Vibrato

by **natthu** » 21 Dec 2012, 04:58

I kinda hijacked another thread a bit talking about vibrato earlier, so I thought I should start up a new thread...

I don't really see a lot of talk about Vibrato as an effect on forums. Is it just because it's not a particularly popular effect (pedal based)?
You see guitarists using their guitar's tremolos* a lot, but not so much vibrato pedals.

I've been looking at getting a vibrato pedal of some sort. I am fairly certain I had a Behringer clone of the VB-2 a few years ago, but I don't recall really giving it a proper go before I decided to get rid of all my plastic pedals...
I have come to the conclusion that a real Boss VB-2 is just going to cost far too much to acquire (they have been selling for $500+ on eBay.... seriously crazy)....

so I have bought a Malekko Omricon Vibrato and a TC Electronic Shaker. Once they've both arrived, I'll do an A/B shoot-out audition....
I got both for a good price, so I'll be able to recoup my money for the one which I decide not to keep.

Is anyone here an expert on vibrato pedals?... are there others I should try also?

*Why is a guitar's Tremolo arm called a Tremolo arm? Shouldn't it be called a Vibrato arm?... You know, because Tremolo is the term used to describe variation of volume, not pitch.

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 21 Dec 2012, 09:53

> *natthu wrote:*
> **Why is a guitar's Tremolo arm called a Tremolo arm? Shouldn't it be called a Vibrato arm?... You know, because Tremolo is the term used to describe variation of volume, not pitch.*

I always say *Vibratohebel* (vibrato arm) instead of *Tremolohebel* when I'm talking with our customers in the music shop.

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **jmptpete** » 21 Dec 2012, 12:24

Are you looking for a foot controller with it? If you find a Dunlop JH-4S, not the jd-4s, they are sweet. Much better than the newer models.

jmptpete

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 21 Dec 2012, 13:44

Vibrato pedals that I have used up to this date:

Marshall VT-1 Vibratrem
Good and solid workhorse, but with a large volume boost in the tremolo mode. The vibrato mode is pretty poor IMO. This pedal is the main reason why I bought a BOSS PN-2. The volume boost is terrible and the vibrato mode not as useful as expected. Here's my demo:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzL0K07vWos

Rocktron Vertigo Vibe
I bought that one years ago mainly, because I wanted to have a Leslie sound. The Leslie mode didn't convince me (I tried it with my piano and synthesizers), so I sold it quickly. I think it is no bad pedal at all if you want vibrato and no rotary speaker sound. It is a big clunky unit and the chicken head knobs are suboptimal, because they turn too quick accidentally, but it has a second footswitch for the speed. I really like to try one again. I only had my exemplar for a few weeks and cannot really say how it sounds in comparison to other pedals.

BOSS RT-20 Rotary Ensemble
I love that pedal! In combination with my analog organ it really rocks! It has a UniVibe mode inside. I think it is rather a chorus effect with strong modulation, but can it be called a vibrato as well? I didn't try this mode too often with my guitar. And then only in stereo mode. Maybe I can test it once again later in the evening. I'm curious how it sounds in pure mono mode.

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **Mully** » 21 Dec 2012, 15:30

I owned both the VB-2 and the Malekko Omicron one..... the VB-2 was amazing but just had too much hiss for me in bypass (remember that the footpedal is not a REAL bypass though) still stupid of me to have traded it for a pedal I traded in the end for a pedal I traded..... the Malekko was really close to the sound but it coloured the tone slightly too much for my taste... there was a huge (as in tiny but noticeable) amount of high end roll off....

nowadays I would just use my Diamond Halo Chorus with the dry sound muted..... but I don't use Vibrato nowadays.....

Mully

Re: Vibrato

by **Arpeggiator** » 21 Dec 2012, 16:04

I know Pepe will object to this but the CE-3 produces an ok enough vibrato.

It sounds quite similar to what the (few) youtube demos of the VB-2 sound like.

I like it on occasion, but in general tremolo is more usable to me. Very different types of effects IMO.

Arpeggiator

by **Mully** » 21 Dec 2012, 17:03

the CE-3 is NOTHING like a VB-2 though....

Mully

Re: Vibrato

by **Dirk** » 21 Dec 2012, 18:39

> *natthu wrote:*
> **Why is a guitar's Tremolo arm called a Tremolo arm? Shouldn't it be called a Vibrato arm?... You know, because Tremolo is the term used to describe variation of volume, not pitch.*

I think Leo Fender made a mistake here, he also called the tremolo effect on his amps vibrato instead.

