RATs...

by fuzzbuzzfuzz » 21 Dec 2015, 01:28

used to avoid, distortion not bring my cup of tea in general, but have come around in more recent years, not least because the Rat was a staple if the Britpop/rock era.

Having kept my eyes open I snagged a US made early 90s Rat on Saturday. It has the square casing, smooth painted sides and the older 308 chip. I was very surprised at the time of purchase, testing it A/Bd with another USA rat w/blank chip and later serial - also a different circuit board layout. The latter was gain heavy, wooly, smooth (not bad at all - fuzz like). The former tighter, much brighter and for the first half of the dial essentially an overdrive. They could both be dialed in to match in the heavier tones but I was taken aback at the difference in EQ and lower gain.

Anyway now the early US sits next to my Turbo Rat from the same era (that's a bit more "open")

At practice the EHX Muff'n outdid the new Rat (a close second) which itself outdid my Xotic SL drive (fizzy in comparison).
The old Rat is however absolutely dead quiet and boosted the Muff'n admirably.

I believe both Grahdm Coxon (blur) and BernardButler (Suede) used Rats two at a time (for "natural compression"), this does indeed work very well. Curious now about the germanium You Dirty Rat.

The Rat is a definite one overdrive throw in the bag type pedal. And I think I lean towards it on Fender Amps w/signsl pickup guitars in particular a Telecaster.

Any other users out there with Rat infestations or tails, sorry tales?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by fuzzbuzzfuzz » 21 Dec 2015, 13:56

Picked up another locally in the way back from work. They're not so common with the correct chip/casing I like.

Two together into a Blues Jr is sounding great!

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by Pepe » 22 Dec 2015, 08:31

I have a RAT here at the moment. With the LM308 chip. A friend lets me try some nice pedals from time to time and just now he has my DingoTone VFZ fuzz and I have his RAT. It's a very nice pedal and indeed, the old model is a pretty overdrive below the noon position of the gain knob.

But surprisingly I won't necessarily need an own model. Now that I've tried the real thing ... well, the sound fits, but I have enough around that comes close to this sound and I don't see the need for a RAT anymore. Maybe a "TurboRAT" or "You Dirty Rat" might blaze up the GAS fire again, but the true RAT is just a very nice dirt pedal now and not the Holy Grail that I need to hunt down.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **Fallen_lassen** » 22 Dec 2015, 16:07

Yes the rat. Another one on my bucketlist

Fallen_lassen

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 22 Dec 2015, 19:31

I just came home with my very first own RAT: a Turbo RAT with the LM308 chip! The nice thing is that I like the sound a bit more than that of my friend's RAT that also has the LM308 inside. The normal RAT sounds a bit more gritty and the Turbo version has a mid contour that I instantly liked when I tried it a few minutes ago. And it has LOTS of headroom.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **visserman** » 23 Dec 2015, 14:02

They are versatile and can do clean boost as well. The can be in your face but also mild, overdrive like. Their sound may be typical late 70s, early 80s but it works well in many musical settings

visserman

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 24 Dec 2015, 02:05

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *I just came home with my very first own RAT: a Turbo RAT with the LM308 chip! The nice thing is that I like the sound a bit more than that of my friend's RAT that also has the LM308 inside. The normal RAT sounds a bit more gritty and the Turbo version has a mid contour that I instantly liked when I tried it a few minutes ago. And it has LOTS of headroom.*

Yes indeed, I believe double the headroom in fact. The LED clipping is a bit looser/open I think. It's a bit of a change between both, for me my ears need to retune! Reminds me if the clipping - also LED - of my old Danelectro mini Pastrami overdrive.

I'm debating whether I really need this many - haha. They stack so well though.

Any preferred settings? On bass? And through what amps?

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 24 Dec 2015, 02:09

It's addictive right! Within two posts and Pepe joins the Rat pack

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 24 Dec 2015, 02:14

> *visserman wrote:*
> *They are versatile and can do clean boost as well. The can be in your face but also mild, overdrive like. Their sound may be typical late 70s, early 80s but it works well in many musical settings*

Definitely one of the most versatile and simple drives of the old school set (Tubescreamer etc).

