



STONEFACE

GERMANIUM FUZZ

guidebook version 1.0

About this pedal

The STONEFACE is a good ol', big ol' two-transistor fuzz. As the name suggests (*STONE**FACE***), the circuit in the box is similar to a classic Fuzz Face circuit. This pedal uses an uncommon recipe of new old stock transistors, resistors, and capacitors on purpose-built PCBs to deliver exhilarating, rich, classic fuzz tones from vintage guts.

From subtle grit to throbbing fuzz, glassy cleanup to searing fuzz lead - the STONEFACE is a big mother with tons of gain, grit, gnarl, and fuzz on tap.

Specs

Power: 9V center negative (*boss-style*), 2.1mm barrel jack or 9V battery (internal *clip included*). Battery is disconnected when your instrument cable is removed from the input jack OR whenever an external power supply is used. For best performance use a high quality, isolated power supply or a 9V battery.

INSTRUMENT IN: 1/4" TS (*mono*)

INSTRUMENT OUT: 1/4" TS (*mono*)

Controls

FUZZ: This control is fairly straight forward. It's like a gain knob and the higher you turn it, the bigger and bolder the fuzz effect will be.

WIDTH: This is a sort of tone control. Dialed all the way up, you'll be sending a wide, full spectrum signal off to the 'fuzzing' part of the circuit. The beefiest, heaviest tones involve a fully cranked WIDTH knob - the idea being that more signal in equals more signal out. As you dial this knob down, you'll narrow the spectrum of signal that is sent off to fuzz and create a thinner, crisper tone. You may find that reducing the WIDTH allows for clearer chording and rhythm playing. Reducing WIDTH can be helpful when you want to fuzz but need to keep things tight. You might also find that reducing WIDTH works nicely to brighten up

your tone when you have also reduced your FUZZ knob to 7/10 or less.

BIAS: This knob is an important control and can significantly affect the nature of the fuzz effect (*as well as the loudness*). With the knob turned fully up (10/10), you'll experience a smoother fuzzy distortion. This fully up position will be the least loud position of this knob (*I refuse to call it 'quiet'*). Loudness will increase as this knob is turned down and the fuzz quality will progress from smoother/woofier to a punchier, more prickly texture with harmonic content contributing in some contexts to a subtle octave effect.

Tip- Use this knob in conjunction with VOL to set a desired output level.

VOL: This controls the final overall output level from the pedal. As both the FUZZ control and the BIAS control will impact loudness, you will want to adjust this knob accordingly to ensure reasonable final output levels for whatever fuzz

settings you choose. In other words, no matter how gnarly or subtle you choose to fuzz, use this knob to set the final output level you desire. I'm a 10/10 VOL type of guy - but to each their own.

Notes

Pedalboard order: The STONEFACE, like all classic fuzz pedals, expects to 'feel' your guitar directly at its input. It was designed to utilize the electrical impedance of your instrument's pickups as if they were part of the circuit within. So for this reason you'll hear a lot of folks recommend that you put your fuzz pedal first in your signal chain (*i.e. first on your pedal board, directly after your guitar with no buffers in front of it at all*) so it can feel your instrument without interference from other pedals along the way. They're not wrong. Putting the STONEFACE first, before any other pedals or buffers is a surefire way to ensure that the fuzz works as it was intended. But '*working as intended*' isn't

always the name of the game. So *go ahead, fuck around and find out.*

Instrument VOLUME knob / Clean up: Fuzz Face circuits are known to "clean up" when you roll back your instrument's pickup volume knob and it's no different here with the STONEFACE. Dial in the FUZZ knob somewhere close to full tilt (if not totally full) and then ride your instrument's volume knob to go from a bright/glassy clean tone at around 6/10 up to a full blown fuzz roar at 10/10.

Internal Adjustment [Q1CR]: Transistors are like snowflakes - no two are exactly the same. As such, each STONEFACE pedal is individually calibrated with specific fixed resistors to produce what I call a 'standard factory bias' from the inevitably varying transistor properties. However, if you want a different range of fuzz tones from the external bias knob (velcro/gated/sputtery tones anyone?) you can open up your pedal and slide the Q1CR switch to the UP position. This bypasses

the standard factory bias and allows you to refactor the external BIAS knob sweep by adjusting the adjacent internal trimmer to your liking. Revert to standard factory bias by sliding the switch back to 'fixed'.

Internal Adjustment [TAME]: ON by default. In the ON position, the adjacent trimmer's resistance is put in series with the instrument input. This will prevent the potential for self oscillation when your guitar volume is reduced to ZERO (which can occur without this extra 'taming resistance' depending on how your guitar is wired). However, you can explore this potential quirk by turning OFF the tame switch or by adjusting the TAME trimmer while the switch is ON.

Quick Start Recipes: Here are a few starting points for settings and tones. The titles I give them are subjective. Let's be frank, fuzz is probably the most context sensitive effect out there and fuzz pedals tend to behave drastically

different with different pickups, amps, ordering, etc. etc. What sounds 'Muffy' on my rig might sounds different on yours.

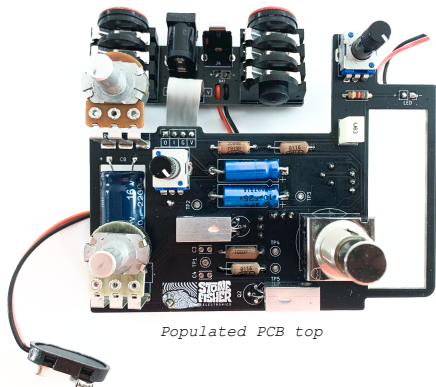
In these examples I'll call out knob settings from 1 to 10 where **0 = fully counterclockwise** and **10 = fully clockwise**. I will leave it to you to choose your pedal VOL setting, though I will add I never have mine below 7 or 8 (and find it best at a full 10).

Classic Fuzz	
FUZZ	7/8
WIDTH	10
BIAS	5
Good setting for cleanup w/ guitar volume knob.	

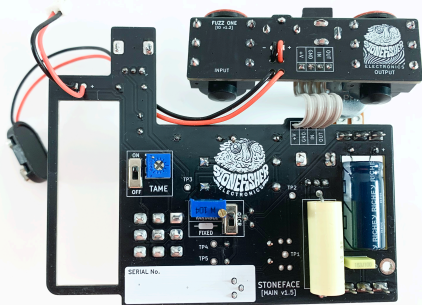
Muffy Fuzz	
FUZZ	10
WIDTH	10
BIAS	9/10

Treble Booster	
FUZZ	7
WIDTH	2
BIAS	5

Vintage Grit	
FUZZ	3
WIDTH	3
BIAS	10



Populated PCB top



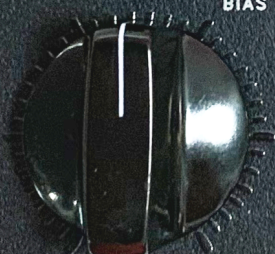
Populated PCB bottom



FUZZ



BIAS



WIDTH





CENTERPORT, NEW YORK

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