

Wired for Sound

CHAMPION OF THE WIRELESS GENERATION, NADY HITS THE FLOOR WITH A GANG OF STOMPERS. PETE CRISP TREADS THE BOARDS



... If you've ever found that being tethered to your amp by a guitar lead well and truly puts the mockers on serious on-stage antics, then the name Nady will have sprung to mind on more than one occasion. Best known for its range of affordable wireless systems, the company has also produced quite an extensive range of audio gear.

It may come as something of a surprise, though, for some of you at least, that the product family includes some stompers as well. The selection we'll look at here is made up of a quarter of uncomplicated floor units that includes a couple of overdrives, a flanger and a tremolo, plus a fifth device, a reissue of a tube-driven overdrive.

CONSTRUCTION

There are two distinct approaches to construction with the Nadys; four of the pedals use the same, vaguely foot-shaped cast shell to house the internal electronics. The colours identify the different effects, while the side-mounted in and out 1/4-inch jack sockets and the chunky footswitch remain constant to each. Power is available either by a 9-volt battery inserted in the underside – no screwdriver needed, either, thank you very much – or via a separate power supply that plugs into the rear of the pedal.

Obviously the odd one out here is the TD-1 Tube Distortion, more slab-like than the rest of the bunch and substantially heavier into the bargain. The flat top surface causes a bit of concern with the close proximity of some of the pots to the footswitch, meaning that it's quite hard to turn the unit on and off without putting your foot on the controls.

The 'low EQ' pot especially is right in the line of fire and might have something of a less than healthy lite expectancy under clumsy feet. No battery power on offer here, either, instead the TD-1 comes with an external power adaptor that plugs into the side of the unit using a three-pin DIN-type connector complete with locking ring.

GBINFO

NADY PEDALS

PRICE: £64-£135

TYPE: Flanger, tremolo, overdrive/distortion stompboxes

BUILT IN: China

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GBINFO

NADY FL-10 FLANGER

PRICE: £64
TYPE: Flanger stompbox
FEATURES: Manual, rate, depth, resonance
POWER: 9V PP3 battery or adaptor (not supplied)

GBOPINION

NADY FL-10 FLANGER

GOLD STARS
 ★ Clean, broad flanging effect
 ★ Useful manual control
 ★ Solidly built
BLACK MARKS
 ● Maybe not extreme enough for some
IDEAL FOR...
 A simple, robust pedal for a no-nonsense flange tone



FL-10 FLANGER

Flanging is an effect that seems to drift in and out of favour on a regular basis – certainly something that you can easily overuse if you're not too careful. In the right place, however, the swirling ethereal sound of a decent flanger can add a considerable dramatic effect to guitar work.

The FL-10 has all the right controls to make it eminently suitable for the job in hand; 'rate' and 'depth' to pile on the undulations and a 'resonance'



TR-20 TREMOLO

The fluctuating volume effect that we term tremolo has found its way into many classic tracks and become the backbone of a few notable guitarists along the way. Listen to 'Money' by Pink Floyd, the stuttering minor chord that pushes the 7/8 bass riff along on the intro being a famous example.

With 'rate', 'wave' and 'depth' pots the TR-20 lets you get close to such memorable sounds. The signal path is nicely transparent leaving your guitar's tone intact. If we'd like to see an improvement it'd probably be in making the LED power indicator flash to give a visual indication of trem rate. It's not hard to set the desired speed, though, nice and gentle for a Leslie effect works well with some overdrive added, for instance. In terms of price and features it's comparable with Boss's venerable TR-2 and so represents worthy competition.



Like a sucked-sweet-style Boss pedal, perhaps? Very nice indeed



TS-30 TUBE SOUND OVERDRIVE

A decent overdrive is indispensable for the vast majority of guitarists in all but a handful of musical styles. Whether you use one to add a touch of grit to a chiefly clean tone, or to pin your audience to the wall with full-on saturation, this is a must-have effect if you can't drive an amp hard enough to get authentic tube overdrive.

There's certainly no shortage of level with the TS-30, in fact anything past the seven o'clock position on the 'level' pot results in a hefty lift in output when you switch the pedal on. This means that for solos you've got instant volume increase. There's no lack of drive, either, gutsy and aggressive when maxed out, urging you to dig into some AC/DC riffs.

"ON PRICE AND FEATURES THE TR-20 IS COMPARABLE WITH BOSS'S TR-2 PEDAL"

pot to increase the severity of the effect. The leftmost knob of the four, labelled 'manual', is there to set the frequency at which the flanger starts its work (flanging is when you take a signal, modulate it up and down, then sweep it over a set frequency range), and as such you can get a wealth of variations out of this orange stomper. There's nothing too extreme going on here really, more gentle and airy for the most part, which is good when used with some overdrive to crank out early Alex Lifeson chord work and the like. Indeed, the FL-10 isn't as well specced or versatile as some of the multi-mode flangers available (Digitech's Turbo Flange, for example), though at £64 that's forgiven – it's a good, no-fuss unit, and certainly worth consideration.

