Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM-2?

by **Clean Channel** » 27 Mar 2014, 20:15

There are a few threads asking about it, and far as I can tell, this here is the clearest answer:

(from this thread: http://www.stompboxzone.com/forum/viewt ... ter#p26483)

> *Mully wrote:*
> *a limiter is just a compressor with a very high ratio.*
>
> *everything higher than 20:1 is considered a limiter.*
>
> *the LM-2 is a great pedal though.*
> *two LM-2's in series though is the best... honestly.... it's great.*

So is that right? Any other info worth adding to that description?

I just got one, and it sounds and acts like a really nice compressor to me. Just not really sure how to define it beyond that (aside from the 20:1 ratio Mully mentioned).

When I turn up the volume, aside from limiting the peaks, I also get an increase in sustain etc. Is that just because I'm boosting the signal then limiting the volume, thus getting a compressor-like effect?

I'd love to hear from some of the tech experts on this one. (Sorry to bother you again Laurie!)

Aside from not-understanding what it really is, I can say that I'm really happy with how it sounds! Great substitute for a compressor, and wow, you can get A LOT of sustain without feeling too 'squished'!

Clean Channel

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Pepe** » 27 Mar 2014, 20:33

The magical thing about the LM-2 in comparison to most other compressor pedals is that it does NOT boost your clean signal to reach the compression level at a fixed threshold. With the LM-2 you can define the desired threshold. AFAIK the only booster in this pedal is the volume knob to adjust the effect signal to make it match with the input signal. The LM-2 is fantastic for recording purposes! It kills the crucial peaks and due to its low-noise design it is a great work-horse for me!

Pepe

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **charmonder** » 27 Mar 2014, 20:58

good question, I don't have a definitive answer but I've been wondering the same thing.

I think worth noting the CS series pedals are by comparison are compression sustainers, and CS-3 to my ears is working very hard to bring the note decay up to unity, (almost doesn't even care about the picking attack).

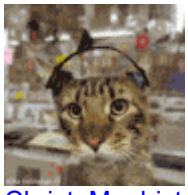
There is a Nicholas Boscorelli design "sustain-O-matic II" (from the stompbox cookbook) has separate knobs for "upwards compression ratio" and "downwards compression ratio" imagine that!

charmonder

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **ChristoMephisto** » 27 Mar 2014, 21:14

One other thing to mention about the LM-2 is it doesn't effect the bass frequencies like compressors.
Another reason bassist like it



ChristoMephisto

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Clean Channel** » 27 Mar 2014, 21:20

Sorry to be dense here...

Could you be a bit more specific? How/in what way(s) does a compressor affect the bass frequencies, and how exactly is a limiter different in that regard?

Clean Channel

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Pepe** » 27 Mar 2014, 21:28

ChristoMephisto is back!

Hi, my friend! I sent an e-mail to you last month, because I wanted to know if everything is fine with you! Nice to see you again. What have you done in the last year?

Pepe

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **BearBoy** » 27 Mar 2014, 21:33

> *Mully wrote:*
> *two LM-2's in series though is the best... honestly.... it's great.*

Oh great. Now I'm going to have to look out for a second one.

BearBoy

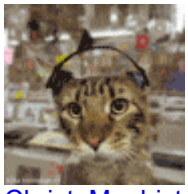
Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **ChristoMephisto** » 27 Mar 2014, 23:25

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *Sorry to be dense here...*
>
> *Could you be a bit more specific? How/in what way(s) does a compressor affect the bass frequencies, and how exactly is a limiter different in that regard?*

A compressor does what it says, compresses highs and lows, while the limiter limits the highs, or volume
Here's a link, too lazy to steal the pic...
http://www.gmarts.org/index.php?go=221#Lim

And instead of at the front of the chain, it's more to the middle where a noise suppressor would be, before modulation.


ChristoMephisto

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Clean Channel** » 27 Mar 2014, 23:48

Ok, thanks Christo. I think I was setting the volume to high and getting tricked into thinking it was bringing up the lows as well. It cuts the highs so well, I was thinking I was getting a volume drop when engaged. It's a quiet, easy-to-dial-in, great sounding pedal. I wasn't on the hunt for an LM-2, but I'm glad I picked one up! I'll use this plenty!

Clean Channel

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Pepe** » 28 Mar 2014, 08:25

Yeah, I haven't been on the LM-2 hunt as well, but a few years ago I got an exemplar for so dirty cheap that I immediately bought it. It was a "Baby, where have you been all my life?"-experience!

Pepe

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **ChristoMephisto** » 28 Mar 2014, 10:57

Now you just need to pair it with a EH-2 ENHANCER

ChristoMephisto

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Clean Channel** » 28 Mar 2014, 12:28

I discovered the wonders of the Enhancer a while back, and now it never leaves my board!

Clean Channel

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **BearBoy** » 28 Mar 2014, 12:35

Where do you guys put your EH-2s?

BearBoy

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **Clean Channel** » 28 Mar 2014, 12:47

I run an almost all-Boss board, and that many buffers does degrade my signal a little bit.

I put the entire board in a bypass loop, then tweaked the EH-2 until the sound coming out of the board was indistinguishable from my straight-to-amp board.

I like the EH-2 late in the chain, as it 'recovers' some of the high end loss after a series of pedals. I placed it before the DM-2 (and consequently a couple other pedals, particularly reverb and delay) as I didn't want it mucking with the tone of the repeats/decay. It's ended up being an ideal setup!

I LOVE having the EH-2 after my dirt pedals, as they suffer from the many buffers. The EH-2 brings them back to life in a surprisingly noticeable way!

On my shorter Boss board, there's only four pedals, and the tone loss isn't noticeable, so I don't need the EH-2 in that setup.

Also, I sometimes turn off the EH-2 when I want to use the darker tone to my advantage. It's great for sitting a little further back in the mix, particularly when the vocals are going on.

Here are a couple of pics:

Big Board

Loop Station
Delay
Digital Pitch Shifter /Delay
Enhancer
Chorus
DUAL OverDrive
HYPER Fuzz
Phaser
photobucket
host. store. share.

Small Board

Loop Station
Tera Echo
DUAL OverDrive
Boss Synthesizer
FS-5L
photobucket
host. store. share.

Clean Channel

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **BearBoy** » 28 Mar 2014, 12:51

Cheers. I use mine before delay/reverb but after everything else as well. Just wondered if that was "standard" as there's not a massive amount of info around on the EH-2.

BearBoy

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **ChristoMephisto** » 28 Mar 2014, 14:18

I like it before my doublers like chorus and flangers.
There is no right or wrong, only what sounds good to your ears.

ChristoMephisto

Re: Alright, give it to me straight, what the heck is the LM

by **visserman** » 31 Mar 2014, 10:40

Great posts here guys,

What about using EH-2 just on its own? It does work and brings up your highs, or whatever you set the controls for. A lot of people believe you need them to compensate for loss in signal, to my ears they just add something, and you can experiment where you place the pedal.

The LM-2 is subtle, I find it less aggressive then the CS- series. I think some of you explained the technical reasons behind this very well.
I am fond of the Aphex Punch Factory, which is a compressor also loved by bass players. The Aphex is better, probably more expansive and its design may be more complex, but in a way, its sound is similar as the LM-2.

visserman