Dirk

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 21 Dec 2012, 20:11

> *Mully wrote:*
> *the CE-3 is NOTHING like a VB-2 though....*

I sign that!

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **visserman** » 22 Dec 2012, 15:37

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *I think Leo Fender made a mistake here, he also called the tremolo effect on his amps vibrato instead.*

Yep it is that way or the other way round, not sure as I have not checked yet.
So it is Leo who started that "mistake".
Just a few comments on the VB-2 and vibrato: In the thread about "show your pedalboard"--Pepe will hopefully come up with the correct link, won't you??--- there was talk of someone about his VB-2 and placement, Pepe thought VB-should have been earlier on in chain. Anyway, this guy felt like VB-2 had chorus quality, therefore him putting it at end of chain.
Well, the chorus-like sound of VB-2 is very true, it is just so much thicker.
Anyone who uses their vibrato-arm on their Strat will realise that VB-2 does not really mimick that sound. It has it own sound, maybe completely wrong at times. It can go very extreme but heh, so can some chorus pedals. The Dr. Tone I posted to Beef can also go quite extreme.

I will open up a new thread about what I am going to say next, need a bit more research:
The Pearl CE-22 does also have the VB-2 qualities. Not sure if it is a true pith-working vibrato sound, but then is the VB-2 true pitch working? To my ears not!!, far too thick and artificial !!
Overal the term "Vibrato" is misleading, as both Chorus and Flange effects can give you that sound, but they all do it slightly different. So what is "Vibrato" really. As times goes on, more companies bring out their own variations, and each of them do their own take on the idea of "vibrato". This may be one of the reasons why you do not find much talk about "real" vibrato pedals.

visserman

Re: Vibrato

by **visserman** » 22 Dec 2012, 15:58

Just another thought, opinion if you like: Pitch-shifting vibrato is created mechanically by using a device moving the strings up or down, to create a difference in pitch (For example bending a C to a C# or B).
Any attempt to create this effect electronically will sound different, as there is no substite (or not yet as far as I know.....) for moving strings physically.

Maybe it is due to this fact that some people feel that a VB-2 sounds like a chorus, or that a Chorus can create vibrato sounds.

Of another subject, but related to this idea, is the effect of Leslie. The Leslie effect is created by moving air around the speakers, to get the best results you need to use several speakers to get a realistic sound.
I used to play Hammond and used several Leslie cabinets (At some point I had booster pedals, which worked a bit like the typical guitar effects, but these pedals were much bigger, like anything else is the analogue organ world).

Similar as with the vibrato-effect, electronic leslie effect may also sound less convincing to your ear, all depeding on your experience of the Leslie effect.
The Pearl PH-44 does a very convincing Leslie effect for guitar. The effect was designed for keyboards, but works perfect for guitar. You can hear that take-off, which you do not get often, and that is what makes the difference: You get this moment of your sound speeding/or slowing down. Really amazing especially when you toggle between chords while you speed up or slow down. Once the Leslie effect is engaged you will not notice it so much, just as like with any choruspedal. It is the moment of the effect kicking in which sounds so pleasing to the ear.
Okay, enough of me taking over Natthu's thread with talk of Pearl Phasers and Chorus ensembles.

visserman

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 22 Dec 2012, 16:43

> *Visserman wrote:*
> *...Okay, enough of me taking over Natthu's thread with talk of Pearl Phasers and Chorus ensembles.*

Not at all v-man... it's all interesting stuff. Cheers

Yeah, you do see a lot of talk about rotary and vibe pedals. I had a BBE Soul Vibe(name?) for a while. It was a pretty cool effect, just didn't seem to have enough control for my liking.

The Malekko Vibrato I ordered seems to have gone missing :cry: Hopefully it's just becasue of the Christmas postage rush...

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 22 Dec 2012, 17:39

> *visserman wrote:*
> *Just a few comments on the VB-2 and vibrato: In the thread about "show your pedalboard"--Pepe will hopefully come up with the correct link, won't you??--- there was talk of someone about his VB-2 and placement, Pepe thought VB-should have been earlier on in chain.*

Mais oui, monsieur!
http://www.stompboxzone.com/forum/viewt ... f=3&t=1869

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **DB Cooper** » 22 Dec 2012, 18:01

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Mais oui, monsieur!*
> *http://www.stompboxzone.com/forum/viewt ... f=3&t=1869*

Dang - that guy is **GOOD!**

DB Cooper

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 22 Dec 2012, 22:39

I just tested the UniVibe mode of the RT-20. It is rather a filter pedal. I hear no drastic pitch modulation, if there is any at all. It is a nice sweeping tone, a bit like a phaser (I wasn't surprised to hear that the original UniVibe works with a comb filter - I suppose Laurie should know it).

