

ROUND UP

Fender pedals

The Fender pedal family expands with this dirt-dishing trio

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VIDEO DEMOS ► <http://bit.ly/guitaristextra>

During 2018's NAMM show, Fender launched six new pedals developed by lead designer Stan Cotey's team, who had previously worked on some custom Fender amps for the likes of Eric Clapton and The Edge. We took a look at those (Pugilist Distortion, Marine Layer Reverb, Mirror Image Delay, Santa Ana Overdrive, The Bends Compressor and Level Set Buffer) last summer – three more pedals have since been released, designed, says Fender, to deliver heavier and more gritty rock tones.

Featuring all-original circuits, these pedals have the same curvy anodised aluminium housing as their predecessors with 'jewel' bypass LED, offset input and output jacks for closer spacing, plus an easy battery-changing function that makes use of a magnetically latched hinged flap at the end of the pedal, which pulls down and flips back into place when you let go of it. The look is completed by knobs with blue LED-lit position markers (with an on/off switch) that help you see where your parameters are on a darkened stage. **G**



Engager Boost

£87

Offering up to 20dB of clean boost, the Engager Boost features three-band EQ to target that boost just where you need it. The Level knob delivers boost smoothly from its unity gain starting position through to the full 20dB, which is more than enough to tickle a clean amp's valves into overdrive. Bring in the EQ and there are plenty of opportunities to excite certain frequencies. The Treble and Bass knobs cover pertinent ranges – the treble's top-end enhancement being particularly tasty. Perhaps more crucial for some, though, is the Middle knob with its two frequency ranges to operate in: one throaty, the other more like an amp's presence knob, but both offering options to project through a mix. There's a range of switchable boosts to take things to another level or add an extra voice to a drive pedal, but there's another role as an 'always on' tone builder and buffer. **G**

VERDICT Tightly focused EQ and optional use as a buffer make this one flexible booster



The Pelt Fuzz

£96

The Pelt supplements the standard fuzzbox controls of Fuzz, Output Level and Tone with a 'Bloom' knob and a pair of toggle switches to shape its silicon-based fuzz. Besides the standard sound, the Mid switch offers either a slightly scooped midrange cut or adds a mid hump for a bit more honk, while Thick fattens up the bottom-end. Combine those with the Tone knob that rolls back from an edgy top-end to a more woolly vibe, and you've got quite a tonal range to play with. The range of dirt is quite wide, too, from drive/distortion at lower levels of the Fuzz knob through to unmistakable full-on sustaining fuzz. The unique asset here, though, is that Bloom knob, which affects its textural character. As you turn it from 'Soft' to 'Hard' you get an increase in note attack, a spongier feel under your fingertips, plus more sustain and harmonics, moving towards a more sputtery fuzz experience. **G**

VERDICT Characterful modern fuzz with a ton of options to dial in your exact needs



Full Moon Distortion

£135

Fender says that the Full Moon Distortion is its first ever high-gain distortion and that's exactly what it delivers running all-out, although it's also capable of raunchy overdrive at lower gain settings. It's a dual-footswitch pedal with up to 12dB of post-gain boost available with the second footswitch should you want to kick the volume up a notch. The basic voicing of the distortion is set by the Texture toggle switch, which selects between symmetrical and asymmetrical clipping (most apparent in the thickness of the midrange), while a top row of four knobs provides plenty of EQ'ing options. These include a nice interaction of Treble and Hi-Treb knobs – one adjusting the presence, the other tweaking the top-end sheen. In addition, a Bite switch delivers a shift in the upper midrange emphasis, which is great for bringing out more harmonics and pick attack. **G**

VERDICT Versatile source of heavier distortion; practicality of two onstage levels

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Boost pedal

FEATURES: True or buffered bypass

CONTROLS: Level, Bass, Treble, Middle, Middle Frequency switch, True/Buffered Bypass switch, LEDs On/Off switch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 30mA

DIMENSIONS: 76 (w) x 125 (d) x 60 mm (h)

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Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Fuzz pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Level, Tone, Bloom, Fuzz, Mid switch, Thick switch, LEDs On/Off switch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 30mA

DIMENSIONS: 76 (w) x 125 (d) x 60 mm (h)



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Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Distortion pedal

FEATURES:

Buffered bypass

CONTROLS: High-Treb, Treble, Middle, Bass, Level, Boost, Gain, Texture switch, Bite switch, LEDs On/Off switch, Boost footswitch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)

DIMENSIONS: 100 (w) x 125 (d) x 62 mm (h)

8/10

