

S SPECIFICATIONS

BASS BOOST FUZZ

Controls LEVEL, TONE (low pass filter, 10kH-1kHz), DRIVE, +CLEAN, BOOST

Power 9v DC or battery

Switching Buffered bypass



TECH 21 BASS BOOST FUZZ

Street \$150

Description Bass-oriented analog fuzz with 21dB clean boost

Bottom Line The Bass Boost Fuzz doles out delicious blends of fuzz and fundamental, and its ancillary BOOST control is a bassist's best friend in moments of need.

Contact tech21nyc.com

Like so many others, we're big fans of Tech 21's SansAmp Bass Driver DI, and we've been equally impressed by more recent pedal offerings like the Red Ripper dynamically-controlled distortion and the Bass Boost Chorus. [Note: As our January '13 review of the formidable VT Bass 1969 amplifier attests, the company knows how to make righteous rigs in their own right, as well.]

The latest from Tech 21 is the Bass Boost Fuzz, which seeks to take the sound of classic germanium-transistor fuzz boxes—preferred by many tone nerds over silicon-transistor fuzzes for their smoother, more harmonically rich distortion—and tweak the tone so it works better in the bass space.

Like the Bass Boost Chorus, the Bass Boost Fuzz also offers 21dB of clean boost.

Dressed in a blue and white powder coat, the Bass Boost Fuzz has a clean look and layout, with fuzz and blend controls in a top row of knobs and the boost control just below. A feature we dug about the Bass Boost Chorus was the ability to turn down the chorus effect and use the pedal as a clean boost. By installing a discrete boost footswitch on the Bass Boost Fuzz, Tech 21 has made a good idea even better.

But enough about clean—the BBF is all about getting down and dirty. As fuzz fans can attest, many pedals—especially those vintage models so coveted by guitarists—can suck out the signal's low end. It's a problem many players solve by running two signals, one clean and one dirty. The Bass Boost Fuzz effectively addresses the problem with its +CLEAN control, which blends a bass's clean and dirty signals.

With all knobs at noon and the boost flat, the Bass Boost Fuzz definitely dishes up some of the beefiest fuzz in the biz. The BBF behaves differently depending on the level you're feeding it with your bass, and the controls interact to make the pedal surprisingly deep in terms of the range of sounds it can produce. With +CLEAN controlling



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the clean-to-dirty ratio, DRIVE dictates the degree of fuzz, TONE acting as a low pass filter and shearing off overpowering upper frequencies, and LEVEL controls the overall output level, the BBF has a surprising range of tones, all in a package that's well-built, user-friendly, and compact.

Even at extreme settings—with the TONE and DRIVE cranked and +CLEAN eased back—the BBF maintains a deeply satisfying low end anchor for the fuzz.

With the Bass Boost Fuzz, Tech 21 has struck the balance between fuzz and fundamental that often eludes bass players. If you're looking for an affordable, reliable, and versatile fuzz pedal with the bonus of a clean boost, the Bass Boost Fuzz is the pedal for you.