

Tech 21 SansAmp Character Plus Series Fuzzy Brit

Taking the concept of its original Character Series pedals a step further, Tech 21 has broadened the range of tonal options in its new SansAmp Character Plus Series—celebrating the unique chemistry between specific historic amplifiers and specific historic pedals and cleverly unites them together in single packages. With tones ranging from a '50s Fullerton to a Blackface and Silverface, Sam Bell reviews the Character Plus Series Fuzzy Brit.

IN this issue, I'll be taking a look at one of Tech 21's new pedals, which is part of their Character Plus series of compact "amp in a box" solutions. The SansAmp Character Plus series features classic amps paired with a classic boost. Each pedal features two channels with a unique character control, which changes the overdrive and texture of the amp the pedal is based on. In this review, we'll be looking at the Fuzzy Brit, which gives us all kinds

of Marshall-like tones with a boost based on a Fuzz Face.

The pedal can be used in front of an amp or into the return using the main amp as a slave amp. Or it can be used directly using the XLR out. The XLR out has a matched speaker cabinet emulation, which interacts with the pedal's EQ, giving a balanced sound. The Fuzzy Brit's speaker emulation is based on a 4x12 with Greenback speakers. It sounds great, direct!

The pedal itself features two channels; both are identical, with their own gain, volume, treble, middle, bass and character control. The character control changes the identity of the amp sound. On lower settings, this gives us a Blues-breaker amp sound—clean, punchy and a little crunchy. Midway, the settings start to get a little more "Plexi" in character, with a bit more middle punch and grit. When on higher settings, the character control takes you into a modded Plexi sound with a lot more gain! Perfect for a classic Metal tone if needed. Having the two channels' the same' gives us the opportunity to have a 'clean' channel and a 'boost' channel if we so wish. But let's not forget the awesome Fuzz Face style boost, which can be engaged on both channels, taking the tone shaping even further. The Fuzz Face boost gives us Level, Tone and Drive. Level alone can give a clean boost to the signal with lower drive settings; higher drive settings give you lots of Fuzzy sustain, which, in conjunction with the Marshall-style amp, allows us to access all kinds of tones from Cream-style blues through to Hendrix-like screaming bends all the way to Judas Priest heavy metal. 🎸



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The sounds and overall feel are really impressive with the Fuzzy Brit; however, this little unit also gives you some great amp and speaker emulation options—making it a real go-to solution for the travelling musician. Bear in mind, if Marshall isn't your thing, the Character Plus series also features a Vox, Hi Watt and Fender edition, which are all just as versatile in their ballparks. The pedal itself is well built, sturdy footswitches and easy to use layout make this perfect for road use. Plus, it's probably the same size as your average supermarket chocolate bar, so it'll fit nicely into your gig bag. It's got a very sturdy metal construction and can be powered by 9-volt adapters. It comes with its own resilient 9v adapter with a nice, fabricated power chord, which won't get tangled up or start to cut out because it has been used twice. It's super!

If the direct-to-desk thing isn't your cup of tea, you can use it with an amp and change the character of the amp nice and easy; perfect for those gigs where you're using a shared or house backline and want to bring your own tone. This will also enable you to use external FX after the pedal if you're into reverbs/delays; this isn't quite possible when using the XLR out unless you prefer your ambient effects in front of the preamp of an amplifier, which I personally wouldn't do, but you do you.

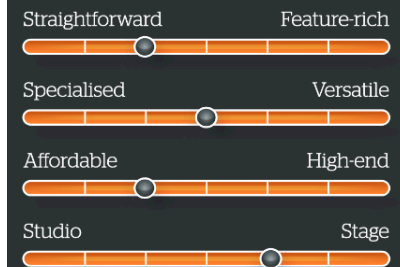
So, in summary, the Tech 21 Fuzzy Brit is an awesome all-in-one Marshall amp emulation solution that can almost fit in your pocket. There are tons of tones in a small footprint, with sturdy pro construction that you can easily use on the road... or just enjoy at home! Need I say more? Check one out! I love it.



Tech 21 SansAmp Character Plus Series Fuzzy Brit

MSRP: (UK) £329 / (US) \$279

The Breakdown



For fans of

American-style tube amp with a screaming-style overdrive

100% analogue circuitry

For more information, please visit:

www.tech21nyc.com

