

GIGAHEARTS

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Welcome to your custom pedal! I hope you enjoy making music with this hand crafted guitar effect.

This pedal was specially commission for the ILoveFuzz 2014 Secret Santa

Model: The Gift of Fuzz

Client: Isobel McMahon

Build completion and Test Date: 13/Oct/2014



Features of the pedal:

The Gift of Fuzz, as the name suggests, is a Fuzz pedal at heart. More than that, however, it is a four-in-one multidirt creation that encompasses (almost) every shade of dirt from clean boost, treble boost, overdrive, distortion into many, many flavours of fuzzy goodness.

The pedal features True-Bypass mechanical switching, lots of LEDs (more on that later!) and 9v DC power (see *Powering your pedal*).

External controls:

There are three rows of potentiometers of different colours (Red, Amber and Green), which represent three core dirt circuits. In general terms the controls are as follows:

Gold (Volume): Controls the output of the particular core effect selected by the rotary dial.

Frankincense (Sustain): Gain / Drive / Fuzz control, adding dirt to the signal as it is turned up.

Myrrh (Tone): Varies by the effect, but in general, left is more bass-heavy, right allows more treble. Each effect has a unique tone stack that performs in different ways.

Choose Your Gift! (Rotary dial): Selects between the three core dirt circuits (Red, Amber and Green). The selection is reflected in the coloured LED 'baubles' hanging on the ILF Christmas tree (Illuminated whenever power is present, regardless of bypass state).

Moar (trimpot): Output volume control for a fixed gain and tone single stage fuzz circuit, designed to layer on even more dirt to your core distortions, or be a mean little fuzz in its own right.

Mini-toggle: Tone shift switch, controlling the mid-frequency structure of the Amber circuit.

Footswitches:

Bypass Footswitch (Right): Turns on and off the circuit related to the three core dirt circuits. Status is indicated by the Rainbow LED being shifted out of the ILF dude sat on top of the Christmas tree.

Bypass Footswitch (Left): Turns on and off the Moar! Fuzz circuit. Status is indicated by the adjacent amber LED.

Note: Both bypass footswitches act independently, and the signal flows from right-to-left, meaning that the Moar! Fuzz circuit will be in series with the output of the core circuits.

The Core Circuits:

Red: A **Big Muff** variant based on the v7 Russian build "**Civil War**" (ca. 1991-1993). Characterised by a fat bottom end, brighter and less scooped mids, and less gain than earlier US Muffs. Features a smooth and clear mid-range, and a very musical clarity, with less scoop so they stand out in a live band mix slightly better. Overall this Muff has less grit than the later Green Russian and Black Russian Big Muffs, which is probably why they are the most favoured and desirable of all the Sovtek Big Muffs. Civil Wars are a favourite of bass players due to the low gain and huge, bass friendly bottom end they produce.

Amber: Simplification of the ever-popular **Roland AF-100 BeeBaa** circuit, omitting the footswitchable treble boost mode, and moving the Tone Select footswitch of the original unit to a toggle. The BeeBaa is a certifiable classic from ca. 1972, and features two extremely useable fuzz tones by way of the Tone Select toggle. In the up position is an extremely mid-scooped, aggressive modern sounding fuzz. In the down position, the mids are heavily boosted, affording a screaming lead tone or thick rhythm sludge. **Note:** High gain transistors are used which mean this is almost always running flat out, and exhibits some extra noise.

Green: Based on the **Crowther Audio** The Hotcake with a couple of mods, and built using a vintage “metal-can” RCA 741 op-amp. The Hotcake was first produced in 1976 and can providing a nice fat dirt sound without resorting to a treble cut. With the Sustain and Tone controls set to minimum, and the Level at around 2 o'clock, you should hardly hear any change in the sound when you engage the circuit. From here you can add more Volume for a clean-ish boost, cranking the Tone control to sound reminiscent of a treble booster. Advancing the Sustain to 12 o'clock adds a bit of grit, which rapidly evolves through overdrive, distortion, and finally a heavy dist-fuzz tone at maximum Sustain. Note, in this case tone is simply a Presence control, which is flat at 5 o'clock, then adds treble as you turn it up, rather than a more traditional tone control used in the Red and Amber circuits.

Internal Controls: The pedal features no internal controls...sorry! Surely, there is enough going on with the front panel controls ☺

Powering your pedal:

DC Power: The pedal is fitted with a standard Japanese “Boss Style” 2.1mm centre negative power supply connection. The pedal should be powered by a 9v DC supply, and can be used with any standard commercial power supply (Voodoo Labs, DC-Brick, Jim Dunlop, TRex etc).

Warranty and Service:

Every pedal I make comes with a 3 year warranty whereby I will fix any manufacturing issues for free, all I ask is you contact me first to discuss, before shipping the pedal to me. I will then repair your pedal and pay return shipping to you. If you have done something silly like run it over with your tourbus or plugged in the wrong power adaptor and fried the internals, I'll still do the above, but will simply charge you for the parts required to get it up and running again.

Contact:

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