

Fury Fuzz

No shortage of Hendrix-inspired frizz and frazz here. A very '60s-voiced fuzz that can deliver thicker and darker buzz when the Push button is active.

Grass Modern Overdrive

Nice "subtle" reference to stoner rock here, and this pedal definitely evokes the blistered growl of bands such as Queens of the Stone Age and Mastodon.

Komp Opto Compressor

Unless you go for the lowest settings, this is definitely compression that you *hear*. No subtle grab—it's full-on squash with all notes ringing tough and evenly. I didn't hear any pumping, breathing, or other artifacts.

Lift Up Clean Boost

There's a good amount of level pumping here for sending solos or riffs over the band mix, and a Warm button to calm the attack if you hit the front end of your amp too hard. Very stout and articulate.

Trem Analog Tremolo

Inspired by the tremolo circuit on the Fender Twin, the Trem does speak vintage warble. It can also do slicer-type effects, as well as emulate the sexy swagger of the Smiths' classic intro to "How Soon Is Now."

Wally Mini Guitar Loop Station

So incredible that you can get a working looper down to this size, and keep operation very basic and functional. There's up to 15 minutes of loop memory available, one memory slot, and unlimited overdubs. All loops are solid and clean with no signal degradation over multiple overdubs.

Whip Metal Distortion

Insane amounts of sustain with a high-mid-range boost spoken quite loudly here. But even if you go for a massively saturated and aggro distortion tone, pushing the Edge button ensures that you'll still hear every note you play.

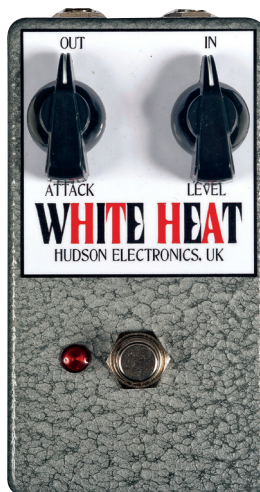


Fulltone MDV-1 Mini-Deja Vibe

\$176 street

Responding to ROHS regulations that effectively banned the use of the cadmium-based photocells used in original Uni-Vibes and most modern clones, Fulltone enlisted an electronics engineer to evaluate every aspect of vintage 'Vibe cells, and then used the data (in particular, the rise and fall response times) to have custom photocells manufactured that replicated their performance. Now used in Fulltone's Deja Vibes, tremolo, and ABY switching pedals, the effort appears to have paid off, as the MDV-1 we reviewed delivers gorgeously thick and lush "chorusing" effects that are switchable between Modern (brighter/tighter) and Vintage (softer/juicier) flavors. Rounding out this superb pedal are Volume, Intensity, and Speed controls, a Chorus/Vibrato switch, and 9-volt operation via included adapter, which is bumped up internally to the original Uni-Vibe's 18-volts.

fulltone.com —AT



Hudson Electronics White Heat

\$259 Street

Based on the classic, late-'60s Italian-made Vox Fuzz Box, this pedal uses two germanium transistors, and features hand-wired, stripboard construction. Controls are simple, consisting of just two pointer-style dials for Attack and Level, a heavy-duty Alpha footswitch, Neutrik ins and outs, and an external power jack (operation with a 9-volt battery is also an option). The White Heat's Level control sets the volume at unity around three quarters of the way up, so there's not much gain boost here. Increasing the Attack allows for a seamless transition from clean to all-out raspy buzz, and without taking anything away from your guitar's own tonal character. **hudsonelectronicssuk.com** —TG

Hudson Electronics Stroll On

\$269 street

Hand-built using a trio of germanium transistors, carbon-film resistors, CITEC pots, and other high-quality components, this pedal offers two-knob, one-button simplicity in the style of the classic Vox Mk II Professional pedal. A welcome deviation from the vintage template is the external power jack. The unit's Level control offers a significant gain boost even at the lowest setting, giving the Stroll On some bite even when it's set to "tame." As a matter of fact, the Level control alone can be used to dial in delicious amounts of overdrive, with the Attack control adding more of a fuzz character. All around, the Stroll On offers a nice blend of overdrive and fuzz, with great warmth, killer sustain, and lovely dynamics. **hudsonelectronicssuk.com** —TG



Pedalsmania!

Hudson Electronics Soul Bomb

\$342 street

The "Soul" side of this pedal seeks to combine tones akin to the Fuzz Face and an Italian-made Bender boost, while the "Bomb" side is based on a Rangemaster treble booster. The pedal's Boost and Thickness controls affect the fuzz side of the equation, while the Attack and Level dials control the booster, with the Level also determining the overall output if both effects are used. Although the two-button design allows you to access qualities of each, the Soul Bomb's real weapon is in turning these classic sounds into something of a hybrid. While the boost section's chunky and warm overdrive was tasty by itself, I found the fuzz portion a bit thin and bright. However, combining various settings of each side yielded some very cool tones that added a skanky vibe to a dirty base tone. hudsonelectronicsuk.com —TG



Hudson Electronics Fuzz

\$269 street

This is a pedal whose tonal character matches that of its large orange housing: There ain't nothing subtle about it. Featuring an NOS germanium transistor-based circuit, the pedal offers controls for Volume (overall output), Fuzz, and Treble Bass. The assertive nature of the pedal begins with the Volume control, which starts offering significant levels of boost around the 8 o'clock position, leaving you tons of room to crank it up further. The Fuzz knob delivered generous helpings of, well, fuzz, at virtually any setting—there isn't a smooth transition from no effect to having it kick in—but the range of tones available are impressive. I especially liked how it sounded on detuned low strings, with the Treble Bass control set to the darker side, yielding a surreal tone that was almost more pedal than guitar. hudsonelectronicsuk.com —TG

Hudson Electronics Gospel Bomb

\$225 street

The idea behind the Gospel Bomb is a germanium booster inspired by the famed Dallas Rangemaster. The Gospel Bomb ups the ante by adding a Thickness knob to allow you to dial in a fuller, warmer tone than the old-school unit could do. I ran the GB in front of the Blackstar LT Dual reviewed here, into the front end of a Blackstar ID:Core and a Fender Vaporizer. I cranked the Boost knob all the way and gave it a stomp and was met with a big, loud rock tone that was super dynamic. The Thickness control has a huge range and will go from bright and transparent to massively wooly. I loved what the Gospel Bomb did with the LT Dual's tones, either low or high gain. A fabulous-sounding, flexible boost. hudsonelectronicsuk.com —MB



Hudson Electronics Full Range Bomb

\$342 street

This hip take-off on the Maestro Full Range Boost features four discrete silicon boosters, which are labeled Bass, Mids, Upper Mids, and Treble. These are in parallel, not in series, and sculpt your guitar's signal in a very transparent way. You can boost, say, high mids without affecting lows or crank the mids and bass to substantially warm up a bright guitar. The right foot-switch toggles a fuzz circuit on and off, and it's an incredibly musical, dynamic fuzz. There isn't a ton of output, however, so if you want to slam your amp's front end you'll probably want to turn everything up all the way, which is my favorite setting on the FRB. (According to Hudson, the latest version has an additional 6dB of output.) It's packed with top-quality components, and it absolutely sounds great. hudsonelectronicsuk.com —MB