GBINFO

NADY TR-20 TREMOLO

PRICE: £64
TYPE: Tremolo stompbox
FEATURES: Rate, wave, depth
POWER: 9V PP3 battery or adaptor (not supplied)

GBOPINION

NADY TR-20 TREMOLO

GOLD STARS
 ★ Plenty of scope
 ★ Boss's colour guitar signal
 ★ Accessible battery compartment
BLACK MARKS
 ● No visual speed indication
IDEAL FOR...
 Adding ambience and texture subtly

GBRATINGS

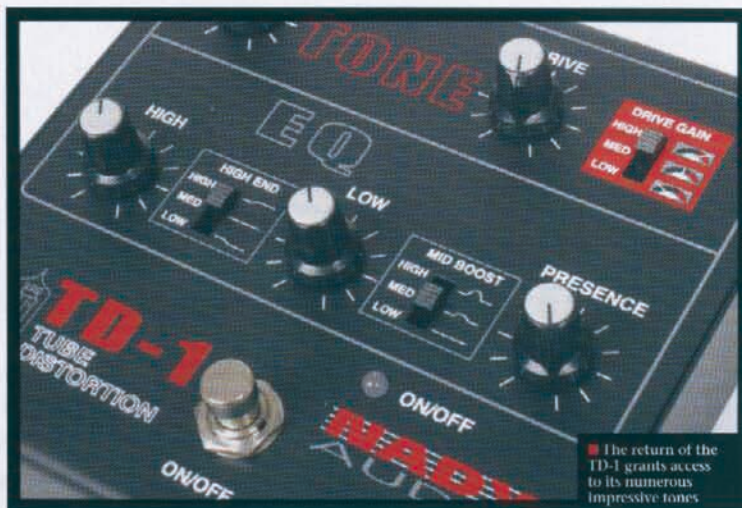
NADY TR-20 TREMOLO

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★☆
SOUNDS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆
GBVERDICT	★★★★☆

GBRATINGS

NADY FL-10 FLANGER

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★☆
SOUNDS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆
GBVERDICT	★★★★☆



The return of the TD-1 grants access to its numerous impressive tones

My stalwart Boss SD-1 sounds almost tame in comparison, although the Nady pedal seems to miss out on some of the harmonic content apparent in the former stomphox.

GBRATINGS

NADY TS-30 TUBE SOUND OVERDRIVE

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★☆
SOUNDS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆
GBVERDICT	★★★★☆



TA-40 TUBE AMP SIMULATOR SUPERDRIVE

Back in the good ol' days, overdriving an amp meant winding up the volume to push the power-amp stage into distortion – there were no luxuries such as preamp gain to do the donkey work for you. That resultant output-stage overdrive has since become the stuff of legend; natural guitar tone coupled with valves working for a living. Recreating this phenomenon is no mean feat, so the TA-40 is set to have its work cut out with 100 per cent analogue circuitry.

Instead of the 'drive' pot on the TA-30, here we're offered a control labelled Classic A/B Drive. Where the



The all analogue circuitry is controlled by a simple but effective layout

TA-30 lacks subtlety in the lower regions of its drive setting, this pedal is far more forgiving. Like turning the volume from low to high on an amp, the TA-40 goes from squeakily clean to heavily overdriven in a smooth transition. The tone control seems to suffer from the same, inconsistent, graduation as the level pot on the TA-30. Wound fully clockwise there's plenty of top end on hand, but edge it back a little and the highs quickly begin to evaporate. In some instances this works well, getting close to the famed 'brown sound', for example, is none too hard. Very likeable, in fact.

GBRATINGS

NADY TA-40 TUBE AMP SIMULATOR SUPERDRIVE

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★☆
SOUNDS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆
GBVERDICT	★★★★☆



TD-1 TUBE DISTORTION

If the TD-1 kindles a sense of déjà vu it's because this particular pedal made its original appearance back in the mid 1980s. With the recent swathe of tube-driven devices on the market it seems fitting for Nady to bring the TD-1 back to life.

