

Seymour Duncan Alnico II Pro Slash

Can't stretch to Slash's signature Gibson? Try these instead

£105
(each)

£210
(pair)

Installation
Fitting the pickups is straightforward with the two-conductor wiring



High output
Slash's pickups have extra windings for higher output and greater sustain

Slash logo
The only visual clue that this is a signature pickup is the logo on the baseplate

At a glance

Seymour Duncan Alnico II Pro Slash

TYPE: Humbucker
POSITION: Neck/Bridge
MAGNET: Alnico II
WIRING: 2x conductor
FINISH: Black, Zebra, Reverse Zebra
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The cost of Gibson's Appetite Les Paul might have left you reeling, but Seymour Duncan's offering means you can throw yourself top hat first into the Snakepit at a snip of the price.

These Alnico II Pro Slash neck and bridge humbuckers (available individually or as a pair, with either Black, Zebra or Reverse Zebra bobbins) are the same units that feature in the Appetite Les Paul. They're supplied with a two-conductor cable, so can only be wired as



standard 'buckers out of the box. Installing pickups like this is as easy as it gets, but clear instructions ensure even newbies get these into their guitar quickly.

Plugged in, both pickups are particularly rich sounding

compared to the stock models in our LTD Eclipse. The neck 'bucker delivers a fat rhythm sound that doesn't get too flabby when you add some distortion, and with the tone rolled back slightly you can achieve Slash's famous neck lead sound. The bridge pickup opens up more upper mid range, making those sustained powerchords and cutting lead tones easily achievable.

Conclusion: Signature gear can be divisive and usually carries a hefty price tag. However, the

only visual sign of these pickups' signature status is the Slash scrawl on the baseplate, and if you shop around you'll notice that they're not much more than Duncan's standard Alnico Pro II pickups. Slash fan or not, these pickups give more classic/hard rock sounds for your pound.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Great tone at a reasonable price

Against: No coil tap wiring option

★★★★★

TG says: Marlboro not included

Pro Co Reissue '85 Whiteface RAT

This filthy little vermin is an alternative legend

£229

Heritage
'Whiteface' refers to the white print surrounding the Pro Co logo.



Controls
Different combos of Filter and Gain settings take you from smooth to sick

Rat sound
The '85 reissue is a limited run featuring the exact circuit of the original model

Pro Co founder Charlie Wicks (who sadly passed away in March) first started building the Rat in 1978 and, after a couple of incarnations, the Whiteface arrived in '85. At the heart of the Rat's sound is the LM308 op-amp chip; it's what many collectors regard to be the key ingredient in vintage versions. This pedal is the only one in the current Pro Co range to include it.

The Rat is a basic design with Gain, Filter and Volume controls



and an on/off stomp switch. With the Gain set low and Filter rolled back, you get a dark, vintage-sounding overdrive. As you boost the Gain and open the Filter, the pedal starts breaking

up and the Rat's real character shows its face. Push the Gain past two-thirds with the Filter set to max and you're into the harshest clipping territory. It's this fat, heavily broken distortion that has made the Rat an alt rock staple.

Conclusion: The popularity of pedals like this has taken grot-box fuzz pedals out of the junk shop and into the boutique world. If you obsess about vintage gear, you'll love the '85's faithfulness. Equally, crank the

gain and you can indulge in the same lung-filling levels of fuzz that Kurt Cobain, Graham Coxon and Frank Black made famous, too. The only thing left to consider is the price: there's £140 difference between this and the £89 non-LM308 loaded Rat 2.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Authentic grungy distortion

Against: You need to justify the price

★★★★☆

TG says: The Rat is back