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1 J ROCKETT HOOLIGAN £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Fuzz pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Level, Gain,

Gunk, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 59 (w) x 104 (d) x 45mm (h)

Sonic Distribution

0845 500 2 500

www.rockettpedals.com



The **Hooligan** is a version of JRAD's WTF Fuzz in Tour Series form. The company has made some tonal tweaks to the Paul Trombetta-designed pedal and made the design simpler by losing the 'Boost' section and the EQ switch.

The stepped WTF knob is now named Gunk and it's this, in conjunction with the Gain knob, that gives the Hooligan its special character. Keep the Gunk knob at minimum and you'll get nicely voiced low-to-medium overdrive. Turning it up, though, shoots it through with thickness, compression and sustain, creating a fuzz tone that lets notes bloom and take off into controlled feedback and singing harmonics – all beautifully pulled back from the brink by your guitar's volume knob. Past midway, Gunk gets lairy as the pedal offers up bottom-string notes with a trombone or synth bass vibe, eventually getting into messy ringmod-style flavour and dying-battery sputtering. **[TC]**

VERDICT Practical drive and fuzz – just the job for a whole spectrum of characterful dirt in a single pedal

9/10

2 J ROCKETT .45 CALIBER £189

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Drive pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Loud,

Gain, Treble, Bass,

bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 59 (w) x 104 (d) x 45mm (h)



The **.45** in the name refers to JTM45, Marshall's classic 60s amp that the pedal is designed to emulate. The output knob, appropriately named Loud, can give you a slight boost from three o'clock onwards with the Gain set at minimum, not adding dirt of its own, but endowing your amp with a different tonal profile.

The midrange is Marshall all the way, forward in its upper range with Treble and Bass knobs to carve round the edges. The Treble is very effective in matching the pedal to your amp: rolling it back gives our Fender combo more of that Brit character. Turning the gain up nails that Marshall raunch with bags of bite and a solid punch, especially if you boost that low-end thump with the Bass knob.

Classic rock players will love the aggression of the edgy rhythm tones and the responsive-to-touch articulate but sustaining lead tone available at the upper reaches of the Gain knob. **[TC]**

VERDICT A drive pedal that feels (and sounds) like playing through a classic Brit valve amp

9/10

3 J ROCKETT LENNY £179

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Boost pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Boost, Tone,

bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 59 (w) x 104 (d) x 45mm (h)



Named for Stevie Ray Vaughan (*Lenny* is, of course, an instrumental track dedicated to his wife), this simple two-knob boost and tone conditioner has roots in the sound of a Dumble Steel String Singer amp, as used by SRV, being pushed hard. Designed to colour your tone with a midrange character reminiscent of that amp, it will give your guitar real presence in a mix. The Tone knob's range works perfectly with your amp to focus the top-end where you need it and is capable of bringing out a plangent chime.

Even without too much in the way of boost, this pedal is a lovely tone improver that feels good to play through, but if you do want to drive your amp harder, there's plenty here to get it sweetly singing. Our favourite use, though, is in front of an overdrive pedal where it proves a superb tool to really squeeze out the juice, kicking things to the next level. **[TC]**

VERDICT A switchable boost or an 'always on' tonal building block to tease out the tone in your rig

9/10

4 J ROCKETT TRANQUILIZER £199

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Modulation pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Blend,

Focus, Fat, Speed,

bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

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

Back in the 1970s, the Phase 45 was a more affordable MXR phaser option next to the Phase 90 and Phase 100, but its two-stage phasing offered a subtlety that meshed well with guitar. The Tranquilizer started life based on the 45, but has been spiced up into a four-knob modulation machine capable of both phasing and vibe sounds: 100 per cent phaser with the Blend knob fully left, and 100 per cent vibe at the other extreme, with a mixture of both in-between.

There's modulation speed adjustment and a Fat knob for matching low-end to pickups, but the overall effect relies on the Focus knob, which acts like an internal bias pot, tweaking the intensity of the effect across an arc between 10 and two o'clock. Small tweaks make crucial changes, but careful knob placement can get you slowly evolving phasing, plus rotary and Uni-Vibe flavours naturally blended into your guitar tone. **[TC]**

VERDICT A classy modulator offering gentle phasing and vibe that can combine for subtle hybrid blends

8/10