

EFFECTRODE

# Blue Bottle Inductorized Booster

Midrange valve boost to fatten up your single coils

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Olly Curtis

Effectrode, the UK company that specialises in valve-based pedals, has come up with a new limited-edition booster pedal. The Blue Bottle is a signature pedal designed for Argent guitarist John Verity who specifically requested a pedal that could fatten up the tone of the single-coil pickups on his Strat. The pedal draws its inspiration from the valve-based Pultec equalisers found in high-end recording studios and, as such, features a real inductor in the circuitry alongside its new-old-stock Sylvania 6021 sub-miniature triode valve. The Volume knob delivers up to 18dB of gain, while the mid-boost is dialled in with a separate knob that offers a flat response at its lowest position but can add up to 12dB of midrange boost centred around a frequency of 500Hz.

Without the Mid Boost knob in play, the Volume control seems to hit unity gain at around the 11 o'clock position and from that point will give you a boost, plenty enough to drive a clean amp into gritty break-up in its higher positions.

It also brings in a pleasing degree of sweet top-end enhancement, although you do have options to tailor the top-end with a rear-panel switch offering high-frequency cut via a -6dB/octave low-pass filter that rolls off top-end above 6kHz or 3kHz.

The Mid knob progressively turns up the midrange, delivering warmth and thickening – exactly what you need to add girth to a Strat's pickup per the original design brief, as we found when using it to coax something a little richer from our Strat, Tele and P-90-equipped Gibson. It's not just about fattening single coils, though, as we enjoyed using it with a Les Paul, too. Regardless of what guitar you might be playing, that combination of extra midrange and a fulsome boost in front of an amp on the edge of break-up will get you smoothly singing lead sounds that should appeal to blues players in particular.

## VERDICT

Offering midrange boost alongside an increase in clarity, the Blue Bottle is one of those pedals that simply improves



your tone and would perfectly suit the 'always on' role, making an essential permanent contribution. **B**

**PROS** Classy tone enhancement; loads of boost on tap; satisfying midrange fattening  
**CONS** None really, unless you don't want to add another power adaptor to your 'board

## ALSO TRY...



**Fire Bottle** £205

An older Effectrode design, this has up to 30dB of gain available, but the tone control is basically a 1940s Fender Harvard amp tone control with internal 'Q' adjustment to fine-tune the response.



**The Small Trees** £321

An all-valve Class A clean boost based around a single ECC82 and powered by a 12-volt adaptor. There's 16dB of clean boost on tap here dialled in with the single gain knob.



**Pickup Booster** £140

Not a valve in sight, but this pedal's knob offers up to 25dB of boost, while its Resonance switch offers a pair of options to beef up single coils for more of a humbucker vibe.



## Tech Spec

ORIGIN: UK

TYPE: Boost pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Mid Boost,

Volume, Hi-Cut switch,

Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input,

standard output

POWER: Supplied 12V

DC adaptor, 600mA

DIMENSIONS: 92 (w) x

125 (d) x 55mm (h)

**Guitarist  
CHOICE**

**9/10**

