DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by visserman » 18 Feb 2012, 16:38

When it comes to DOD you could see them as your grade B list of your compact pedals. Maybe that is not fair, as some of them are real gems, some are okay, but there are also others, and I have to be fair, which will put you off from playing.

In my book a good and inspiring pedal is a pedal which makes me say: "I have not heard this kind of sound before" or "I have heard this sound before, but this here is actually quite good as well"
An inspiring pedal will make me play and forget the time or whatever else was going on at the time, usually I can repeat this process, even if I come back to the pedal years later. However, there have been cases when I came back to a pedal and I felt different from how I experienced the pedal before. This is normal and natural as it shows your own growth as a musician and how you perceive musical sounds. In those cases you need to be honest and may come to the conclusion: "Maybe this pedal is after all not so good" Time to let it go then? Well that is up to wether you are a collector or a player. Do not get me wrong here, I know this feeling like: "Heh I really like this pedal, it looks nice, but in all honesty it does not sound that great, or I have to tweak it so carefully, and even after that it can still only do one sound moderately"

Okay, this is my personal approach and with that knowledge I want to have a look at the gems amoung the DOD' s I do know:

Without a doubt the FX65 is a must KILLER Chorus: It can go from CE style Boss to DC-style Boss. The secret lies in the Delay Time control. This comment comes from someone who feels Chorus is overrated, and gets boring very VERY quickly and perfers to use Flange for subtle chorusing sounds.

The FX90 Delay is also a must, but be careful: When I did get this, it could not delay very well, it did not self-occillate. Is this a problem? To me, how larger the range of a delay, the better it is, as you have the choice to use it in whatever application you want to.
With this in mind I started researching about what to do to get this thing to work how I wanted it to do. Internal Trimpots are the answer!!! They can easily be set to how you like the pedal to perform. Be not afraid, although most people will warn you not to touch them. If anyone needs more info please PM me for more detailed info.
What I did not know is that the FX90 is based on the FIRST VERSION DM-2. What does this mean? Later versions of the DM's are REPEATER pedals rahter than Delay pedals.
Once I had changed the trimmers I felt like this was a BLOODY GOOD delay, or at least for what most people need to pay for them. No need to buy a new "old skool" delay for a fair bit of bucks when there are still orginal old ones around. Go for the original ones at a resonable price!!

The FX60 Chorus is fun. I cannot compare to a CE-2 but do have a CE-1, which is no comparision as it is more flexable and also a larger unit, and the sound tends to be fuller compared to compacts. However, the FX60 does sound good.

The FX45 Reverb is not bad, but I have gone off reverbs a bit. This one is maybe a bit robotic, but not bad. Think Electro Harmonics roboticness compared to Boss smoothness and you will get an idea, just for sake of comparision.

The DFX94 Sampler/Delay, again as above, quite good, but a bit primitive in the sample sounds. Good for one sample, but do not overdub as you will start to loose quality. Not Boss Sound-on-Sound overdubbing, more like: "Add some Loose Some"

The delay sounds are good, think Boss DD2, not digital at all, and longer delay times.

Now the one I liked so much in the past: The FX87 Pscho Acoustic Processor: I like effects I can use all the time such as EQ and Compressors. Now this one here, I may have liked in the past, but you need to be so careful with what you dial in, and how you play, and I tend to play hard, dig in in those strings to get your sound. I can play quitely, but still, if I need to do this for sake of one pedal, and I want to use that pedal often.....
Maybe this one is good to get out on a Sunday Afternoon, after you had a fall out with your OC-2 and its poor tracking quality, just to remind you things can always get worse.
CORRECTION: FX87 is beautiful, but Marshall Amp users be careful, Preamp and Gain: Be careful with what you dial in. Check out other thread about this issue!! Once you get clean, very clean Marshall the FX87 will work very well!!!
One really bad one: The FX80 compressor. Major signal loss, and not much of an added crispness (which is what I like in compressors!) here.

When you read this please bear in mind who is the writer, as I like to joke about this "sound seriouness" and can also argue from another angle. You still will need to try them out for yourself, but heh, do not be shy and let us know how you go on with your DOD journey.

visserman

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **nathanscribe** » 18 Feb 2012, 17:42

FX25C Stereo Phaser: a pretty nice phaser, somewhere between the PH-1r and the Small Stone - but the PH-1r wins.

FX52 Classic Fuzz: not bad at all, but not what I'd call a fuzz exactly.

FX55B Supra Distortion: a good strong dirt pedal with plenty of gain that makes a very good bass overdrive.

FX65 Stereo Chorus: I agree, it's a very good unit and holds its own very happily next to the Boss compacts.

FX66 Flashback Fuzz: OK at best I thought - but then it wasn't voiced for my tastes and others may like it.

FX75B Stereo Flanger: quirky and somehow both full and hollow sounding - more interesting than the BF-2 but perhaps of limited use if you like subtlety.

FX90 Analogue Delay: Again, a nice BBD delay. Mine did self-oscillate when I got it so no trimming needed, and though there's some noise at the longer times, it's a really nice sound.

FX96 Analogue Delay: Another good delay, again BBD, but with longer time available. Quieter but somehow lacks the life of the 90, still by no means a bad unit - the tone control I found interesting in theory but of little practical use for my own purposes.

nathanscribe

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Zerksies** » 18 Feb 2012, 17:49

I just had in a FX65 and that thing sounded sweet it could hold up to my CE-2 no problem

Zerksies

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Laurie** » 18 Feb 2012, 19:37

FX69B Grunge. YEAH BABY! That one will put you off playing...

