## MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **Disco Stu** » 29 Mar 2013, 21:55

Just picked one up, along with a Dunlop 'Hendrix Classic Fuzz'.

Haven't had a chance to play with them yet...

The Bluebox is supposed to be an Octave Down Fuzz..

Would love to hear any thoughts!

Disco Stu

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **natthu** » 30 Mar 2013, 01:01

I had a blue box for a while. It sounded okay, but it was very glitchy. A compressor I front of it would probably help. Ultimately it was just too glitchy for my taste and I got rid of mine.

natthu

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **Monotremata** » 30 Mar 2013, 02:28

Its more of a psychotic epileptic octave fuzz. Dont plan on playing Jimi with it. It decides on its own when it wants to glitch and octave. Definitely an one of a kind. I love mine but even with the volume on it cranked, theres still serious volume drop when its on. The fuzz it puts out is decent but its all about the crazy Atari noises it makes. I run it before my HM-2 and the thing gets super crazy. With the HM-2 after it, the sustain it adds covers up that stupid gate in it. Oh yeah its got a gate in it that also works as randomly as the octave.

Monotremata

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 30 Mar 2013, 05:45

Again to echo others thoughts. Had one for a while. Low Output Volume, Synthy bass heavy fuzz with lower bass octave added. The blend at max will be just fuzz/octave, as you turn anti-clockwise the random factor and Atari noises (very apt description) kick in). Oh and its gated which can be quite annoying.

Had one for a while, did the simple cap removal mod (C19 I think - easy to do) to remove the bass, but eventually sold as it was heavy physically in my pedalboard and didn't get much use. However I had fun combining with other effects for drones etc.

Good luck!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **The_Doc** » 30 Mar 2013, 18:11

Playing with a new block logo Blue Box right now Things I am noticing...

- there's a clear volume drop (vol needs to be on at least 3 o'clock to avoid that)
- tracking is good on bridge and and neck pickups (with either hbs or single coils) but see below for picking style
- notes do not decay smoothly and the gate is all over the place ... I don't like this feature
- there's a wide range of tones / effects available as the 'blend' control is moved
- the fuzz is rich and fat ... no bees in jam jars here - turn the 'blend' to max and you have just the fuzz tone.
- heavy picking works best and delicate finger-picking doesn't as the gating takes over
- chords do not work at any position on the neck
- my favourite setting is with the 'blend' set to about 4 o'clock
- sounds like a ring mod with 'blend' at 1 o' clock ... if only the gate wouldn't send it into a gibbering mess

Overall, this is useful as a special effect but it is difficult to control. Used with care, it can add an extra dimension to riffing and you could push a solo into some pretty weird places with it. I've never gigged with it (and don't plan to) but it's a fun pedal to have around when you need something a bit different.

I haven't hooked it up with any other pedals but as I have it out right now.....

The_Doc

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **nathanscribe** » 30 Mar 2013, 18:30

I've been curious about this pedal for a while but don't fancy spending the asking price on one to find out! Ha. Didn't Trent Reznor use one of these at one point? Good for glitchy grime I think, but possibly not much else.

nathanscribe

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **Monotremata** » 30 Mar 2013, 21:55

The best 'mainstream' example I know of is Led Zeppelins Fool In The Rain. Its the weird octave effect on Pages solo.. Although I wouldnt doubt Reznor used one. The f-ed up sounds that come out of this thing are right up his alley hehe.

Anyone ever hear of an Australian doom/noise band called Halo? It was a two piece, bass and drums, and probably the heaviest most crushing droning dirge stuff I ever heard.. Like Swans on heroin or something. They did a song for a split 7" called Raping The Raper, and the Blue Box is in top form on it. In fact the bass track is all BB with the blend knob set at probably 10:00 or 11:00. Its pretty nasty and noisy. Might be able to find it on You Tube if you want to hear what the Blue Box REALLY sounds like. Now that I think about it, I think the BB played a big big part in Skye Kleins bass sound all the time.. Some of the gutteral noise he got out of that P bass were just not humanly possible hehe.

Ive heard Scott Kelly of Neurosis uses one too but I cant find one on any of Neurosis's stuff. But then again some of their stuff has so many layers going on its hard to tell when its a guitar making the noises or the synths/samples..

Monotremata

## Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?

by **Dirk** » 01 Apr 2013, 08:45

Funny how a pedal that some people love, sounds completely useless to others...

Little random OT thought:

Although tastes can change pedalwise, as a bassplayer I never understood the use of an octaver or an envelope filter.
Right now I just adore my OC-3 and MXR envelope filter. I used to play with a Morley wah, and I love the sound but playing with a wah pedal is a pain in the butt. This envelope filter kinda gives me that same sound, but without the hassle. Awesome.

Also, watching YT videos doesn't help; a lot of players make useless sounds with it.

Dirk

**Re: MXR BlueBox -- Any thoughts?**

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 01 Apr 2013, 19:52

If you want to get a good sense of what the Bluebox can do listen to the Melvins. King Buzzo uses one.

Pieces Of The Night