



The ReezaFRATzitz is destined to become a classic

A fellow foot-stomping friend of mine called me a few years back. "I just got this thing from the US. You've got to hear it!" I thought the name was ridiculous, but I came, I heard and, of course, I got severe GAS (Gear Acquisition Syndrome). After hearing mine, friends now have these on their pedalboards as well.

That's pretty much how this exciting pedal has become so renowned – guitarists telling their mates. Maybe if it was called the 'Uber-gain' or the 'Axe Grinder' many more people would be trying them out in music stores, as the name 'ReezaFRATzitz' gives you absolutely no clue as to what sort of pedal this actually is.

REEZA GEEZA

The EMMA ReezaFRATzitz is an overdrive/distortion pedal that somehow manages to retain the basic character of your original guitar signal and make it sound like it's been pushed into a high-gain amp. This may sound simple, but believe me, it isn't. Achieving a high level of great-sounding gain in a pedal is an art form that few have managed to master. Classic effect pedals like the Pro Co Rat and Electro-Harmonix Big Muff are unique voices in this category, and I put the Reeza right up there with this prestigious bunch.

EMMA'S SWEET SPOT

When I first got the Reeza I thought it was fantastic but recently I worked out how to dial in the most outrageous tone. Set the level and

tone controls to suit whatever rig you're using. Next is a very clever bias control that allows you to morph between Class-A biasing, which has more bite, and Class-B, which changes the compression characteristics of the gain.

However, the key to making this little beauty sing is the gain control. The really sweet tones come from restraining the primal beast within and turning the gain down. It's one of those things that doesn't quite make sense, but you have to forget about what the settings on the knobs look like and just listen.

For my rock crunch tone, the gain is set no higher than 11 o'clock, which is still a massive amount of gain and sounds absolutely superb. It shines in any mix, with crisp highs, a warm musical mid-range and a fat, tight bottom end. As it reacts just like an amp, you can stack it with a treble booster for one of the most outrageous lead tones you've ever heard!



PAWN STARS

EVER WISH THAT YOU'D BOUGHT A CLASSIC PEDAL BEFORE THE PRICE WENT THROUGH THE ROOF? WELL HERE'S YOUR CHANCE...

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY?

Brand-new, you can pick one up for £120. In good condition on eBay they go for just under a ton, which is such fantastic value. This pedal is destined to become a classic, not least because it gives you the ultimate Scrabble weapon – get this on a triple word score and it's game over! In years to come you'll remember this article when you see originals going on the 'Bay for the price of a small island in Mauritius! **GB**

THE AUTHOR

DAN'S THE MAN



Dan Steinhardt has a 200GB hard drive instead of a brain, where he stores endless FX and electronics knowledge.

He's the boss man of TheGigRig Ltd (www.thegigrig.com) and we're honoured to have him contributing to the magazine.