

Days of Depth and Drive

The EWS Brute Drive and Tri-logic Bass Preamp 2

Japan's Engineering Work Store, or EWS, recently unveiled two pedals worthy of close examination. The Brute Drive distortion and Tri-logic bass preamp are housed in a heavy-duty aluminum chassis. Even cooler, both are compact yet full of options and functionality, and are wired true-bypass.

The Brute Drive is a neat departure from EWS's fairly aggressive Fuzzy Drive distortion pedal. Perhaps best described as a "medium gain" pedal among distortion boxes, it

certainly isn't timid. With controls for Volume, Tone, and Gain, there's also a Boost switch that increases midrange. A mini-pot inside tweaks its frequency response.

The Tri-logic Bass Preamp 2 is based on the Xotic Trilogic Bass Preamp. It has the same Bass, Mid, and Treble EQ section and a wealth of options including individual Gain and Master Volume controls, as well as mini-switches for controlling active/passive and Hi or Low-Mid Frequency boosts. Its 18-volt circuit gives it additional headroom.

Through rigorous live and studio tests, both pedals performed exceptionally well. The Brute Drive was used with instruments ranging from high-end custom solidbodies to vintage jazz boxes, all with favorable results. One constant with the Brute Drive is the warmth it offers at various settings. It acts much more amp-like than you might expect, breaking up, but still giving plenty of gain to cover most musical needs. There's a bit of Swiss-Army-Knife approach to it for the

players who don't need an extreme amount of gain.

The Brute Drive's secret weapon is the Boost control; its midrange bump is a lot of fun once you get in the groove with it. This is especially handy for soloing, when a bit of midrange can push you forward in the mix without adding a bunch of gain.

The Tri-logic 2 is a little box with a lot of potential. Used with everything from acoustic and electric uprights to vintage basses, it made some enormous sounds – basses played through it have a thunderous low-end that loses no presence even while the controls are set flat. Dialing in additional midrange made the Trilogic 2's signal jump even more.

The Brute Drive and Tri-logic 2 are impressive; the former will fill the void for anyone looking for better overdrive / classic distorted sounds in a studio or live rig, while the latter simply draws remarkable tones from an instrument without losing that instrument's natural characteristics.

– Sean O'Bryan Smith



EWS BRUTE DRIVE VE/TRI-LOGIC BASS PREAMP 2
 Price: \$190 (each)
 Contact: ews.us.com.