Conclusion: the RT-20 is no vibrato pedal. But a damn good Leslie simulator! Combined with an organ, it's Hammond/Leslie heaven!

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 23 Dec 2012, 05:17

Just thought I'd chime in quickly and say I just received the Dr. Scientist Cosmichorus v.3 in the mail today, and phew, does it do a nice vibrato! It really lets you construct your own chorus/vibrato sound by offering incredible control of the various parameters. It's also good on board real estate (top mounted jacks), easy to dial in, has a clever clear plastic rate knob that actually lights up at the pace it's set to, and the pedal looks great to boot!

It's a pretty amazing pedal, here's a copy paste of what I wrote on the ILF forum (where Dr. Scientist fans typically reside), and a quick pic I took of my unit before plugging it in:

Well, I spent the last good while playing with it. Turned off for a few minutes got a job done, came back and played again, and...

WOW!!! AWESOME!!!

First off, I already have a few nice analog chorus pedals:
-Boss CE-1
-Boss CE-2 (MIJ, long dash, silver screw)
-Boss CE-3
-Boss Dimension C
-Boss CH-1 (analog pre 2000 mn3007 version with mod for double depth and rate)
-Retro-Sonic Chorus

Each one of those has a particular sound/character to it. They're all different, and they're all fun (ok, maybe not the CE-3, I never use that one. Sorry, poor old forgotten CE-3).

But man oh man, the Cosmichorus isn't just a chorus/vibrato, it's a chorus shaping mega-machine! You don't just use it for chorus, you use it to literally design your chorus sound using the (mind blowingly huge) range of parameters!

I'm seriously considering making a chart of all my favorite settings for quick and easy dialing in (eventually I'll have them memorized, but I'm still kinda finding it overwhelming at this point).

The massive range chorus/vibrato tones this pedal churns out are absolutely beautiful!!!

On a completely superficial note: the pics online don't do justice to the sparkly paint on the welcome home units. Now that I see it in person, it really flickers and shines! As you move perspective the different bits of glitter catch the light and sparkle. Kinda neat now, as every time I look down at my board the Cosmichorus really stands out. I also love the big domed bypass indicator; nice touch!

Well done Ryan, this thing is a true masterpiece!

Clean Channel

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 23 Dec 2012, 08:05

No doubt it sounds good, but the Dr Scientist looks far too complicated for me...
I like to tweak sounds a bit, but I have discovered that when there's too many parameters to play with, I just end up playing with the pedal instead of actually playing guitar.

I bet it's expensive too... and since when did Tim Horton's start selling pedals? 😉

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Mully** » 23 Dec 2012, 09:37

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *I just tested the UniVibe mode of the RT-20. It is rather a filter pedal. I hear no drastic pitch modulation, if there is any at all. It is a nice sweeping tone, a bit like a phaser (I wasn't surprised to hear that the original UniVibe works with a comb filter - I suppose Laurie should know it).*
>
> *Conclusion: the RT-20 is no vibrato pedal. But a damn good Leslie simulator! Combined with an organ, it's Hammond/Leslie heaven!*

the original UniVibe and the more elaborate copies do have a vibrato mode that has pitch modulation
and yes the univibe "chorus" mode is indeed a phaser and not a chorus.... and always has been

Mully

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 23 Dec 2012, 10:34

The Cosmichorus looks awesome, but as far as I see it it has no stereo mode, correct?

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 23 Dec 2012, 14:26

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *The Cosmichorus looks awesome, but as far as I see it it has no stereo mode, correct?*

Actually, it does stereo in and out! Also has expression pedal control! Here's the description from this ILF thread (http://ilovefuzz.com/viewtopic.php?f=146&t=28614), some details about the guts (http://www.ilovefuzz.com/viewtopic.php?f=146&t=29524), and some pics:

*Fully analog BBD chorus using MN3007 chips
*Controls include MIX (fully dry to fully wet, fully wet is true pitch vibrato), LEVEL (adjusts the wet signal level, dry signal is fixed at unity), TREBLE (active eq control to cut or boost the treble content of the wet signal), CLOCK (adjusts the intensity of the effect by increasing the delay time), RATE (huge range of rate smoothly distributed on one knob turn), HOLD (adjusts the rise/fall time of the chorus signal when in Hold mode)
*Stereo in and out (using TRS jacks) with two identical but separate Cosmichorus circuits, can also do mono in stereo out
*Soft touch switching with true bypass using relays
*3 different clock range toggle-switch settings for 3 different intensities of chorus effect, further controlled with the Clock knob
*Hold Mode toggle-switch lets you engage the chorus effect by holding down the stomp switch, fades out when you release the stomp (with the Hold knob at min the effects starts and stops instantly, at maximum the effect takes a few seconds to fully fade in when the stomp is pressed and a few seconds to fully fade out when the stomp is released)
*Phase inversion toggle puts the wet signal either in-phase or out-of-phase with the dry signal. In mono this changes the character of the mixed sound, in stereo it changes the width of the stereo spread between the amps
*Expression pedal input for controlling the rate
*Rate knob is clear with LED underneath that flashes with rate of effect (looks cool, man)
*CV input for controlling the chorus effect, can also be used with expression pedal for manually sweeping the effect

