

Suhr Effects Pedals **£179 each**

We like its guitars and amps, now here are some pedals from the US firm...

WORDS **Trevor Curwen**

PHOTOGRAPHY **Joby Sessions**

Maybe better known for its guitars, or indeed its amps, Suhr has also made pedals for several years and has recently introduced new reworked versions of some of its designs under the 'Reloaded' banner. Its pedals have the unique ability to be operated via a remote footswitch plugged into its FX Link mini-jack. This works in conjunction with a three-way switch: one position allowing use of the remote footswitch, the other two determining whether the pedal powers up in a bypassed or active state.



Suhr Shiba Drive Reloaded

PRICE: £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Overdrive pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Drive, level, tone, Smooth switch, FX Link switch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, FX Link stereo mini-jack

POWER: 9V battery or 9V-18V DC power supply (8mA)

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 114 (d) x 32mm (h)

www.suhr.com



The Shiba Reloaded tweaks the overdrive circuit of Suhr's 2009 original to create a pedal that is more amp-like, has a tighter low-end, focused mids, and features 50 per cent more gain. Balancing drive and level knobs, the range runs from a clean boost to raunchy driven amp sounds, taking in shades of light crunch along the way. It's full-bodied, without overdoing the mids, yielding a naturally open sound that will keep your basic tone intact and serve as a way to 'transparently' take your amp up a gear – whether that's adding crunch to a clean amp or making a driven amp sing. The tone knob lets you crisp up or tone down the upper-mids, while a three-way Smooth switch lets you subtly roll off two different amounts of top end: useful to take some of the sharpness out of a Telecaster's bridge pickup.

Verdict

One of the most naturally playable overdrives around. What's the easiest amp mod to enhance your tonal options? Putting one of these in front of it...

GUITARIST RATING

★★★★★

Guitarist says: Amp-enhancing overdrive with a choice of smoothness

Suhr Rufus

PRICE: £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Fuzz pedal

FEATURES: True bypass, switching between 2 modes

CONTROLS: Fuzz, level, bass, mid, treble switch, FX Link switch,

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, FX Link stereo mini-jack

POWER: 9V battery or 9V-18V DC power supply

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 114 (d) x 32mm (h)



Silicon transistor-based, the Rufus has more tonal tweaking power than many fuzzes as it features both a three-band EQ, and a three-position treble switch, which can be used to cut or boost the amount of high frequencies. It also has two modes of operation: normal or fat (with increased low end) that can be switched between by holding down the footswitch – the LED lights up green or red respectively. Alternatively, this can be carried out by an external footswitch, which can be set to latching or momentary action.

Delivering great-sounding fuzz whether you like thick sustain or edgier garage/grunge-type sounds, this pedal has practical options and is not finicky about positioning on your 'board, as it accepts the output of a buffered device.

Verdict

Fuzz pedals can be very 'niche' but the Rufus transcends that by virtue of its tonal variation, twin voices and signal chain flexibility. It's not cheap but it's a fuzz that's more versatile than most.

GUITARIST RATING

★★★★★

Guitarist says: A fuzz for all seasons, with variety and versatility in spades



<http://bit.ly/guitarist394>



Suhr Riot Reloaded

PRICE: £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Distortion pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Distortion, level, tone, voice switch, FX Link switch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, FX Link stereo mini-jack

POWER: 9V battery or 9V-18V DC power supply (8mA)

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 114 (d) x 32mm (h)



The Riot Reloaded is another re-worked pedal, this time adding 30 per cent more gain than the original and three voicing options via a toggle switch. As well as distortion and level knobs, the tone knob focuses the distortion in an optimum range: never too dull or too fizzy. The Riot can not only sit in front of a clean amp to deliver driven and high-gain amp tones, making a Fender Deluxe come over all Marshall JCM800, but also offers an extra dimension for a already driven amp. The first of the voicings (presumably based around Germanium diodes) is naturally responsive to instrument volume; the second offers more bottom-end girth and midrange clout; while the third yields scooped-midrange clarity. These are ideal choices to complement various rock and metal styles, but all have an effective upper-mid presence that will let you be heard... whatever your music.

Verdict

A stack-in-a-box with practical voicing options for classy amp-style distortion.

GUITARIST RATING

★★★★★

Guitarist says: Natural amp-like distortion that will transform a clean amp

Suhr Koji Comp

PRICE: £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Compressor pedal

FEATURES: True bypass (switchable to buffered), traffic light LED for compression strength

CONTROLS: Compression, level, attack, mix, voice switch, FX Link switch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, FX Link stereo mini-jack

POWER: 9V battery or 9V-18V DC power supply

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 114 (d) x 32mm (h)



Besides the standard compression and level knobs you'd expect on any compressor, the Koji Comp also offers a mix knob, which lets you mix some direct sound in with the effected one for parallel compression blends. It also has enough output gain to boost your amp into overdrive, which combines well with a voice switch that can deliver extra top end. There are two distinct EQ boosts: one in the upper-mids only, the other offering upper-mid boost combined with a glassy top end. This counteracts compression-created dullness and also adds a sweet chime that's particularly effective on clean notes and chords. There's a wide range of compression here, from a smooth evening of dynamics to the thick squash of a vintage Dyna Comp, with plenty of scope to dial in a percussive edge to your note via the attack knob.

Verdict

With a neat blend of facilities, not least the mix knob's subtleties, this should take care of all your compression needs.

GUITARIST RATING

★★★★★

Guitarist says: Versatile compression with extra top end if you need it