



Drives for the
Discerning
Guitarist



Thank you for buying one of my pedals. ReevesElectro a small one man producer and I genuinely value every sale, so I really hope you enjoy using your BlackHatSound and that it becomes a mainstay of your setup. It hardly needs a user manual, but here are a few things to bear in mind. Firstly, if you have problems at all get in touch with me, I'll do all I can to sort any issues out.

Power supply - 9vdc 2.1mm centre negative. So, use a boss type supply. The tone of classic Fuzzs is often very voltage dependant and can change a little dependent on the voltage supplied to the pedal. Believe it or not some power supplies vary from 8v to 12v, even though they state 9v, its worth checking your power supply output if you have a meter. I must add that the BlackHatsound will safely take 12v, but the drive and tone may well alter a little from how it was specified.

Best settings - Classic fuzz type pedals have some quirks that you may not find with other pedals. Obviously, this is very subjective as anything goes when it comes to guitar tones. However, I would recommend trying the following first to give you a benchmark.

1. This pedal is L O U D. Unity gain is around 9 o'clock on the volume knob just be aware of that when you first plug in.
2. Put the pedal first in your signal chain. It likes a direct connection to your pickups and will function best like this, by all means try it out in other positions but this is the optimal set up.
3. This pedal is based in the ColorSound Fuzz made by Solosound in the late 60s and early 70s, renowned for its huge bass response and the BlackHatSound is no exception. The classic voicing is with the bass switch down, engaging the full fury of its low end.
4. It works best into a clean (ish) amp, the more gain it runs into, the less distinct the difference will be when you step on the pedal. This principle also applies to stacking with other drive pedals in your chain, however some great tones can be found running it into a TS or Klon type pedal with them set at lower gains.
5. Bias control - fully clockwise will give you the smoothest response with some high end rolled of and less gain. As you rotate the control anti clockwise the tone will add more mids and gain will increase (IT WILL MAKE A CRACKLE NOISE WHEN TURNED, THIS IS PERFECTLY NORMAL). For the nerds, 'Technical Optimum' bias setting is between 12 and 2 oclock. As you continue anti clockwise your tonal palette becomes more interesting, as the transistors become more starved of voltage and signal. This is really where the true character of the BlackHatSound comes to the fore. The increasing stop start nature in the last quarter turn of the bias control is known as 'gating' finally as you turn the control fully anti clockwise no signal will pass, this is normal. The point this will happen will vary depending on the type and power of your pickups. With the bass switch off (down)and bias control close to cutting out there are some very convincing Maestro FuzzTone sounds (think rolling Stones Satisfaction intro)Flip the bass switch for instant Neil Young flat out buckling tweed amp tones.
6. RF Interference - When your guitar volume is turned fully down, very occasionally this can be an issue, where the pedal turns your pickup coils into an antenna however any solution to stop this takes away from the pedals character. Its not super common with the BlackHatSound though. On some high output guitars there may also be some 'sine wave' type sounds when the volume is right down, and very occasionally the tone pot. This is very rare but get in touch with be if any of this is causing problems I'll be happy to help with a solution.

That's pretty much it! if you do have any questions, feel free to email me at reeveselectro@gmail.com. Once again thanks for your custom, and get on the fuzz and enjoy!

Markus