

Quick Hits



BOSS

DM-2w Waza Craft

By Charles Saufley

In their short production runs, Boss' analog delays, the DM-2 and DM-3 were done in by digital competition within the Boss family: the DD-2 and DD-3. Had Boss merely revived the DM-2 it would have been cause for celebration. But the newest incarnation, the DM-2w Waza Craft, stretches the capabilities of the original with sonically scintillating results.



To start, Boss retained the basic functionality and delay parameters of the original DM-2, which are accessible in standard mode. Here, the DM-2 reminds you how fat and natural good analog delay can sound—and if you've been in the trenches with digital delay for a spell, the tones can be a revelation. Custom mode addresses the short (300 ms maximum) delay times that were perceived as shortcomings in the early '80s by giving you an 800 ms ceiling. But custom mode is also just a touch clearer and brighter—and in a good way that doesn't undo the delicious, dark essence of the analog repeats. Better still, it turns the simple control set into a beautifully expressive and sensitive tool for generating organically swelling self-oscillation and ringing overtones that complement those dark and softly tapering echoes. Beautiful!

TEST GEAR *Fender Stratocaster, DeArmond JetStar, Fender Bassman, Vox AC1*

RATINGS

\$179 street, bossus.com

Tones	
Ease of Use	
Build/Design	
Value	

PROS Deep, sometimes beautifully dark, and immersive delays. Cool knob sensitivity.

CONS None.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR](http://premierguitar.com/dec2015) this pedal at premierguitar.com/dec2015



CRAZY TUBE CIRCUITS

Magnifier

By Shawn Hammond

Buffer/preamp pedals are typically deployed to reinvigorate a signal sapped of its treble vitality by lots of circuit capacitance (e.g., tons of pedals or long cables). But they're useful for far more than that—especially if you prefer tube amps dialed to the verge of breakup.



In this age of Klon worship, high-end buffers like the Crazy Tube Circuits Magnifier can often be a smaller, simpler, more affordable means to many of the same ends—particularly if the Centaur's main allure is its ability to massively boost your signal without changing its essential character. When I stuck the Magnifier at the end of a board with only eight pedals (including a tuner and one of the best Klon clones on the market), its 20 dB of clean boost—courtesy of a front-end by Butler Audio (of BK Butler Tube Driver fame)—rejuvenated my signal in ways that were, frankly, revelatory. Sparkling treble crispness returned with the gain knob around 9 o'clock, and from there on up I could drive my amps to so many degrees of gritty or sizzling glory that I began wondering what box might make better use of the clone's real estate.

TEST GEAR *Various guitars, Mooer LoFi Machine, Mojo Hand Fx El Guapo, Dunlop Cry Baby 535Q wah, Ibanez ES2 Echo Shifter, Catalinbread Topanga, Tsakalis Audioworks Tremmatic, Jaguar HC50, Goodsell Valpreaux 21*

RATINGS

\$129 street, crazytubecircuits.com

Tones	
Ease of Use	
Build/Design	
Value	

PROS Pristine, powerful boost. Sturdy, attractive craftsmanship. Internally selectable buffered or true-bypass modes.

CONS Price could be more competitive.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR](http://premierguitar.com/dec2015) this pedal at premierguitar.com/dec2015