Clean Channel

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 23 Dec 2012, 19:55

Wow! Looks like the builder of this pedal has implemented everything you can wish from a chorus pedal.

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 23 Dec 2012, 20:57

Yep, Dr. Scientist (Ryan) is the real deal! He really takes a lot of time and care into his designs, and what he puts out is always remarkably unique and well thought out. From features/design to build quality to aesthetics, he puts in every effort to do his absolute best!

As a result of his hard work, he enjoys a very dedicated legion of followers.

On top of all of that, he happens to be one of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet! And, as a matter of national pride, he's one of several excellent Canadian pedal builders.

While most of you know now that I have recently put together one board entirely dedicated to Boss pedals (and I LOVE it; it's getting lots and lots of use), I also still enjoy following the other builders out there.

Clean Channel

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 24 Dec 2012, 02:32

The Vibrato pedals I ordered both arrived today!

After having a short play with both, the Malekko definitely sounds better to me... not that the TC is bad, it's actually quite good.
Obviously if you're looking for loads of control the Malekko isn't going to be your thing, but it certainly isn't missing anything important.
The features the TC has which some might find appealing over the Malekko is the tone control (allows you to do a reasonable leslie impersonation) and a latching mode...
Also you can mess around with the rise time and loading toneprints if you are that way inclined...

So in conclusion, I'll definitely keep the Malekko, I have a few of these little pedals now and they are all surprisingly excellent quality effects.
I'll have to see if I find a use for the TC... in either case, I no longer feel the need to hunt down a VB-2

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 24 Dec 2012, 14:08

Glad you're all set natthu! I agree, the Malekko is a great little unit!

Clean Channel

Re: Vibrato

by **zombiwoof** » 25 Dec 2012, 18:04

I like the vibrato mode on my Sweetsound Mojo Vibe. It gets a great "wobbler" sound (I think that's what George Harrison called it) like Clapton's lead work on "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" (which was really a studio effect added to the straight guitar recording). Most people only use the "Chorus" setting on a Univibe or clone Vibe, but I also like that vibrato setting for some songs. And you have the option of the regular Univibe "chorus" setting too, so it's two effects in one.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 25 Dec 2012, 19:42

I think the only vibrato pedal I'm going to use often enough to keep it, will be a *Seppuku Mind Warp*. The Seppuku pedals made me GAS recently. I want a Pitch Monster!

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 24 Jan 2013, 04:37

ya know, if ya take your average lowly boss stereo chorus (i HATE chorus, so i don't own many of them) and plug a 1/4" plug in the "b" jack, a lot of them are set up so that in stereo, the A output is 100% wet, and the b output, 100% dry. if your boss chorus does do that, (like many of 'em do... can't advise which, as the only one i own is in an ancient be5) you can get a bloody killer vibrato out of them for cheap. as soon as ya put the extra plug in to the "stereo" jack, that horrid boss chorus becomes a celestial and very VERY groovy boss vibrato instead.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 24 Jan 2013, 05:59

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *... can't advise which..*

If I recall correctly, this can be done with a CE-3.

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 24 Jan 2013, 06:05

yes, i think it can be.

i tried it with the boss me5, it doesn't work on that one. i never really cared for chorusing too much... i liked the dim c, but that was about it.
but vibe?

gives me a little wiggle, if ya catch my drift. very organic, and not the olan mills of guitar sound..

that generic chorus sound is horrible.

to me, anyways.

pretty much any "stereo chorus" that doesn't chorus both outputs should work.. i guess check the documentation, and if it says it will split the signal as described, it should do the trick.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 24 Jan 2013, 06:36

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *...i tried it with the boss me5, it doesn't work on that one...*

Not surprising since it's a multi. The effects tend to be all integrated into a master mix for stereo (or mono) output on those things don't they?
ie the point of a multi isn't to emulate a single effect down to it's physical output attributes, it's more to provide a selection of effects which can be used together.

