

Effects (Pedals) - Knowledge Organiser

GLOSSARY		
Stomp Box	An individual effects unit that takes the shape of a floor-mounted box and are activated by 'stomping' on a switch	
Distortion	An effect traditionally created by overloading the circuitry in the signal chain	
Gain (Distortion)	The drive, determines the amount of distortion	
Output (Distortion)	The volume of the output signal (after distortion has been applied)	
	Compensates for the increase in gain necessary to achieve distortion	
	Also allows for the balance between the distorted and clean signals to be adjusted	
Tone (Distortion)	Controls the cut-off frequency of a low pass filter	
DISTORTION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Originally created by overloading the circuitry at some point in the signal chain		
Overdrive	Distortion	Fuzz
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The term 'overdrive' is used to describe distortion that is 'smoother' than fuzz<ul style="list-style-type: none">Often used on blues rhythm guitar and lead guitar when higher gain settings are used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distortion usually has a higher gain setting compared to overdrive<ul style="list-style-type: none">Used in heavy rock and metal musicMore suited to heavy power-chord riffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fuzz has more of a 'raw edge' compared with the other types of distortion<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works better with solo lines than with chords due to the added harmonics
AMPLIFIERS		
Valve/Tube Amps	Transistor/Solid-State Amps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use vacuum tubes to amplify a signalUsed almost exclusively up until the late 60s/early 70sWarmer-toned overdrive due to soft clipping of the signal<ul style="list-style-type: none">This has caused valve amplifiers to experience a resurgence in popularity in recent years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use transistors to amplify a signalTook over as the more popular choice of amplifier in the 70s<ul style="list-style-type: none">Was cheaper, more reliable and smaller in sizeHarsher-toned overdrive due to hard clipping the signal	