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ELECTRO-HARMONIX

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Operation Overlord Allied Overdrive

Keep your options open with this versatile pedal ideal for any electronic instrument of your choice

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Overdrive pedal

FEATURES: Buffered bypass

CONTROLS: Volume, Treble, Mid, Bass, Dry, Boost, Gain, Input Level switch, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard outputs L (mono) and R

POWER: Supplied 9V DC adaptor (200mA)

DIMENSIONS: 105 (w) x 118 (d) x 54 mm (h)

There are many things about this overdrive that set it apart. First, it works with a variety of instruments so has three selectable input levels and full stereo operation plus mono in/stereo out (besides standard mono), should you find a way to use that in your guitar chain. It also has a Dry knob to blend in any amount of drive – useful for adding edge to a clean sound or keeping a certain amount of note clarity with a dirty sound. The drive sound, based on three JFET gain stages, is amp-like from a touch of grit through to cranked stack, but you can go further with the 'Boost' footswitch, which engages an extra overdrive circuit to push the drive sounds harder, adding saturation and ultimately edging it into fuzz territory, all with active tone knobs delivering sonic shaping from mild to brutal. [TC]

Tone Corset

The pedal that squeezes in your guitar at all the right places for shapely sounds

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Compressor pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Volume, Sustain, Blend, Attack, Pad switch, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor

DIMENSIONS: 72 (w) x 111 (d) x 50mm (h)

Based around OTA (Operational Transconductance Amplifier) circuitry like the MXR Dyna Comp, a two-knob job, the Tone Corset goes beyond the standard output volume and a Sustain knob for turning up the compression. It offers control over the attack with varying degrees of sharpness at the front edge, and a Blend knob sets up parallel compression. It also has a 'Pad' switch to set the right input for your guitar, preventing distortion caused by high-output humbuckers or an active bass. The compression sits well with the sound, keeping it in check and, with the extra gain that's available via the Volume knob, the Tone Corset offers a consistency that means you'll keep it permanently engaged. Rather than compressing the whole signal, Blend enables a more nuanced approach, keeping your natural sound's note attack while bolstering its body and eking out some extra sustain. [TC]

VERDICT A practical overdrive/distortion suitable for both guitar and studio applications.

8/10

VERDICT A pedalboard-friendly compressor with a good mix of options that complements guitar sound

8/10