

# T H E B U Z Z B I N

New, Hip and Under the Radar



## Little Feat

Fulltone Fat-Boost

If you're lucky enough to have a great-sounding guitar-and-amp combination, the last thing that you want to do is insert some tonally intrusive stompbox into your signal chain. Maybe you need to kick out the jams a little on solo spots or particularly hairy riffs. But do you really want to pay for additional gain with the emasculating loss of low-end definition, clarity and tonal quality that so many distortion and overdrive boxes bring to the party?

With Fulltone's new Fat-Boost pedal (\$179), you need no longer be at the mercy of these dastardly sonic reducers. This new device (which boasts bulletproof construction and true bypass switching) features a FET-driven Class A circuit that can

give your signal up to 20dB of clean boost—enough to push even the tamest of amps into a state raunchy overdrive. Unlike many similarly minded pedals which invariably add a nasty—and ultimately fatiguing—brittleness to your tone, the Fat-Boost lives up to its promise of transparency and, if anything, adds pleasing even-order harmonics (a characteristic of Class A circuits) to your tone. The pedal's Tone control (which is bypassed when turned fully clockwise) serves as a subtle and well-voiced treble attenuator. And the nifty Input Gain trim pot allows you to either hit the internal FET circuitry hard, thereby generating a more harmonically loaded sound, or back off the amount of signal hitting the front of the Fat-Boost to create cleaner and truer tones.

I recently tested the Fat-Boost with my Vox AC-30 in a small club

where it would have been impractical to achieve the volume necessary to overdrive the amp's power tubes. I found myself completely won over by the hot and ballsy, yet utterly musical tones I was able to produce, some of which were far superior to those that I had previously achieved by simply cranking the amp. Kids, this one's a keeper.

—Tom Beaujour



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