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 24 Jan 2013, 08:44

Welcome to the forum, pinkjimiphoton!

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 24 Jan 2013, 21:07

thanks pepe!!

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **Arpeggiator** » 26 Jan 2013, 12:51

> *natthu wrote:*
> *If I recall correctly, this can be done with a CE-3.*

Yeah, the CE-3 does a very nice vibrato. You don't need to plug anything into the B output, though:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AJfndh4Ip4

Arpeggiator

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 26 Jan 2013, 14:05

wow, nice vid, thanks bro.
there's a dif tho. very similar, but when he's using the chorus, it's still got some dry signal coming thru. an "empty" plug would nuke the dry signal completely, then they'd be the same.
it will only split it 100% dry and 100% wet out of the 2 outputs if both jacks are used. if you let any of the dry signal thru, it won't really be vibrato, it's still chorus.
interesting how mode b sounds different..

i bet if he did what i suggest, he'd get it exact.

i guess the boss be 5 i got must have the ce3s style circuit in it.

if any of you have a ce3, please try it both ways and report back... i realize it's 30 years later, and all, but i am extremely curious!

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 26 Jan 2013, 14:06

duh.... when i get a chance, i'll plug the be5 in with my rotovibe and eh clone theorys and wobbletron. the boss will sound different from all the others, but may be interesting to compare them.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 26 Jan 2013, 15:49

I should probably note that since starting this thread I have aquired a CE-1, which of course, has a vibrato mode. The effects it produces are awesome... so much so that I'm just going to deal with the cumbersome size of it and get rid of both my other vibrato pedals (both themselves excellent effects) and my CE-2 (which I've never particularly bonded with).

This satisfies my current endevour to reduce the numer of pedals I own to a reasonable number (yeah... I'm still trying to achieve that)

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 26 Jan 2013, 18:06

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *wow, nice vid, thanks bro.*
> *there's a dif tho. very similar, but when he's using the chorus, it's still got some dry signal coming thru. an "empty" plug would nuke the dry signal completely, then they'd be the same.*
> *it will only split it 100% dry and 100% wet out of the 2 outputs if both jacks are used. if you let any of the dry signal thru, it won't really be vibrato, it's still chorus.*

No, it's exactly, like Arpeggiator says. I just tried it with my CE-3. Output A gives always the 100% wet signal in mode II as well in mode I. It just doesn't sound too good. The speed is too low in my opinion and the waveform is too hard. A sine waveform had been smoother and less artificial for vibrato use.

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 27 Jan 2013, 00:10

i like that unbalanced wobbly sound.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **Jeremy** » 29 Jan 2013, 03:43

The CE-3 manual says (fwiw)

"Mode II - The sound whose pitch changes alternately will be obtained from the OUTPUT jack A, while a normal sound is heard from OUTPUT jack B"

Jeremy

Re: Vibrato

by **Jeremy** » 29 Jan 2013, 03:50

By the way, my Tokai Choruses (which I tink are CE-3 based) have two separate outputs - one for dry signal + effected, the other for dry signal *minus* effected - and a switch to go between each mode

that can give up some strange vibobly sounds too .....

SUBOUT
SPEED
SEP.
REV.
DEPTH
OUT
TCH-1
IN
CHORUS
FOR PROFESSIONAL USE
TOKAI EFFECTS
CHORUS
TCH-1
¥12,000
CHORUS
TCH-1

SUBOUT
SPEED
DEPTH
IN
REV.
SEP.
OUT
CHORUS
TOKAI

Jeremy

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 29 Jan 2013, 06:52

Those Tokai pedals are beautifully ugly
How do they sound?

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Jeremy** » 29 Jan 2013, 07:08

just like a CE-3

I was attracted to them by the far-out jack topsides

the first series (with the groovy font) are all metal pedals. The second series (more normal looking) are plastic. They both sound the same

I'm guessing that they are reasonably good quality pedals

I have two of the first series, but one has a nasty hum when the effect is switched in (effect still works, but has nasty hum)

Jeremy

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 29 Jan 2013, 07:57

It's funny, those Tokai made Fender copy guitars dating from the 80s are, in some circles, considered to be better than actual fenders of the same era.
I've actually played one (and only one) and that was a really nice instrument.

Would you say these Tokai pedals (the metal-case ones at least) are of the same quality as their Boss counter-parts?

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Jeremy** » 29 Jan 2013, 08:24

yeah, I think they are.

