

WAY HUGE Green Rhino Overdrive MkII

PRICE **£165**
CONTACT **JHS 0113 286 5381**
www.jhs.co.uk

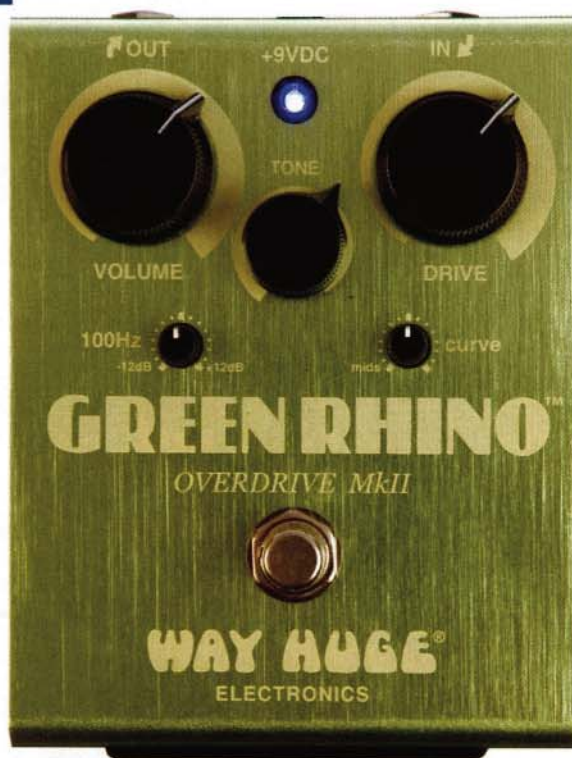
One of the first 'boutique overdrives', George Tripps' Green Rhino is back for 2011 under the Jim Dunlop banner with a couple of added features. The light but hefty aluminium enclosure looks the same but it now has a neat battery compartment at the front and, more significantly, two new mini-knobs.

It's an overdrive and it's green, which can only mean we're in Tube Screamer territory. Sure enough - setting aside a slight 'pop' from the footswitch on our sample - the Green Rhino pushes your guitar's natural tone through a coating of warm grit without pulling it out of shape. Maybe it hasn't quite got the responsiveness of a really good TS, but it's fuller at

the bottom and more neutral in the mids - it could hardly sound sweeter.

The two new controls are quite something. The 100Hz cut/boost can add up to 12dB of bowel-loosening massiveness and should be used with restraint; the Curve knob alters the mid frequencies in a less obvious way, but with 100Hz back to about 10 o'clock and this one fully off, there's a distinct upper-mids bump and a slight loss of bottom end. In other words, the classic voice of a Tube Screamer. Have your cake, eat your cake.

FINAL SCORE	
WAY HUGE GREEN RHINO MKII	
Build Quality	17/20
Playability	18/20
Sound	18/20
Value for money	17/20
Looks	18/20
TOTAL	88%



MXR Custom Badass '78 Distortion

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MXR says this little beauty is based on a 'classic distortion circuit'. Which one? Hmm. The clues are in the name - wasn't the immortal ProCo Rat launched in 1978? - and in the sound itself. This pedal has a right set of whiskers on it.

Custom Badass is the name of MXR's new elite regiment, a small team that includes Way Huge founder George Tripps (see page 28) and is charged with designing and building 'hot-rodded' versions of vintage effects. They've kicked off with a unit that looks a lot like a standard MXR, is priced likewise, and sounds awesome. No delicate overdrive here, just pure rasping rock, from controlled aggression at the bottom

of the Distortion dial to screeching metal at the top. That little Crunch button works like a great booster switch, making everything bigger and richer at the expense of just a little smoothness. In some ways the slightly scooped voicing of the '78 is closer to MXR's Distortion+ than the mid-focused snarl of a Rat, but it's more full-bodied than either and, for all-round noisemongering, you might even say it's better. This sets a very, very high bar for whatever else might be coming in the Custom Badass line.

FINAL SCORE	
MXR CUSTOM BADASS '78 DISTORTION	
Build Quality	18/20
Playability	19/20
Sound	20/20
Value for money	18/20
Looks	18/20
TOTAL	93%

