



# RUSSIAN FUZZ ROUND-UP

**T**he Green Russian Big Muff Pi, that was produced in the early 1990s by EHX's sister company Sovtek, is widely credited with turning around the fortunes of the then-ailing company. The legend goes that the units were housed in materials taken from scrapped Russian tanks and they were legendary for switch faults and the lack of power jacks. Nevertheless, the Green Russian Big Muff Pi came to be highly prized for a generation of players who were looking for an alternative to the thinner, brighter NYC Muff fuzz sound. In standard tuning, these coveted fuzzes deliver robust highs and fat bass, while in drop tunings they're instant stoner and doom riff machines.

So do these modern reissues deliver on that formula? Let's take a look and find out...

## EarthQuaker Devices Hoof V2

£185

### STOMP ON THIS

**A**lthough based on the Green Russian circuit, the EarthQuaker Hoof eschews the silicon transistors of the original for a hybrid design using both germanium and silicon transistors. This results in a woolier tone with less treble content and no ability to conjure squishy octave artifacts that you'd normally associate with the Fuzz Face circuit. The tone sweep is very usable, particularly when paired with the shift control: a mids pot in the style of the AMZ tone control, one of the most famous DIY mods for the original. Being able to tame the mid scoop, or add extra bite brings a new dimension.

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

## Electro-Harmonix Green Russian Big Muff

£75

### MEAN AND GREEN

**G**iven the number of modifications, clones and evolutions of the original, you'd expect to find the reissue prosaic by comparison, but though there are no bells and whistles, diming the sustain control and then sweeping the tone from left to right gives immediate access to the fat stoner tones, thick grunge and lo-fi, slacker-style treble scratch that have ensured the legacy of the original. The rock-solid build quality, added to its svelte form factor and attractive price point, make this pedal hard to resist.

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





With EHX finally reissuing its now classic Green Russian variant of the Big Muff, we test drive a few alternatives to the original...

## COG Effects Tarkin Fuzz £130

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

**A**lthough this purports to be the same circuit that the EHX reissue is based on, when settings are compared side-by-side it's noticeably less scooped in the mids and tighter overall in the bass frequencies, arriving at a sound that's closer to modern adaptations of the original circuit that bring the mids forward. With the mids more present, it's more like a distortion at times than the classic Big Muff fuzz tone, but the sounds are in the ball park, with additional low and high pass filters useful for altering the tonal scope of the pedal. Not for the purists, but for big, focussed riffing it's hard to beat.

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

## Way Huge Russian Pickle £177

NEED MORE CRUNCH?

**B**ased on the so-called 'tall font' version of the Russian Big Muff, the Way Huge Russian Pickle has probably the most pronounced bass response of the four reviewed pedals on this page, offering thick bass and a punishing amount of fuzz and volume on tap. With the tone rolled up there are brighter sounds on offer, but it's a little bit of a balancing act to find the sweet spot between treble sizzle and bass thump. Stoner rockers will no doubt delight in the syrupy, legato sustain, but grunge fans might find it a bit on the looser side, especially when in dropped tunings.

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

### AT A GLANCE

**BYPASS** All true bypass  
**POWER REQUIREMENTS** EQD, EHX, COG: 9V centre-negative power supply; Way Huge: 9V centre-negative power supply or battery  
**CONTACT** Audio Distribution Group +45 6574 8228 audiodistributiongroup.com Electro-Harmonix +44 179 247 3258 ehx.com Cog Effects cogeffects.co.uk Westside Distribution 0844 326 2000 westsidedistribution.com