One thing that's always surprised me is that it seems everyone buys a ge-7 after they get an mt-2 why most stores don't offer a package of the two with a pedal crank or patch cable is beyond me.

Pieces Of The Night

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **visserman** » 17 Jun 2014, 17:35

pitch-shifter, using two high gain pedals, one at each channel, great idea !!

Good posts.

The settings I like on the MT-2 are quite extreme: Put both, small concentric controls all the way up, the larger controls all the way down. This is for starters, then dial in the bigger controls to how you like it to sound (or just leave them all the way down!). It is a extreme setting but what other pedal can give you that?

As for general metal sound, well it is good, but there are other pedals which can do this as well.

Keep the distortion control down to make your sound bone dry and without too many overtones. Opening up the dist. will not make the sound any louder, it just gives you more overtones and white noise.

Another good thing: This pedal can give you feedback at almost any moment you want it.
The thing to remember is, when you change the controls rearrange your level control, you may want to dial this one quite high to avoid the sound becoming too tinny.

Another good point: Whatever the sound of your amp, the MT-2 takes over, so use a stack and you get MT-2 through your stack, imagine that for feedback.....heh who cannot love this then? Really any amp your use will do, just need to work with the level for it to make sound realistic and not too artificial.

When you really want to you can mimick the sound of a DS-1, although most people would find that useless. I mention this to show the pedal can give you so much more than what most people would expect.

visserman

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **pitch shifter** » 17 Jun 2014, 22:14

"The settings I like on the MT-2 are quite extreme: Put both, small concentric controls all the way up, the larger controls all the way down. This is for starters, then dial in the bigger controls to how you like it to sound (or just leave them all the way down!). It is a extreme setting but what other pedal can give you that?"

That setting sounds really good as a pre boost (have it going into a Smash Box right now). Thanks!

pitch shifter

Re: MT-2 Boss's only Unique Dirt Pedal?

by **Guga Ramone** » 18 Jun 2014, 01:00

Fav setting on the MT-2 right now is:
Bass: 3 o'clock
Treble: 9 o'clock
Mid Freq: 2 o'clock
Mid: Maximum
Dist: Noon
Set level to unity gain (1 - 2 o'clock, in my case)

Pretty heavy, with the harsh highs pretty tamed and not much of that cocked wah. Sounds really good with my Peavey Bandit. I still like my Sansamp GT2 more, as it is more organic.

Guga Ramone