In the lower gain the Rat for me has a semi-Klon type effect, a tightness, bit of grit blended with an enhanced set of certain frequencies. Of course it's different overall but can certainly ape that role well.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 24 Dec 2015, 05:27

When i've had the money I've tried to get a Pro Co Fat Rat Selectable Mosfet Clipping and Thick Boost Distortion but they are never in stock It's also hard to get a genuine vintage RAT here in the states. People keep trying to pass off the re-issues as vintage ones. Also I was cruining around intructables last night and saw this:

http://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Rat ... dal---The/

Pieces Of The Night

Re: RATs...

by **The_Doc** » 24 Dec 2015, 11:05

I have a Keeley modded RAT which I haven't touched in ages as I never really got on with it.

After reading this thread I think i'm going to dig it out again and give it another go as I've changed amps since then. I think the mods took a standard version and changed it to the vintage spec but I'll need to check that.

Update: just checked the Keeley spec and it's the 3-way mod with a switch added to give:

(1) the classic Rat sound.
(2) the Phat Rat mode. An additional clipping diode added.
(3) the Mighty Mouse mode. A diode is removed to create a big volume increase.

All stock caps replaced with film and tantalum caps.

The_Doc

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 24 Dec 2015, 12:42

fuzzbuzzfuzz, could you please supply me with a picture of the battery compartment of your Turbo RAT? My model doesn't have the battery lid anymore and I wonder how the battery can been inserted so that it doesn't touch the circuit.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 24 Dec 2015, 20:25

On pedals or guitars with emg pickups where the space is tight I've put the battery in a small sandwich bag or wrapped them in saran wrap so the plastic insulates the battery from the metal parts. It's also helpful in case there is a leak so the mess is contained in the bag.

edit: I should also add emg recommends putting the battery in foam to prevent it from touching the circuits.

Pieces Of The Night

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 25 Dec 2015, 11:56

Sure can!

There's a horseshoe type part built into the back door that holds the battery. I got my 2nd US Rat cheap as that too is missing the door. Currently inserting a bit of foam but curious if pro co can supply a reasonably priced spare. Anyway I'll get a pic to you as soon as I can

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 25 Dec 2015, 19:12

A shop in Berlin has this RAT battery kit:

Would that really work? I wouldn't know where to put the battery holder inside the Turbo RAT which has the 1995 "Multi RAT" circuit board.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 26 Dec 2015, 01:58

I believe that's fine Pepe. The battery holder would be glued or a fixed to the inside of the door. Here's mine:

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 26 Dec 2015, 10:14

Ah! Now it makes sense. Great! My next order at Banzaimusic will contain this battery kit.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **Johnnyseven** » 31 Dec 2015, 13:04

I used to have 2 US made Rat2's, one had the LM308 and one didn't - to me they sounded exactly the same. However they did have the same circuit layout, which may make a difference in sound in LM308/Non-LM308 Rats.

I do think that Rats can sound different from unit to unit though. My favourite is the older, big knob Turbo Rats. I have 4 - one has an LM308, one an LM308N and the other 2 I fitted LM308 chips I picked up on ebay. They all sound good, but my favourites are the I fitted the LM308 chips too - to me they sound slightly grittier, dirtier, fuzzier than the LM308 ones.

One thing that contributes to the difference in tone between the newer Rat family pedals and the older ones is the pots they use. The older, big knob versions use CTS pots which have a much nicer taper and seem to be more consistent from unit to unit - this can affect the sounds available in each pedal. I had a modern Turbo Rat which had such a poor taper that it went from no dirt to full on from zero to 9 o'clock, I would expect that level of dirt around 3 o'clock on the dial.

