

ROUND-UP

Danelectro pedals

The vintage-loving brand resurrects more rarities but keeps it in the family

Words Trevor Curwen **Photography** Olly Curtis

The aim of Danelectro's 'vintage' pedal range, complete with its distressed housings, is to revive the sounds of certain 'lost' pedals. So far, with The Breakdown and The Eisenhower Fuzz, the new additions haven't named specific pedals, instead dropping broad hints as to which long-lost classics are being emulated, which leaves the sleuthing to us. That policy seems to have changed with the latest in the series as both are revealed to be members of the extended Dano family.

Danelectro owner Steve Ridinger created the FOXX pedal line in the 70s, and the first of these newbies resurrects what is that company's best-known pedal, the Tone Machine octave fuzz. It's now named the 3699 fUZZ, 3699 being the numbers that represent the letters FOXX on a vintage telephone dial. The second is a straight ahead reissue of a Danelectro original from around 20 years ago: the Back Talk reverse delay. Solidly built, both are powered by battery (accessed via four baseplate screws) or a nine-volt adaptor.



Back Talk Reverse Delay £189

Used versions of the strangely owl-shaped Back Talk from the early Noughties can now sell for prices in excess of £200. Ripe for reissue, then, although this time it's less aerodynamically shaped. Designed for 1960s tape reverse effects, it takes any note you play and repeats a backwards version of it after a set delay time. A Repeats knob governs the number of repeats from one to infinite, while the Speed knob sets the length of that delay, with results from otherworldly reverb'd tremolo-type effects through to longer backward echoes that can sound mesmerising, especially when you can get your playing right in sync with them.

Key to the effect is the Mix knob, which can go from dialling in just enough haunting ambience to pique your audience's interest, through to removing the dry sound completely for a fully psychedelic experience. Many multi-delay pedals will give you reverse delay, but there's something about this one's chewy warm sound and smooth playability that sets it apart. **G**

VERDICT Niche? Absolutely. But if you really like reverse delay then having a dedicated pedal for it makes perfect sense



3699 fUZZ £189

We last looked at an official reissue of a FOXX Tone Machine in 2005 when the brand was revived in its original battery-only flock-covered form. This one, though, puts practicality to the fore in a pedalboard-friendly enclosure with crucial modern accoutrements and an added footswitch for the octave effect (previously on a toggle switch). There's also a toggle-switched mid-boost so you have the option of filling out the original's more hollowed-out tone with punchy heft.

Gain-selected NOS transistors have apparently been used to best reproduce the original's robustly versatile fuzz sound, which can be finely focused here with a wide-ranging tone knob that moves clockwise from thick and sludgy, adding more top-end texture through to an aggressive rasp fest that really cuts through. The octave here has been rejigged to be more prominent than the original, which might not suit purists seeking the ghostly presence of an upper harmonic, but it does open up a whole extra practical (and footswitchable) range of tones. **G**

VERDICT An updated revival of a classic pedal from the guy who designed it in the first place

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Reverse delay pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Mix, Speed, Repeats,
Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input,
standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 60 (w) x 113 (d) x 58mm (h)

8/10

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Fuzz pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Volume, Tone, Fuzz, Stock/
Mid Boost switch, Octave footswitch,
Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input,
standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 60 (w) x 113 (d) x 58mm (h)



9/10

