



TOTAL  
Guitar  
BEST BUY  
AWARD



## FUZZ PEDAL ROUND-UP

**S**ome of the greatest distorted guitar riffs and licks ever were created using the unmistakable sound of fuzz. Marty Robbins' guitarist Grady Martin is the man credited with accidentally discovering fuzz back in 1961, when a dodgy preamp gave his guitar the classic distorted tone. Fast-forward a few years and pedals that replicated the effect, such as the Maestro Fuzz-Tone, Electro-Harmonix Big Muff and the Dallas-Arbiter Fuzz Face were catching on with Keith Richards, Carlos Santana and David Gilmour and many others. Fuzz has come a long way since those early days, so here we're looking at four modern pedals and the fuzzed-out craziness you can wring that from each of them. Ranging from smooth, brass-like sustained notes to shrill, teeth-grinding velcro fuzz tones, it's all here. Let's dive in.

### KHDK Scuzz Box HAMMETT-APPROVED DIRTBOX

£169

**F**rom Kirk Hammett's KHDK stable, the Scuzz Box offers two very different modes (Fuzz and Scuzz). Fuzz is much like any germanium fuzz (think Hendrix-era Fuzz Face), giving great dynamic tones that clean up nicely with your guitar's volume, while the tone and deep knobs act more as high- and low-cuts respectively. Where it really comes into its own however, is on the Scuzz setting. This gives you a gated velcro fuzz tone with hint of octave/bit-crushed effects, but never becomes thin and grating in the top-end like some more extreme fuzzes can. There's also a buffer switch that's really handy for reducing interference when used in conjunction with other pedals or long cables.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★

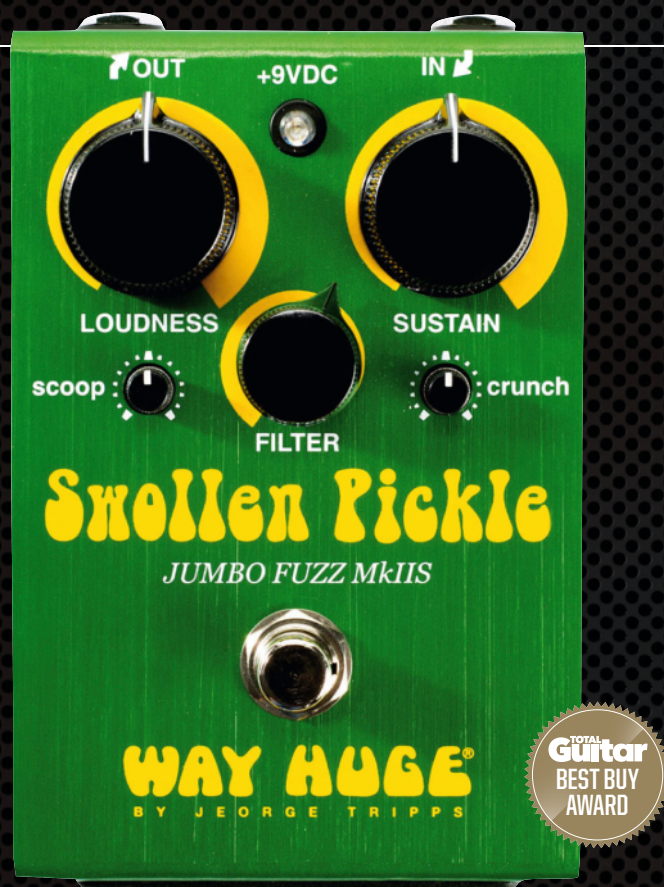
### Electro-Harmonix Nano Big Muff Pi THE BIG ONE'S LITTLE BROTHER

£62

**T**he Big Muff is the world's best-known fuzz pedal, and similar to its far bigger relative, the Nano incarnation has three controls: volume, tone and sustain. The Nano does a great job of emulating the classic Big Muff riffs, with that familiar scooped mid sound, particularly when the tone is set past 12 o'clock – although this can make it struggle to cut through live. That said, this Nano has a quieter noise floor than its big brother, making it useful for stacking with other dirt pedals – a Tube Screamer or similar will boost those mids back up. Compared with the original, this holds up very well indeed.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★





Go after the enormous filth tones of Hendrix, Homme and Mascis with this quartet of variably voiced fuzz monsters

## Way Huge Swollen Pickle MkII

COMICAL NAME, COLOSSAL FUZZ

£129

**Y**ou may already be aware of the original Swollen Pickle, and this MkII offers a similar fuzz in a more 'board-friendly' footprint. Its controls are extremely powerful, allowing you to achieve a vast array of fuzz tones – from subtle warmth to face-melting filth. This Pickle also features two internal pots labelled Clip and Voice. Clip gives you the option of a smooth warm fuzz all the way up to an massive sustained fuzz, whereas Voice sets the intensity of the external scoop control. Besides the incredible versatility, we also love the practical addition of a convenient nine-volt battery door for easy access.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★

## TC Electronic Rusty Fuzz

RUST IN PIECES

£49

**T**he Rusty Fuzz again takes its sonic footprint from the Fuzz Face. For a fuzz pedal, it's actually relatively polite and a bit of a challenge to get gnarly, treble-heavy tones without use in conjunction with an overdrive/booster. Similar to the original Fuzz Faces, the output of the Rusty is relatively low, but it's great for big fat powerchords for a Queens Of The Stone Age vibe, even if it lacks the top-end cut for lead work. Of course, that's why vintage fuzz fans tend to run them into already overdriven amps. For under £50, though, it's hard to fault the build quality, and there's true bypass switching to boot.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★

### AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Fuzz pedals  
POWER REQUIREMENTS: 9V battery or PSU  
CONTACT:  
Zoom Distribution UK  
01462 791100  
[www.khdkelectronics.com](http://www.khdkelectronics.com)  
Electro-Harmonix  
[www.ehx.com](http://www.ehx.com)  
Westside Distribution  
0844 326 2000  
[www.wayhuge.com](http://www.wayhuge.com)  
TC Electronic  
0800 917 8926  
[www.tcelectronic.com](http://www.tcelectronic.com)