NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 19 Apr 2018, 09:45

A couple of beauties joined the collection via postman yesterday. As yet untested but I'm very pleased indeed particularly with the big beast, never thought I'd lay my hands on one !!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **Pepe** » 19 Apr 2018, 10:21

Oh, a Phase Five!

Pepe

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **charmonder** » 19 Apr 2018, 18:25

cool! so any idea what makes the big jam it a **bi-**phase technically?

charmonder

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 20 Apr 2018, 02:24

Yes, indeed Pepe!

I was very surprised to be able to snag it, I happened to stumble across an online auction 10 minutes before bidding closed and it appeared nobody was around to place a higher bid in at that time!

The AP-5 appears amazingly tech-heavy for its time - dual speed (with ramp) switch and a variable input control mode which adds phasing dependent on your playing dynamics....40 odd years ago!

I can't wait to plug it in, but at the moment my houses is boxes as far as the eye can see! I've so far plugged it in to the mains, observed the flashing LED change with the speed knob and the ramp footswitch...so I'm optimistic all is OK. It will need a clean/TLC, otherwise a keeper!

Charmonder - The Bi-Phase, I have no idea as yet on the "Bi" angle, Big Jam did make an earlier simpler "Phaser", without the third slider. I've yet to plug this one in so I'm not certain as to how it is...or even if it actually works yet.

Not pictured - but I also acquired a second Guyatone Phase Sonix, which needs one wire re- soldering and hopefully nothing else. I believe the design is the earliest script Phase 90 circuit, coming soon after the original MXR. The Phase Sonix is the first Guyatone "compact" I am aware off, prior to the full "BOX" line. I would assume the circuitry is the same in the Locobox version (the OEM manufacturer if I am not mistaken).

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **Joske_Turbo** » 20 Apr 2018, 11:05

Very nice! Speaking of vintage phasers, I just acquired a script MXR Phase 100, pics soon to follow. I also haven't tried it yet but tommorow I finally will.

Joske_Turbo

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **visserman** » 23 Apr 2018, 12:23

I admire your passion for getting all this gear. I guess most of you do. When I read about the boxes in you house I can image: "No time and just getting more and need time to try it out"

Usually the bigger boxes give you more options. The sound of the earlier, compact pedals was quite close to their bigger predecessors. It was the fashion that everything was getting smaller, whilst trying to remain the sound similar as much as possible.
Do you know this one here?

visserman

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **Pepe** » 23 Apr 2018, 12:35

Oh yeah, this one's on my wish list as well!

Pepe

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 24 Apr 2018, 00:38

> *visserman wrote:*
> *I admire your passion for getting all this gear. I guess most of you do. When I read about the boxes in you house I can image: "No time and just getting more and need time to try it out"*

Indeed. There's a definite craving for more exotic and rare items despite not really having explored what I have...it's simply quicker to buy than try!
That said the vast amount of boxes has proved tiring and so I am considering some kind of down scaling/cull.

I have both the Pearl PH-44 (dual speed) and PH-33.

The circuitry, and I paraphrase here, was described by Zachary Vex as "the best phaser ever produced". The boon of both of the Pearls is having a great starting tone and huge variety built in due to the knob format. I'm very partial to faux-Leslie sounds and in particular having the 2 speed "ramp" switch is spot on in the PH-44.

At some point I'll snap a group photo....when I've unpacked

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **visserman** » 24 Apr 2018, 10:42

Well Fuzz, you seem to know a lot about them without having tried them out

The thing about the craving: It never stops eh, and we are only getting these things to produce sounds with, unless you are a collector.
I guess most of us are in both camps, but the playing is definitely the best thing out of all this.

The Leslie thing is surely very true, but heh, this sound can be produced by various things such as having two chorus pedals going at different speeds.
The Pearl may sound fuller compared to the chorus-pedal idea but still.....

Anyway all good, keep em coming!
Cheers!!

visserman

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 25 Apr 2018, 00:33

Well, I FINALLY had a chance to test (at lowish volumes) the Phase 5 and the Bi-Phase. The Roland is quite juicy, authentically ramps, range of speeds tops out before about 3 o'clock on the dial without getting wild, below 9 o'clock is in the subtle realms, anything after is similar to a PH-1R in tone, very 70s, quite sweet, with a very strong square pulse at higher intensity. Not thin enough to do a univibe and probably too distinctly phase-y to do a Leslie. Otherwise its very lush indeed. It felt very late-Zepplin/John Paul Jones
The Bi-Phase is quite different. Incredibly wet/wibbly with all controls cranked, akin to a waggled washboard in a storm! By far the most wet I've heard (though EHX pedals tend to go that way too). It's thinner, sweeter, 70s, more akin to the 10-12 stage sounds on a PH-3 or the Maxon PH-350. Had a lot of fun dialing in the madness, very FX!

Here, I think is my stock list phase wise, if I haven't missed one. A bit too many truth be told!
My Bad Stone sadly "motorboats" at higher settings, I'd love to fix it judging by YT videos of it's potential. The circuits are hard to work on being a mass of spaghetti traces and oddly fixed caps etc.

