

DANELECTRO

The Eisenhower Fuzz

Plug in to the supreme commander of the allied fuzzes...

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Phil Barker

Released alongside The Breakdown in Danelectro's new 'vintage' pedal range, which revives the sounds of certain 'lost' pedals, The Eisenhower Fuzz is said to be based on a 50-year-old fuzzbox with an octave effect. Resplendent in its distressed finish, the pedal features two selectable voices – Flat and Sculpt – suggesting to us that it may be based on the rare Univox Super-Fuzz, which had a similar two-position tone switch and was used on stage by Pete Townshend, notably on the *Live At Leeds* album.

Where you need to turn some fuzzboxes' Fuzz knobs up a bit to get a usable fuzz tone, you're good to go from the minimum here because the Eisenhower delivers a righteous fuzzy grind with that ever-present upper octave contributing a spitty attack to the notes. Setting the Volume knob at around 10 o'clock will give you parity with your amp's level, so there's plenty available if you want to dial in a boost, and the fuzz has the whole range of travel to the huge saturated fullness and harmonic-laden sustain at its end stop.

This is classic square wave fuzz with rough-edged texture and plenty of compression, and the two-position tone switch pretty much gives you two pedals in one. The Flat position retains all the mids, giving the pedal a snarky poke that definitely won't get lost in the mix, but with Sculpt you get a sharply executed scoop of the mids coupled with a side order of boosted low-end, creating a monolithic slab of sound for heavy chording but with that octave transient more prominent when playing single notes up the neck. Choose your weapon and tweak it with the Treble knob to enhance/subdue the brightness, and Bass to add more thump or clean up murkiness with a practical roll-off.

VERDICT

An invasion of octave fuzz seems underway with recent releases from Teisco and Dunlop, and this one storms the beaches with the best of them. Pete Townshend often used his pedal as a 'hooligan' fuzz to make noise at the end of songs and this could certainly inhabit that role – but with two distinct voices, it's a versatile fuzzbox capable of more than just freakouts. **G**



PROS Resurrects a rare and expensive vintage unit; choice of tonal modes; practical EQ; loads of gain
CONS We can take or leave that distressed finish; no switchable octave like some octave fuzzes

ALSO TRY...



TEISCO

Fuzz £149

Silicon-based with an optional upper octave switched in by a small top-panel toggle switch, this fuzz takes its inspiration from the 70s Foxx Tone Machine with a sound that's every bit as thick, fat and edgy-sounding as we remember the Foxx to be.



ANASHEAD EFFECTS

V2 Superfuzz €110

From a boutique pedal maker in Spain comes this updated Super-Fuzz clone with some mods. A Tone knob blends between the two Superfuzz flat and scooped modes, while the Octave knob takes out the octave signal leaving just the fuzz.



BYOC

Leeds Fuzz \$59+

A kit of parts for those who fancy building their own Super-Fuzz clone. Named after The Who's legendary live album, this has the two-position tone switch but also features an internal trim-pot to adjust the octave.



Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Fuzz pedal

FEATURES:

True bypass,
suede carrying bag,
distressed finish

CONTROLS: Volume,
Fuzz, Treble, Bass,
Flat/Sculpt switch,
bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input,
standard output

POWER: 9V DC adaptor
(not supplied)

DIMENSIONS: 60 (w) x
113 (d) x 55mm (h)



9/10