I can't really speak for durability, as I have never really flogged them in that way that I am not scared to flog a Boss pedal

quality-wise, though, they certainly feel the part. I have a couple of choruses, a flanger and an phaser from the two series - and they certainly sound the part

Jeremy

Re: Vibrato

by **Dirk** » 29 Jan 2013, 17:48

> *Jeremy wrote:*
> *vibobly*

This is gonna be the word of the week.

Dirk

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 21 Feb 2013, 14:01

> *Pepe wrote:*

> *No, it's exactly, like Arpeggiator says. I just tried it with my CE-3. Output A gives always the 100% wet signal in mode II as well in mode I. It just doesn't sound too good. The speed is too low in my opinion and the waveform is too hard. A sine waveform had been smoother and less artificial for vibrato use.*

From clips i've seen on youtube of stereo Boss Chorus pedals having a dummy jack put in one of the outputs to create a vibrato type sound, the actual sound produced sounds awful to my ears. It's like the nice smooth sound wave has had the tops and bottoms chopped off of the peaks, creating a square wave vibrato sound - not nice to the ears at all. I recently had a analog CE5 and tried this and I got the same effect as I found on the Youtube vids i've seen.

I recently bought a TC Electronic Shaker vibrato, it does sound good but I think I prefer the vibrato sound I get from my EHX Stereo Polychorus on the flanger mode with the rate at about 3 o'clock. The old Ibanez CCL Dual Chorus did a good job of sounding like vibrato with the rate turned up too.

Johnnyseven

Re: Vibrato

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 21 Feb 2013, 14:38

Just picked up the Pearl Ch-02 Chorus. Does a great vibrato (if a little noisy).

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 21 Feb 2013, 18:34

the only difference between flange and chorus is a couple milliseconds.
any modulation pedal can create vibrato, all you need to do is kill the dry signal.
personally, i find chorus the "olan mills" of sound.. generic, stupifying, and useless.
but the very vibrato you can't stand is useful to me. all the time. it's not a square wave at all, square waves would result in distortion. the very things you like about chorus are created by exactly the "sound" you don't like. 😉
me? nuke the dry signal, and make it wobble. that "seasick" thing was used to great effect by hendrix (univibe) clapton (ever wonder how he got that tone on "while my guitar gently weeps"?)
apples and oranges.
as for tc stuff.. i'd avoid it after experiencing them. i won stuff from them on facebook, a polytune and a nova delay, both signed by steve morse of the dregs..
the polytune is garbage, and puts our so much radiation it picks up thru my whole rig when engaged. so it's worthless.
the nova delay died on me on stage, and killed my entire signal chain.
i contacted them, sent it back, and all they did was re-seat the memory chip and send it back.
less than a year later...after the warantee expired...same damn thing. they wanted as much to fix it as it would cost for a new one.
so i said screw it, opened it up and did it myself.
now i buy 'em for peanuts on the net, fix 'em and blow 'em out thru my friends ebay store.
tc was great shit when it was made in denmark. the mass produced chinese crap they sell now is garbage...way, WAY overpriced garbage.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 21 Feb 2013, 18:47

The square wave description was kind of an analogy rather than an interpretation of what actually happens to the wave. My knowledge of electronics is rather limited and I probably didn't describe what I meant very well. I didn't mean to infer that the vibrato sound you like isn't good, I hope you didn't take it that way - at the end of the day it's up to the player to decide what is good/bad for them.

Thanks for the heads up on the TC stuff, hopefully i'll have more luck than you!

Johnnyseven

Re: Vibrato

by **Mully** » 21 Feb 2013, 20:06

Johnny if I understood you correctly you were talking about the shape of the LFO waveform
and pinkjim talked about the shape of th waveform of the audio signal

two totally different things....

a square wave LFO vibrato like you were talking about does not distort
it simply doesn't sweep through different pitches to get to the lowest and highest pitch.
it simply switches between the lowest and highest pitch.

Mully

Re: Vibrato

by **Mully** » 21 Feb 2013, 20:07

oh and the **new** TC stuff isn't all that bad.... my flashback and my hall of fame are working fine

Mully

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 21 Feb 2013, 21:10

keep your reciepts, bro. they WILL fix 'em under warantee, but once it expires, not very user friendly to work on!!

yes, we were talking two different things.
a good vibrato is like a good blow job, nice and throaty and vibey and deep.
lol

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 21 Feb 2013, 21:13

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *...*
> *tc was great shit when it was made in denmark. the mass produced chinese crap they sell now is garbage...way, WAY overpriced garbage.*

I'm not sure what you're talikng about here

I have found the new TC Electronic gear to be both reasoonably priced and of a high quality.
Their compact pedals are easily comparable to brands like Boss which are known for their robustness.
TC's Nova range is exceptionally solid and well thought out, it's also not particularly expensive.

