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1 LUNASTONE THE PUSHER £85

ORIGIN: Denmark
TYPE: Boost pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Boost, bypass footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output
POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 37 (w) x 91 (d) x 33mm (h)

LunaStone
www.lunastonepedals.com

What is it about Denmark and classy pedals? We've had TC Electronic, Carl Martin and T-Rex. Now there's LunaStone, founded in 2012 by head engineer, Steen Grøntved. It's definitely on the up as TC Electronic's VP of marketing and director of finance have recently migrated there.

The Pusher is the company's most basic pedal – a mini-sized booster based around a JFET circuit with just one chickenhead knob to dial in the amount of boost. Even with the knob at its lowest, there's a pleasant shift in the sound with a touch of tonal enhancement in just the right area for clarity, and some compression offering extra punch, tempting you to keep the pedal permanently on. Turning the knob further increases the amount of boost up to up to about 15dB: more than enough to push an amp's front end into overdrive or to add a gain stage to a dirt pedal. [TC]

VERDICT A proper tone enricher – just leave it on to sound better or stomp on it for the next level

8/10

2 LUNASTONE BIG FELLA £209

ORIGIN: Denmark
TYPE: Overdrive pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Boost, Tone, Volume, Gain, OD1/OD2 switch, Boost footswitch, Drive footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output
POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 119 (w) x 93.5 (d) x 34mm (h)

This two-footswitch pedal combines an overdrive and a boost section, each operating independently so you can have boost, overdrive or both together. Overdrive has standard Gain, Volume and Tone, plus a choice of OD1 and OD2 voicings, selected via a toggle switch.

LunaStone describes its overdrive pedals as "True Overdrive"; their drive is created purely from cascading gain stages, rather than clipping diodes, and that manifests itself in a valve-like sound with natural compression. OD1 is less gainy and excels at sounds just on the edge of breaking up, to low-level crunchy overdrive. OD2 gets into higher-gain territory, from Marshall-style rhythm raunch to full-on harmonically rich, smooth distortion for sustaining leads. Tonally, the sound is full with plenty of thick bottom-end like a cranked stack, but still transparent enough to let your core tone shine through. [TC]

VERDICT A robust, natural-sounding drive/distortion suited for rock but versatile enough for other styles

8/10

3 LUNASTONE WISE GUY £209

ORIGIN: Denmark
TYPE: Overdrive pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Boost, Tone, Volume, Gain, OD1/OD2 switch, Boost footswitch, Drive footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output
POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 119 (w) x 93.5 (d) x 34mm (h)

With an identical control layout to the Big Fella, the Wise Guy's circuitry is based around the JRC4558D op-amp that's closely associated with the Tube Screamer genre of overdrives. Where the Big Fella has plenty of bottom-end, here it is rolled off in favour of an upper midrange emphasis, TS-style, that can tease out singing sustain. This goes beyond a mere clone, though. While it does offer that classic TS mid-boosted overdrive tone, there's much more gain available if you need it, with a very natural touch sensitivity going on that responds well to playing nuances.

The boost part of the pedal comes post-drive (as on the Big Fella) and, as such, offers up to 15dB to take the overall volume up or drive your amp harder: get it set just right in conjunction with the drive side of the pedal and you have great options for progressively adding more dirt to your natural amp sound. [TC]

VERDICT A naturally touch-sensitive overdrive and boost that will get your amp cooking

8/10

4 LUNASTONE THREE STAGE ROCKET £249

ORIGIN: Denmark
TYPE: Overdrive pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Boost, Level, Tone, OD1 Gain, OD2 Gain, Pre/Post Boost switch, Boost footswitch, OD1/OD2 footswitch, Drive footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output
POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 188 (w) x 120 (d) x 37mm (h)

The Three Stage Rocket has been designed in collaboration with Danish guitarist and producer Soren Andersen. The pedal is based around the Big Fella's circuitry and sound, but it expands on the design to include an extra footswitch that selects between the first and second gain stages of the drive section, which have also been given separate gain knobs.

The Boost section has been revised, too, in that you get a Pre/Post toggle switch that places the boost before or after the drive section. This means that you can just add volume or can push the drive section for more gain. For just £40 over the cost of the Wise Guy you're getting a lot of extra versatility that we think is well worth the outlay if the size of the pedal isn't an issue for you and your 'board. However, while it is big, it can do the job of three separate pedals and could be the only dirt/boost pedal you'll need on your 'board. [TC]

VERDICT Full footswitching flexibility from clean boost to full-on sustaining distortion: all-in-one drive solution

9/10

