
Subject: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [moogyboy](#) on Sat, 31 Jan 2004 21:48:38 GMT
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Okay, another question for the techs.

I've already stated my wild guess that the Harmonic Clipper circuit is basically a fuzz circuit rather than the overdrive you usually find on guitar amps. It sure sounds that way to me, the way it breaks up as a note decays. I'm thinking one of those two- or three-transistor fuzz circuits, like a Fuzz Face or a Tone Bender, cuz I sure don't see any dag-blasted ICs in there.

Question: am I correct or are my ears full of \$#!t?

Also, on mine the HC knob basically just changes the overall volume of the fully-fuzzed signal (from quite soft to full volume) rather than the intensity of the fuzz effect itself. Is *this* a problem?

Whatever it is, it is a totally wicked distortion! AFAIC it blows those weenie heavy metal amps back to the crib. I bet no one else playing the OSU campus circuit has anything like my Harmonic Clipper at their beck and call. I can't wait.

regards

Billy S.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [QModer](#) on Sun, 01 Feb 2004 05:04:29 GMT
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I've only heard it one time and I have the opinion as you. I have also heard it in a peavy too. But of course I don't like the peavy one as well. But interestingly enough the peavy was a 400 watt bass amp.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [stevem](#) on Tue, 03 Feb 2004 12:47:25 GMT
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Hi. Of all my K200s I have only one has the full package, and that section of the amp has to be looked at and I have not had the time yet. So I as of yet have not heard what it should sound like.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [pleat](#) on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 03:33:44 GMT
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I have had a few of the #4 heads in both the A and B series, and I do remember years ago getting

the #4 head with the clipper, it just sucked so bad, and even the ones I have had in the near past reminded me that it is the most ragged sounding fuzz, no sustain, the notes just cut out. My 1965 dallas arbiter fuzz face will still out perform anything I have hear today in the fuzz market. The new reissue fuzz face still sounds cheap comparing it with my original.

Of course sound is a personal thing, but I wouldn't buy a #4 head just for that feature.

Don

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper

Posted by [QModer](#) on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 06:47:00 GMT

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I've got two of the old Fuzz face dallas arbitor fuzzes. One red and one blue.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 16:16:06 GMT

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But that's what's so charming about the Harmonic Clipper, is that balls-out nasty, crude buzzsaw fuzz sound. Terrific for power chords! Regular old amp overdrive is just so boring. The HC is UNIQUE. Isn't uniqueness one of the things that makes Kustoms special? I sure didn't go with Kustom so that I could sound like Stevie Ray or Hendrix. :-D

I'd liken this fuzz sound more to something like a Maestro Fuzz Tone, a Fuzzrite, or one of those other early, less-refined devices. The Fuzz Face is definitely a smoother, more singing tone; this one is more a shouter. :-)

cheers

Billy S.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 16:18:27 GMT

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I realize I just contradicted myself there. First it is a Fuzz Face, then it's not a Fuzz Face. Doh. I'm not stupid, just careless. Ha. Ha.

Billy S.

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper

Posted by [JB](#) on Wed, 04 Feb 2004 21:07:53 GMT

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Billy your right tho' it is and it ain't. I like using two or three distortion sounds (not at the same time ;) and the Kustom is pure pycodelic, yea baby, yea!
I have the Harmonic Clipper, "Hot cake" and an old Ross distortion and they are all great for a variety of sounds. Just a note, if you're not getting sustain from you're Harmonic Clipper then it may not be working properly or you're not pushing the main/master channel volume enough. At first I had trouble getting a good sound till I cut back on the clipper volume and pushed the master past half way, try it. John

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Feb 2004 16:23:09 GMT
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The harmonic clipper control does just set the output level. The amount of clipping can be varied slightly depending on the volume control level and input level of the guitar.

The circuit itself is very simple - a single transistor with a single diode between the base and collector. Two other transistors are used to switch it in and out of the circuit.

If you search the web and look at some of the DIY effect sites, look for a circuit called "BAZZ" ... like at this URL for a rough idea how it's put together:

<http://www.runoffgroove.com/bazz.html>

Subject: Re: Harmonic Clipper
Posted by [QModer](#) on Sat, 07 Feb 2004 07:22:59 GMT
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Thats and interesting post that anon LOL.. I've always wondered how those things were set up.