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 21 Feb 2013, 21:27

the new stuff they come out with is nothing like the quality of the old original tc stuff.
if it works for ya, all good.
still cautioning you to keep your reciept.
when i send something back to be repaired, and it comes back and does the same thing again just around the time the warantee runs out, and i see a bunch of others with the same issue, well...
the nova delay is barely two years in my posession, and has broken down the same way twice... it lives on my pedal board, and doesn't even get that much use to begin with...so..

like i said... good luck with that stuff.
i've got boss pedals i bought in the 80's that still are running strong. electro harmonix, ibanex, and dod, too.

the tc stuff has been nothing but trouble.
even tho it was free? i won't endorse it.

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 21 Feb 2013, 22:33

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *but the very vibrato you can't stand is useful to me. all the time.*
> *[...]*
> *me? nuke the dry signal, and make it wobble. that "seasick" thing was used to great effect by hendrix (univibe)*
> *clapton (ever wonder how he got that tone on "while my guitar gently weeps"?)*
> *apples and oranges.*

If you're into vibrato, then you could like this one:

http://www.youtube.com/v/akrRmxvmY6I

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **pinkjimiphoton** » 22 Feb 2013, 01:06

lol...thanks pepe!

pinkjimiphoton

Re: Vibrato

by **natthu** » 22 Feb 2013, 09:28

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *the new stuff they come out with is nothing like the quality of the old original tc stuff.*

It's nothing like the high price of the original stuff either. We're taliking about two very different markets here. The old TC stuff was more to the 'boutique' end of the range.
The new stuff is a direct competitor to Boss pedals (and Digitech, EHX etc...). These are basic, inexpensive and robust.

> *pinkjimiphoton wrote:*
> *the nova delay is barely two years in my posession, and has broken down the same way twice...*

I'm sorry to hear that you've been unlucky, but I think you're being a little hasty to write off an entire brand from one bad experience.
I have never had a single problem with any of my TC pedals. I have however had a few Boss pedals with various problems (and also the usually robust EHX for that matter).
From that experience, if I work on your logic, I'd have to write off Boss and EHX as brands and proclaim "good luck with that stuff" .... of course, I'm not going to do that.

I currently have an EHX POG2 (expensive pedal and made in the good ol' USA) which has a dodgy input socket.
Excellent quality gear comes out of Asia these days (as well as the dodgy stuff).
Eventide make all their 'Factor' pedals in China, and they would have to be some of the best quality robust multi pedals out there.

My point is that you can no longer conclude that everything made in Asia is junk these days (a lot of it still is, but not all of it).
Just because a pedal is made in the USA, doesn't necessarily mean it's better quality. Americans are capable of making junk also.

natthu

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 22 Feb 2013, 15:53

Regarding the build quality of the TC stuff, I read a fairly long thread about it on another forum, and there was one factor that concerned me.

As we all know, the bypass switches in pedals sometimes breakdown. On a Boss or EHX pedal, these are easily replaced by simply soldering in a new one.

However, on the new TC stuff, the switch is mounted directly on the board, so when it breaks (which, not surprisingly, has already happened to many) there's no way to fix that component. Or, I should say, it can be fixed, but the time and cost amounts to more than simply throwing it away and buying a new pedal.

So it's perhaps worth making the distinction that in twenty or thirty years, we won't see many of these TC pedals still going strong, while the Boss and EHX stuff can potentially last a lifetime.

Clean Channel

Re: Vibrato

by **howareyou10** » 16 Mar 2013, 01:35

Theres only one pedal that comes to mine with this thread.....that would be the Boss vabrato pedal that was made some time in the late 70's or early 80's....Good luck trying to find one. they go for 250-400 dollars on ebay. however the behringer vrabato pedal is basicly a clone of the boss chip with cheap chinese parts...but only cost about 20 bucks.

howareyou10

Re: Vibrato

by **Arpeggiator** » 18 Mar 2013, 20:39

Out of curiosity, I bought the Behringer VB-2 clone - it was only €20 new.

Aside from the fact that the build quality seems to have improved a bit, I can officially announce that it sounds JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!

Amazing...if weren't for that ugly housing and unpleasant brand, the ridiculous prices for VB-2's would be even harder to justify.

Arpeggiator

Re: Vibrato

by **Pepe** » 18 Mar 2013, 20:47

Argh! My heart! That HURTS!

Pepe

Re: Vibrato

by **Arpeggiator** » 18 Mar 2013, 21:38

Don't get me wrong. It think the VB-2 is a gorgeous sounding pedal, really.