- Maxon PH-350 Rotary Phaser
  Maxon PT-909 (Small Box - Orange)
  Maxon PT-909 (Big Box - Orange)
  Maxon PT-909 Pro (18v Big Box - Orange)
  BOSS PH-1
  BOSS PH-1R
  BOSS PH-3 (Junk)
  Roland AP-2 (silver)
  Roland AP-2 (DC jack/LED mod)
  Roland AP-5 Phase Five
  Yamaha PH-01
  Pearl PH-33
  Pearl PH-44
  Noah's Ark Orange B
  Guyatone PS-007 Phaser
  Guyatone PS-007 Phaser
  Guyatone Phase Sonix
  Guyatone Phase Sonix
  Morley Phase One
  Malekko Omicron Phaser
  Big Jam Bi-Phase
  EHX Small Stone (Big box reissue 90s)
  EHX Bad Stone (has issues)

Anyway, what's everyone's pleasure?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 25 Apr 2018, 01:11

> *visserman wrote:*
> *Well Fuzz, you seem to know a lot about them without having tried them out*
>
> *The thing about the craving: It never stops eh, and we are only getting these things to produce sounds with, unless you are a collector.*
> *I guess most of us are in both camps, but the playing is definitely the best thing out of all this.*
>
> *The Leslie thing is surely very true, but heh, this sound can be produced by various things such as having two chorus pedals going at different speeds.*
> *The Pearl may sound fuller compared to the chorus-pedal idea but still.....*
>
> *Anyway all good, keep em coming!*
> *Cheers!!*

Yes, it's quite the addiction, and the fact that my new music "space" is rapidly filling up with "crap" is a bit concerning.

One rule I - attempt - to stick too is the "tools in the toolbox". If a pedal has a sound that I know artistically I could use, or it could inspire a track then I'll keep it. Ditto a sound I don't have but could use (examples: Ring Modulator / Bit Crusher). "It's there if I need one". (This rule tends to go right out of the window when the "I must collect the series" vibes kick in!)

My 2nd rule - as a collector - is if it is replaceable relatively easily and I haven't used it in a while then selling it is fine, particularity if I don't lose money and the cash goes towards another pedal. I mostly find I don't miss stuff that much, bar the odd sentimental item, or a feeling of "I didn't really give that one a chance".

Duplicates are a conundrum for a collector/player, two (one mint for keeps, one less-so for the board), I had 3 BOSS PN-2s two weeks ago, selling one, even that hurts..!

I find pedals, more than guitars/amps, and particularly vintage units with aesthetic vibe - are mini time machines, capable of transporting me headfirst into an era/sound/vibe that can then inspire. A good example would be the hypnotic CE-2, inspired a few months of Sonic Youth/Smiths type tracks. "Paints in the Paintbox"

Recently the Vibromatic from SIB is getting a lot of love.

..and finally you can never have enough flavors of fuzz!!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **charmonder** » 25 Apr 2018, 15:33

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *Here, I think is my stock list phase wise, if I haven't missed one. A bit too many truth be told!*
> *My Bad Stone sadly "motorboats" at higher settings, I'd love to fix it judging by YT videos of it's potential. The circuits are hard to work on being a mas of spaghetti traces and oddly fixed caps etc.*

Wait a minute I have the big box bad stone, if we're talking about the same issue, its like the last maybe ~10% of the rate knob turns into a fixed frequency ring modulator but I think that might just be the taper of the pot.

charmonder

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 27 Apr 2018, 05:42

Hello Charmonder,

Thanks for that hint.

Actually on mine the last 1/4 of the pot simply induces a hum and a "thud, thud, thud" a.k.a "motorboating" sound. I have read that it might be the caps requiring replacement or a shortage of voltage somewhere in the circuit. I duly replaced the single largest cap (a huge thing!) and one other but as yet no luck. I think i'm missing about 20-30% of the sound range somewhere.

If it is possible could you take a pic of the visible part of your circuit board? (there have been a few revisions). It would be very useful to see whats what inside as I have no real idea as to whether mine has already been tampered with.

Many thanks!

(P.S I played a DOD 640 Flanger last night in a local store..holy moly..what a lovely sounding box!)

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **Pepe** » 27 Apr 2018, 06:33

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *P.S I played a DOD 640 Flanger last night in a local store..holy moly..what a lovely sounding box!*

Reticon SAD1024A is the magic word. See BOSS BF-1 and vintage EHX Electric Mistress (and Guyatone Moving Box as far as I know).

Pepe

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **visserman** » 28 Apr 2018, 11:08

Fuzz I like your rules I think most of us here will agree.
What you mentioned about "Pedals being little Time Machines" Yes is very true.

visserman

Re: NPD: Vintage Phasers

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 01 May 2018, 00:37

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *Reticon SAD1024A is the magic word. See BOSS BF-1 and vintage EHX Electric Mistress (and Guyatone Moving Box as far as I know).* 😎

Yes and Yes again, Pepe!

The DOD is at a reasonable price and local so already my brain is formulating some manner of picking it up 😁

Speaking of the Guyatone BOX, I do have the Flanger, sadly it may be that exact chip that has expired, so it...looks...pretty 😐

On the other hand, lady luck shone a little last weekend and a second "Chorus BOX" was snapped up. Little "characterful" but I couldn't refuse at the price. 18v power, unusual control set (or old school) as it includes the input level. That particular function has quite a major effect on the outcome of the tone, the LED blinking if the input clips, yet oddly most good sound occur after that! Investigated the two trim pots inside - one in particular with slight tweak can alter the amount of vibrato in the signal. But to be honest so can the Input level control, so in the end I set them back to factory.

The BOX Chorus does a great Leslie impersonation (high speed) with gain on, alternatively spinning the controls opposite yields a useful 80's post punk tone. Bit thin on clean tones, much better with dirt.

...another duplicate though, naughty me! 😁

fuzzbuzzfuzz