Laurie

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Alonious_Monk** » 18 Feb 2012, 20:02

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *FX69B Grunge. YEAH BABY! That one will put you off playing...*

Ooooooooh yes it will, I admit to owning one of those back in the day. As a NIN fan the sound was pretty gnarly direct into an Audio Interface and I like that. But through an amp?!!!.....no thank you!

Alonious_Monk

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Jeremy** » 19 Feb 2012, 00:35

FZ25 Envelope FIlter (the early kermit green one) - can't beat it

the Milkbox compressor and the 747 Supersonic Flange I like a lot

and any of the earlier bud-box DOD units (250 preamp/Overdrive, 460 Mini Chorus, 490 Phasor, 280 Comopressor) are all really good

the Vibrothang was OK, but not enough for me to keep it and I sold it. Same of some of the later metallic green FX25s, I sold them too

but basically, I have never had a bad DOD experience. Probably because I have stayed away from the silly sounding ones

I've heard the Juice Box is quite good ....

Jeremy

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Jeremy** » 19 Feb 2012, 04:01

I've heard the FX50Bs can be quite good

and the "B" stands for ... ???

http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/DOD-FX-50B-O ... 4600faaf9c

Jeremy

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Dirk** » 19 Feb 2012, 10:21

That guy sure understands marketing. 😄🍺 ☺

Dirk

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Franzoni** » 19 Feb 2012, 15:58

Another vote for the FX-65....had one back in the day and sold off my DOD gear when i went for rack mounted stuff back in the early 90's...i was listening to some rehearsal tapes from back then that i found in the attic a while back and i was impressed at how good it sounded and came across on tape...

Jump forward to 2012 and a causal passing comment by me on this forum led to a deal done with the Beefman and Franzoni enjoying the sonic goodness of this fine stereo chorus once again...as an owner of both the CE-2 and the FX-65 i can back up Zerks comments....very underestimated pedal and a fine chorus without the CE-2's volume boost/midhump...i've been using both together in stereo in a sort of tri-stereo setup(CE-2 into the fx-65 and out to two amps) and they sound monster....very Landau,Andy Summers when you play big arpeggios with loads of delay/reverb..... 🍺 ☺ 🍺 ☺

Franzoni

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **tunghaichuan** » 20 Feb 2012, 00:22

I used to own a bunch of DOD pedals.

The FX58 Metal Maniac pedal is a good pedal for metal. It actually sounds better for metal sounds than some Boss metal pedals (to me, at least). The FX56B Super American Metal does a good metal sound, too.

The GFX55 Extreme Supra Distortion is kind of a weird one. With the gain cranked it sounds terrible, thin, anemic and very bright. But with the gain at about nine o'clock, it does a very good transparent low gain grind. This is one of the more recent Chinese-made pedals.

The FX-50B is a good OD pedal.

The FX80B Compressor and FX84 Milkbox (compressor) are very good as well. They don't do the heavy squash like Boss pedals, rather they are more subtle and you only notice when they are not on.

The FX64 Ice Box chorus is pretty good. It is also very subtle.

My two main gripes against DOD pedals:

1. That stupid battery door that detaches and gets lost. As Laurie has stated they are available for $25, but I've bought entire pedals for less than that. (I got and FX57 Hard Rock distortion for $15 sans battery door.)

2. They are noisy. I never could turn on more than three without a huge noise increase.

tunghaichuan

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **Franzoni** » 20 Feb 2012, 01:07

Good post....

I had the FX-50B Overdrive plus and i thought it was a good pedal as well...also thought the Compressor was decent from what i can remember and the graphic EQ but never liked the American Metal an sold it soon after getting it...not technically a DOD but from the same family i had the Digitech 1002 two sec digital delay which was a double pedal....you could do that trick that Eric johnson used to do of hold a repeditive note or phrase as a drone and play over it which was fun and it was easier in this regard than the Boss DD-3,as from what i remember you didn't have to change the mode switch to do this so they were well ahead of the game is some regards.....but yep running 5 to 6 of these pedals even in bypass mode inline brings a lot of hiss and unwanted noise to the signal chain more so than the boss stuff.....

Franzoni

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **tunghaichuan** » 20 Feb 2012, 15:41

There are two versions of the American Metal, the FX56 American Metal and the FX56B Super American Metal. The FX56B sounds much better. It has a bass knob so it is a bit more flexible tonally than the FX56.

There were a few pedals that had basically the same circuit board, but had slightly different component values. I think the American Metal, Thrash Master, and Metal Maniac were in this camp. Also the

Grunge, Corrosion, and Metal X were also the same circuit, but with different cosmetics. They all sounded the same to me.

I had one of those DOD PDS-1550 Programmable Distortion pedals. It was pretty cool. It's been a while since I had one, but I could swear that the OD sound was similar to the FX-50B and the fuzz side was similar to the FX-52. The footswitch activators were identical to DOD pedals, so I think it would be okay to lump them in with DOD.

tunghaichuan

Re: DOD Journeys: The Good and the Bad Ones!!

by **verivorax** » 21 Feb 2012, 00:14

I've been trying to run a friend's FX-17 volume/wah/CV pedal with some of my synth gear with little success. I love the concept and construction, and hope that I can eventually get one of these functioning properly to sweep a filter (Moog MF-101 or my Korg X-911)..

verivorax