Johnnyseven

Re: RATs...

by **Jeremy** » 02 Feb 2016, 05:46

I've got an old original big box and a early 90's small box RAT, love them both

Also an ARC effects Soothsayer (mine is the earlier "Woodcutter" version, which is a very versatile and modern take on the classic

Jeremy

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 23 Jun 2016, 18:18

I have finished recordings for a Hotone LIFTUP (booster) demo. I used it in combination with my Turbo RAT and my DingoTone Fat Dingo Distortion.

I must say that the DingoTone FDD is the best RAT I have played! I have it since October 2012 and till now I didn't know how much it shares with the Turbo RAT sound. I don't know if Laurie's intention was to recreate and update the RAT sound, but at least the high gain settings are pretty identical sounding. The FDD sounds even better in low gain settings compared to the Turbo RAT. Really cool! I still have to tr out if the Turbo RAT does also produce cool sounds with my organ, but I doubt that it can beat the FDD, which is my favourite organ dirt pedal!

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **Laurie** » 23 Jun 2016, 18:36

Thank you kindly!

I didn't even refer to the RAT schematic (or any schematic) when designing the FDD. I did it by ear... I just checked the circuits and apart from both using silicone clippers, they are very (very) different.

The FDD is designed specifically to behave differently at low gain - less compression and more dynamics.

I dunno whether being RAT-like is a good thing or not At this point, I guess it just "is".

Laurie

Re: RATs...

by **Mosher Zone** » 23 Jun 2016, 18:46

I've had a Rat 2 since the late 90s, i used to use it through a Marshall 50w Super Lead & that was ballsy as fuck for rock tones, i don't use it as my main sound now but i find it works great as a boost. I had the chance to play through Turbo Rat & found it smoother, i always mean to pick one up. There are a few different Rat's on the market now but one i would stay away from is the 90s model the Brat, i believe that & the Roadkill are the same pedal but boy did it suck.

This is the one i'm really after.

(ProCo R2DU picture)

I think the whole LM308 chip thing is a myth that has taken on a life of it's own on the net, i have book which talks to the makers & they said that people were saying the new ones sounded different to the old ones so they made some with LM308 & tested them against the standard ones & heard no difference, they put it down to the fact that older ones components had aged & that was what they were hearing.

Mosher Zone

Re: RATs...

by **Dirk** » 23 Jun 2016, 19:07

That's cool, I've never seen a rackmount dual Rat.

Dirk

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 23 Jun 2016, 19:44

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *I dunno whether being RAT-like is a good thing or not At this point, I guess it just "is".*

Yes. Yes, it is.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **Mosher Zone** » 23 Jun 2016, 20:24

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *That's cool, I've never seen a rackmount dual Rat.*

Yeah bud, they appear to be like gold dust. They were made in the 80s rack boom but i've never seen one in the flesh, the Deucetone Rat is the R2DU in a pedal.

Mosher Zone

Re: RATs...

by **Mosher Zone** » 29 Jun 2016, 21:33

I new mine was Made in the U.S.A but had a look inside mine, was surprised to realize mine had a LM308 chip too, a little reading show they made then like that til 2002ish, i thought it was only 80s Rat's. Mine reads LM308AN, is that the one?

Mosher Zone

Re: RATs...

by **Pepe** » 30 Jun 2016, 00:25

No matter what comes after "LM308" - it is the Holy Grail for most RAT users. I have also searched the web for information about my "LM308N". It's all good.

Pepe

Re: RATs...

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 30 Jun 2016, 13:03

I have bought and sold a couple of LM308N USA Rats recently, I always keep a sharp eye out. I've kept an earlier metal screw/smooth painted sides for myself along with my Turbo RAT which is also LM308 equipped. I also picked up the non-308 You Dirty Rat. So far I`m not that impressed. The LM308Ns are clearly better to my ears, a direct full sound and particularly nice low gain sounds.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

Re: RATs...

by **Mosher Zone** » 30 Jun 2016, 13:30

> *Pepe wrote:*

No matter what comes after "LM308" - it is the Holy Grail for most RAT users. I have also searched the web for information about my "LM308N". It's all good.

Mosher Zone