



DANELECTRO NICHOLS 1966

£189

Distortion and fuzz not heard since the '60s

Many of the fuzz, distortion and overdrive pedals released these days are variations on circuitry that has been around for yonks, and the Danelectro Nichols 1966 follows that trend. The big difference, though, is that the particular circuitry here has not been heard for the best part of 50 years. This is no Tone Bender or Fuzz Face knockoff, but rather an original design created in 1966 by a teenaged Steve Ridinger, founder of Foxx pedals, then living in Nichols canyon, LA.

The reason the pedal, originally called the Liverpool Fuzz, has now seen the light of day is that Ridinger is in charge at Danelectro and felt a revival was overdue, so

the pedal joins Dano's 'Vintage' range which also includes the 3699 Fuzz, a recreation of the Foxx Tone Machine.

The key to dialling in a sound on the pedal is in the interaction of the Fuzz and Drive knobs, which work together to deliver a wide range of dirt tones. The Drive knob by itself produces a gradual increase in low-level overdrive – from putting a bit of hair on a clean sound through to gritty breakup, all of which are eminently usable. However, with the Fuzz knob also in action, the Drive knob's fundamental role is to add a textural crispy edge to the thicker sound that the Fuzz knob brings in, with plenty of sweet spots available as you balance the two.

There's plenty of EQ adjustment available, too; a Mid Cut toggle switch brings in a scoop that thins out the midrange for a more focussed top and bottom, while the Tone knob can dial you in a leaner sound with more emphasis on the top. Overall, the juxtaposition of all the controls gives plenty to be explored in the field of raunchy distortion, but if it's fuzz you are after, there's a real treat once the Fuzz knob gets past 3 o'clock for full-on fat fuzz with loads of sustain.

Rescued from oblivion, the Nichols 1966 is a flexible source of distorted tones, all of which are delivered with a decent response to touch and volume knob cleanup. Worth the wait.

Trevor Curwen

AT A GLANCE

- ORIGIN:** China
- TYPE:** Fuzz/Distortion pedal
- FEATURES:** True bypass
- CONTROLS:** Volume, Tone, Fuzz, Drive, Stock/Mid Cut switch, Bypass footswitch
- CONNECTIONS:** Standard input, standard output
- POWER:** 9V/DC adaptor (not supplied)
- DIMENSIONS:** 59 (w) x 112 (d) x 55 mm (h)

“ THIS IS NO FUZZ FACE COPY, RATHER AN ORIGINAL DESIGN RESCUED FROM OBLIVION ”

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	PERFORMANCE	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL	★	★	★	★	★