But it's the truth - if you want the VB-2 sound without spending €250+, buy that Behringer thing.

Arpeggiator

Re: Vibrato

by **BearBoy** » 18 Mar 2013, 21:51

Hmmmm. Tempted. I don't think I would ever splash out on a VB-2 (not really an effect I think I would use that much) but the Behringer is £14.99 inc delivery on Amazon at the moment...

BearBoy

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 19 Mar 2013, 10:46

I'd love a VB-2, but doubt i'll ever get one so I just ordered the Behringer VB-2 clone. I want to see if I can get my TC Electronic Shaker to sound like it.

I was a bit out of love with my Shaker for a while and was going to sell it, but then I tried mixing the vibrato sound with some clean sound using my LS-2 and it sounded ace - i'm in love with it again.

Johnnyseven

Re: Vibrato

by **DasBeef** » 19 Mar 2013, 12:38

Hey Johnnyseven. I seen you posting about vibrato over on another forum, and I was going to point you to this quote.....

> *Arpeggiator wrote:*
> *Out of curiosity, I bought the Behringer VB-2 clone - it was only €20 new.*
>
> *Aside from the fact that the build quality seems to have improved a bit, I can officially announce that it sounds JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!*
>
> *Amazing...if weren't for that ugly housing and unpleasant brand, the ridiculous prices for VB-2's would be even harder to justify.*

Glad to see you found your way over here anyway.
At £15, I'm almost tempted by that Behringer vibrato. Here's a LANK for anyone else that's interested....

DasBeef

Re: Vibrato

by **Dirk** » 19 Mar 2013, 18:36

Juan Alderete's demo video for the Behringer vibrato:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCy6QsatGHU

Compared to the VB-2:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W691DU8bop4

And the TC shaker for good measure:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-RO_yU_LWs

Dirk

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 21 Mar 2013, 12:40

Behringer VB-2 arrived this morning, the girlfriend's away for the night so I can make some noise with it after work.

Johnnyseven

Re: Vibrato

by **BearBoy** » 26 Mar 2013, 12:05

Had a chance to play with the Behringer yet Johnny?

Thinking of getting one myself (can't really go too wrong for £15) but would be interested to hear what you thought of it.

BearBoy

Re: Vibrato

by **Dirk** » 26 Mar 2013, 17:22

To stay with the vibrato theme, Phil Campbell just got his own Shaker vibrato toneprint at TC:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f9n8bFIVbA

Sound pretty Hendrix'y to me.

Dirk

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 27 Mar 2013, 12:38

> *BearBoy wrote:*
> *Had a chance to play with the Behringer yet Johnny?*
>
> *Thinking of getting one myself (can't really go too wrong for £15) but would be interested to hear what you thought of it.*

I've had a quick go with it, mainly just to compare it to my TC Shaker. The Behringer sounded pretty good, I think as good as the Shaker or maybe even better. The Behringer sounds alot warmer than the Shaker, I also thought the Shaker sounded less natural and more 'digital' than the Behringer.

Johnnyseven

Posts: 197
Joined: 20 Feb 2013, 13:51
Location: London, UK

Re: Vibrato

by **Johnnyseven** » 05 Apr 2013, 09:45

Update on the vibrato pedal situation:

The TC Electronic Toneprint Editor is now available so I thought that I would have a play to see if I could make myself a toneprint to make my Shaker sound they way I think it should, in particular:

1. add in a dry signal
2. remove some treble to warm it up
3. decrease the depth
4. increase the rate

1, 3 and 4 were easy to do. Removing treble could be done easily too but no matter how much I took out the pedal still didn't have the warm sound that I was after, it still retained a digital edge to it. Comparing it too the VB-2 clone, I preferred the clone. Also comparing it to the BF2 I recently got with the rate all the way up, I preferred the BF2. So it's time to give up on the Shaker and it's gone to ebay.

Johnnyseven

Re: Vibrato

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 06 Apr 2013, 12:40

Although I already own the small yellow Malekko (warm, woozy, dark) I`m also curious about the Behringer. I`m also mad enough to think "Hmm, could it be squeezed back into a spare BOSS enclosure?". Plenty of cheap BOSS to play with! My only thought to the negative would be its momentary latch mode, however, I wonder if a small BOSS momentary switch would suffice if wired correctly? Food for thought!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Vibrato

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 06 Apr 2013, 12:47

On the topic (off-topic?) of re-housing, check out the far bottom left pic. Interesting use of a BOSS enclosure!

http://www.fxdoctor.com/gallery

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: Vibrato

by **Clean Channel** » 06 Apr 2013, 13:39

I'm diggin that!

Clean Channel