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The Tasteful Use of Effect Pedals

Discover common effect pedals, the top choices for ukulele, their functions, and proper usage techniques to enhance your ukulele sound.

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GAIN-BASED PEDALS

- **Overdrive** - Replicates the light breakup of a tube amp
- **Distortion** - Heavier than overdrive; not recommended for hollow body ukuleles
- **Fuzz Box** - Heavier than distortion with more sustain; recommended only for solid body ukuleles

MODULATION PEDALS

- **Chorus** - Fills up your sound by multiplying notes, sounding like multiple uses playing together. Think 8-String ukuleles
- **Tremolo** - Creates a wavering sound effect. Examples: Surf Music, “Gimmie Shelter”, “Crimson and Clover”.
- **Octaver** - Doubles the original pitch above, below or even multiple octaves. Using octave below is good for the uke’.

- **Flanger/Phaser** - Basically rotating between low, mid and high frequencies. Flanger is typically more drastic.
- **Wah Wah** - Like a phaser but you manually shift your tone from low to high by rocking your foot back and forth. Backward for bass, forward for treble.

TIME-BASED PEDALS

- **Reverb** a must, makes your sound much bigger; like being in a large room
- **Shimmer** - Orchestral-like swells of sound
- **Slapback Echo** - Rockabilly, Early Elvis, Blues
- **Long delay** - to expand the sound, solos, longer repeats

DYNAMIC EFFECTS

- **Change Volume/Control Volume**; levels out between quiet sections or loud sections
- **Compressor** - Smooths out and squashes your sound; excellent for finger picking techniques; increases sustain; tames very loud playing or strumming
- **Volume Pedal** - changes your volume level from the floor
- **Boost** - a clean increase in volume

LOOPER

- Records layers of parts of your playing so you can play a different part of it over
- Get one with drum patterns

TUNER PEDAL

First in chain;

tunes silently in noisy environment

DRUM MACHINE

- Excellent device to improve your timing
- Far more effective than than metronome

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERDRIVE/DISTORTION

- **Electro-Harmonix Soul Food** - very transparent; works well with ukuleles and piezo pickups; provides clean boost to gritty overdrive
- **Fulltone OCD** - heavier overdrive with excellent sustain; works extremely well with electric solid bodied ukuleles
- **Boss BD-2 Blues Driver** - creamy and crunchy overdrive; perfect for blues.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPRESSORS

- **Wampler Ego Compressor** - excellent level of control due to five-knob circuitry
- **MXR DYNA COMP Mini or Regular Compressor**
 - Industry standard for many years for compression and sustain.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVERB PEDALS

- **Electro-Harmonix Oceans 11 Reverb** - great sounding reverbs; the shimmer effect is gorgeous with the ukulele.
- **TC Electronic Hall of Fame Reverb 2** - lots of options; tone print circuitry gives even more options.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DELAY

- **TC Electronics Flashback Delay and Looper** -
rhythmic subdivision switch very helpful
- **Electro-Harmonix Canyon Delay and Looper** -
built-in octaver a plus
- **Electro-Harmonic Slap-back Echo** - excellent
for short delay; great for blues, rockabilly

RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASER

- **MXR Phase 95** - combines two different classic phase circuits, the MXR 45 (more mellow sound) and the MXR 90 (*more pronounced phasing*)



RECOMMENDATION FOR DI/ EQ/EFFECTS UNITS

- **Fishman ToneDEQ** - Excellent Multi-effects;
built-in compressor
- **L.R. Baggs Venue** - Superb equalization;
built-in tuner



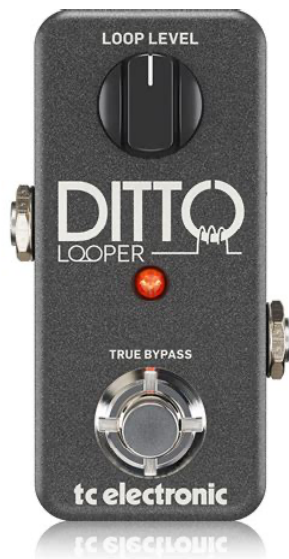
RECOMMENDATION FOR DRUM MACHINE

- **Beat Buddy** - Hundreds of patterns plus the ability to edit those patterns on a computer; create set lists, alter tempos etc.
- **Singular Sound Footswitch+** - Allows spot-on pausing of drum pattern



RECOMMENDATION FOR LOOPERS

- **TC Electronics Ditto** - Easy to use
- **Boss RC 500** - versatile with pre-loaded drum patterns



SETTING UP YOUR PEDAL BOARD

Output → of last pedal to amp

Input → of first pedal to ukulele

UKE —> *Cable* —> **DI** —> *XLR* —> **PA**

UKE —> *Cable* —> **DI** *unit with effects and EQ* —> *XLR* —> **PA** *or amplifier*

** DI box: an extension box to the PA*

THINGS NEEDED:

- Pedal board with power supply, at least six outputs
- Quarter inch patch cables
- 9V Power Cables
- Sticky Velcro

PEDALBOARD EFFECT CHAIN ORDER

1. **Dynamics** - Compressors Volume Pedals
2. **Filters** - Wah Wah, Pitch Shifter
3. **Gain Effects** - Overdrive, Distortion, Fuzz
4. **Modulation** - Chorus, Flanger, Tremolo,
Phase Shifter
5. **Time Based Effects** - Delay, Reverb

TWO COMMON PEDALBOARD DIAGRAMS

