

Fuzz Box

For the guitar enthusiast, this simple device will have a lot of appeal. Using two BC108s (or BC238s) and a few resistors and capacitors, it can be built for a modest cost. It is designed to be interposed between the guitar and the main amplifier, thus confining the "fuzz" effect to the guitar signals only. A foot switch allows selection of "fuzz" or "normal" as required; the level remains much the same in both modes, the degree of "fuzz" is variable, and the unit provides a small amount of gain.

The unit can provide a wide range of wave shapes, from simple half wave clipping to complex peaks. As well as the unit's own control, the guitar's volume control can be used to vary certain aspects of the waveform.

The unit is battery powered, thus making it completely self-contained. The prototype was built into a small metal box with a sloping front on which the foot switch was mounted, the whole unit being designed to sit on the floor near the player's foot. Most of the circuit can be built on a short length of tag board, or strung between it and the input and output sockets, controls, etc.