Using a 12AX7 valve as the basis for its circuitry, the Tube Distortion has a plentiful supply of overdrive variations to play with. You can

select three basic levels of gain, each of which is adjustable using the 'drive' control to give everything from a hint of crunch to quite radical saturation. The comprehensive EQ section means you can then eke out still more juicy tones. You can cut and boost the high and low settings using rotary

GBINFO

NADY TS-30 TUBE SOUND OVERDRIVE
 PRICE: £64
 TYPE: Overdrive stomphox
 FEATURES: Drive, tone, level
 POWER: 9V PP3 battery or adaptor (not supplied)

GBOPINION

NADY TS-30 TUBE SOUND OVERDRIVE
GOLD STARS
 ★ Aggressive overdrive
 ★ Good for many styles
 ★ Cool looks
BLACK MARKS
 ● Level control could be more even
IDEAL FOR...
 Anyone seeking a comprehensive distortion

GBINFO

NADY TA-40 TUBE AMP SIMULATOR SUPERDRIVE
 PRICE: £73
 TYPE: Amp simulator stomphox
 FEATURES: Level, tone, class A/B drive
 POWER: 9V PP3 battery or adaptor (not supplied)

GBOPINION

NADY TA-40 TUBE AMP SIMULATOR SUPERDRIVE
GOLD STARS
 ★ Even increase in saturation
 ★ Like having an extra channel
 ★ Dynamic response
BLACK MARKS
 ● Tone a little uneven
IDEAL FOR...
 A dynamic kick without transforming your tone

GBINFO

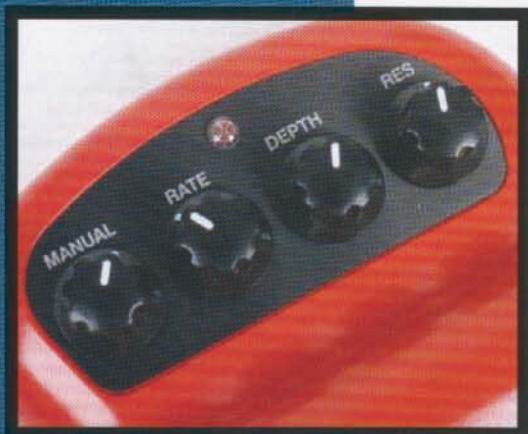
NADY TD-1 TUBE DISTORTION
 PRICE: £135
 TYPE: Overdrive stomphox
 FEATURES: Level, drive, high/med/low switchable drive, high EQ, low EQ, presence, switchable high-end cut/boost, switchable mid boost
 POWER: Mains power adaptor (supplied)

A LITTLE BIT OF NADY HISTORY

GOING SINCE '76

Nady Systems Inc is an American company, best known for its wireless microphone equipment.

The brand began designing and manufacturing in 1976 as one of the very first innovators in the wireless market. Nady wireless systems soon became standard issue for the many of the world's top performers, and has since expanded to non-musician environments such as two-way radios, assistive listening devices, telephone headsets and the like. These guitar effects pedals are the company's latest offshoot, alongside its perennially successful microphone business.



DETAILS

A WELCOME VISUAL DEPARTURE FOR STOMPERS, WITH SOME CREDIBLE TONES TOO



Each pedal benefits from sturdy switches



Ins and outs are to the right and left...



...the out on the left as is standard for FX



"THE BREADTH OF ITS TONES ENCOMPASS BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMP SOUNDS"

GBOPINION

NADY TD-1 TUBE DISTORTION

GOLD STARS

- ★ Masses of options
- ★ Sounds great

BLACK MARKS

- Control layout

IDEAL FOR...

Anyone seeking a comprehensive distortion

controls, plus there are two selectable levels of boost to really punch out those midrange frequencies. Additionally, another three-position switch will cut or boost frequencies above 10kHz.

Classing the TD-1 as a distortion pedal seems a bit misleading really, because the fat, harmonically rich output lends itself far more to overdrive in all areas, making this

pedal particularly versatile. The breadth of its tones encompass both British and American amp sounds and a few of the more notable overdrive pedals out there. You have to be prepared to spend a bit of time juggling all the parameters – that's all part of the fun in our book – but this is one of the most adaptable floor units you'll find.

GBRATINGS

NADY TD-1 TUBE DISTORTION

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★
SOUNDS	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
GBVERDICT	★★★★

GBCONCLUSION

GOOD QUALITY, GOOD TONES, GOOD PRICES...

Of the bunch, we'd favour the TD-1 as our first choice if we had to pick one with its multitude of overdrive possibilities. Not that the others don't come up to scratch of course, in fact Nady has added a fine set of stompers to the market.

The TA-40 would be a good choice if you need an extra 'channel' added to your amp, and both the flanger and tremolo are great at retaining the integrity of your guitar sound while layering eminently usable effects. The minor points of concern such as the TD-1's vulnerable knobs certainly don't detract anything from the tonal quality. This is a reasonably priced set of quality effects that's thankfully different from the norm. **GB**