Fuzz Factory

by **Laurie** » 28 Nov 2012, 05:12

Sooooo... I got one in a trade today. First ever ZVEX fuzz pedal I've owned.

I'm underwhelmed. Can't see what the attraction is - I'm clearly out-of-step with the rest of the ZVEX fan base, and I'm OK with that. I'm probably just a cranky old fart who can't make the leap to these new-fangled pedals.

It either oscillates or gates - yeah yeah I know it does more than that, but the couple of sweet-spots I could find were pretending to be a fuzz-face but not making it. When I was designing pedals I spent my time avoiding exactly the characteristics this thing displays.

It was so un-pleasing that I had to check on YouTube to ensure I hadn't received a dud. I hadn't.

Laurie

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **Clean Channel** » 28 Nov 2012, 06:10

Yeah, wasn't for me either. Had one for about half a year, and kept trying to like it. Just too out there and finicky for my taste. If I ever did find a setting a liked, I could never dial it in just right ever again.

Still, good for a noise box/wacky toy, if nothing else.

I think part of what made it so memorable is that it's pretty unique and cutting edge. Unlike other fuzzes where, more often than not, if you go out and buy a fuzz, it'll just be a clone of some other fuzz you've already bought in the past.

Clean Channel

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **natthu** » 28 Nov 2012, 07:41

> *Clean Channel wrote:*
> *...good for a noise box/wacky toy, if nothing else.*

Yep, that's what I found mine good for too.... squeeling and over the top distortion.
Eventually I found that I didn't really need to do any of that stuff so I got rid of it...

I had a ZVex Mastotron for a while too. That was a more useable fuzz with still a lot of tweakability, but it just didn't sound as nice as a Big Muff.

natthu

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **The_Doc** » 28 Nov 2012, 11:43

I've had a Fuzz Factory Vexter Series for a couple of years and it's barely been out of the box. I found a sweet spot but it took some doing. I think of it as an 'experimental pedal'....but, I haven't yet found an experiment that I can use it for

I've taken it around to a couple of friends who have said 'too extreme...', 'that will trash my speakers',...'can't see how I can use it live' - probably sums it up for me. It is very difficult to control and unpredictable but I guess that's why the more adventurous of us like them.

I'm glad I didn't pay stupid money for one of the fancy painted versions.

The_Doc

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **Clean Channel** » 28 Nov 2012, 14:40

Looks like we're all in the same boat here!

Come to think of it, despite the fame the Fuzz Factory has garnered, I think I hardly ever see it on a pedalboard on any forum.

Clean Channel

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **Cavefish34** » 28 Nov 2012, 15:05

I had to chime in too Laurie..... it's one of the first pedals I bought that I swore was defective when I first tried it out.

You have to really play around with it to get some usable sounds.... the key is to set the Stab(stability control) first

and then tweak the other controls. Unless it is maxed out it is difficult to get anything other than radio squelches etc. It is truly a pedal that is not for the weak... it can produce some hairy fuzz and isn't for everyone.....

Cavefish34

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **charmonder** » 28 Nov 2012, 18:45

I thought I was the only one who thought this. I demoed a few fuzz factories, indeed I felt old I was begging for ear plugs.

Comparing the schematics, fuzz factory is about 99% a fuzz face, with an extra transistor (seems to be an input buffer, probably helps with the feedback settings), and extra knobs to misbias the transistors. It's cool, I'm not trashing it, but to me it feels unfinished compared to a properly biased fuzz.

charmonder

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **71Smallbox** » 05 Dec 2012, 15:59

I actually like the crazy sounds that come out of it. It took me a while to "tame" some of the sounds, the stability knob is key for this pedal, always keep it maxed when experimenting with sounds and adjust to almost the point of oscillation. It sounds cool going into a Big Muff too. My taste in music has always been on the noisier side, so that could account for me liking it though

71Smallbox

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **Goran** » 03 Jan 2013, 13:55

I think it´s a great fuzz/noise maker, it suits my style of playing psychedelia perfect. Of course I don´t use it when playing blues or rock….
I have quite a big collection of rude fuzzes, and I´m really into making noise/strange sounds, it´s kind of a relaxing/meditating thing that I like a lot. Preferably done alone at home

Goran

Re: Fuzz Factory

by **Jeremy** » 10 Jan 2013, 06:06

I use this .... (not very often)

I gather it does everything the FF does

Jeremy