

XOTIC EFFECTS RC BOOSTER V2



REVIEW BY **DAVID PAKULA**

STREET PRICE **\$168.00**



The original RC Booster is one of those pieces of gear that really is ubiquitous. It offers incredibly clean, uncolored boost to the sounds of many guitar players. How do you improve on a product like that? Perhaps you enhance it instead.

The RC Booster V2 is an attractive pedal; it just looks classy. As with the original RC Booster, you can power the pedal with a nine-volt battery by removing the bottom of the pedal. The four large control knobs are comprised of Gain (Gain 1 on this V2 pedal), Volume, Treble and Bass. The Treble and Bass controls

are center-detented, and offer a very sweet $\pm 15\text{dB}$ of shelving EQ. The EQ is very musical, and offers quite a bit of control over the character of the pedal. Dialing in a nice range of tones with the Gain 1 channel proved easy. The sonic character of this pedal is pristine, much like its older brother.

The layout is very similar to the original, with a few noticeable differences. For starters, this pedal has two stomp switches ("Bypass" and "Gain 1 + 2") instead of one. The pedal is true bypass, as we would expect from Xotic Effects, so there is no effect on your tone

while the pedal is not in use. There is also a small illuminated knob centered among the four white knobs that serves as the Gain 2 control.

Engaging the Gain 1 + 2 switch was interesting. With the Gain 2 knob fully counterclockwise, there is an appreciable bump in the gain from Gain 1 alone. Turning the Gain 2 knob clockwise adds more hair to the sound (as one would expect) but it maintains that RC Booster clarity—like the V2 gives you more of the thing you loved about the original. In many respects, it is reminiscent of the sound of a lower-wattage amp

really cranked up to the point of being overdriven. With the EQ section, you can tailor that sound to really emulate those tones, giving the signal a brighter tone, or a tone with more full body.

The Volume control allows you to match the bypassed level, or, should you choose, increase the signal level for dynamic purposes or for lead work. When turning the volume up and down, there seemed to be a little effect on the treble, so playing at lower volumes does not seem to alter the tone.

The RC Booster V2 is a pleasure to play. There is little reason to doubt that this pedal will, in time, be loved every bit as much as the original.

WHAT WE LIKE

The additional gain control just offers more of the same sonic quality as the original. The pedal is quiet, has a musical EQ, great tone and true bypass. It looks great and maintains the qualities so well liked in the original.

CONCERNS

The Gain 2 knob is difficult to get to as it is situated in the middle of the other four, larger control knobs, and it sits lower. In some ways this has the benefit of preventing an accidental change that can occur with an errant kick.

