

EXCLUSIVE

Getting blood and oil to mix

A new pedal company hits **paydirt** with an old school 'oil can' delay tribute

WHEN Brady Smith, one of the founders and public face of pedal upstart Walrus Audio, stepped away from the effects scene a lot of folks wondered if he might resurface with a new outfit. After a few months of hinting around and some photo teasers, Old Blood Noise Endeavors sprung to life, and with it its first product - the Black Fountain delay.

With the Black Fountain, Brady and Old Blood Noise Endeavors partner Seth McCarroll set out to emulate the sounds captured by vintage 'oil can' delays -- pedals that used oil (some say dangerous oil) to help create the echo effect, long before

the days of bucket brigade chips or today's digital technology. Think the Morley Electrostatic Delay Line and the other vintage Tel-Ray units.

The oil would help maintain a seal and insulate the effect-making mojo -- mainly a belt that would interact with wire brushes.

The result was a usually chorus-like echo with warm repeats.

The Old Blood Noise Endeavors Black Fountain sports five controls -- Time, Feedback, Mix and Fluid knobs, and a three-way mini-toggle to select from Modern, Organ and Vintage modes. Time adjusts delay time. Feedback sets the number of

repeats. Mix takes your signal from dry to wet as you turn right. The Fluid knob adds in the signature modulation warble of the old style oil can effects.

Plugged in, the Black Fountain offers a good mix of delay flavors, especially for those who love rounder, darker repeats. In Modern mode, the pedal is a bit brighter and can cop everything from slap-back to more atmospheric soundscapes. Vintage mode works the same, except the voicing goes grittier and a touch more aggressive. Maximum delay time for both Modern and Vintage modes is 800 milliseconds.

Exploring the Vintage and Modern modes can conjure some delicate and unique sounds, and even with the Feedback completely maxed, and with long delays, the pedal holds it together and never quite starts into self-oscillation.

In Organ mode you get a shorter delay time (211 milliseconds) like that of the vintage Tel-Ray Deluxe Organ Tone. Here, the Feedback knob acts as a depth control and Time is the rate. Dime the Mix control in this mode and adjust the other controls to taste for a dusky, moody tremolo effect.

At \$199, the Black Fountain, currently available only through the Old Blood Noise Endeavors website, lands at a good price point for a speciality delay pedal. If you are in the market for a 'dim-the-lights and fire up the incenses' type of '60s-inspired dream-state delay, you'll be interested in a pull from this milkshake. 🍷



PHOTOS: JOSH SEATON



OLD BLOOD NOISE ENDEAVORS BLACK FOUNTAIN

Controls: Four knobs (Time, Feedback, Mix, Fluid), One toggle (Modern, Organ, Vintage)
Dimensions: W: 2.5" H: 2.25" D: 4.75"
Weight: 8.9 oz.
Price: \$199



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