

CELESTIAL EFFECTS

SAGITTARIUS OVERDRIVE BOOST

REVIEW BY **SAM HILL**

STREET PRICE **\$189.00**



As a child, I remember going to the local planetarium on elementary school field trips. As we sat in the reclining chairs, the lights went out and we gazed upward into the model night sky on the ceiling. A high school teacher would describe the constellations. "This is Orion," he said, because there was a belt. Where?! I never saw a belt. "As you can see," he'd point out, "this is a scorpion." In my estimation, you need a lot of lines connected to stars and quite an imagination to come up with Scorpio and the master hunter. Why do I bring this up, you ask?

Well, my friend, if you've found yourself disappointed by the constellations, be disappointed no more—Celestial Effects has given us tangible zodiac devices that do not require deep astrological interpretation.

The Sagittarius is one such device. Identified as an Overdrive Boost, it has, as you may suspect, Drive and Boost knobs, as well as a two-band EQ (Treble and Bass) and Volume. Two independent footswitches control the Drive and Boost functions, and the order of the effects can be set via a small latching push-button switch located on

the bottom of the pedal. The stock setting is Drive into Boost, which acts like a clean boost. The Boost function is actually the Scorpio Super Boost—another product offering in the Celestial lineup—and "super" it is; there's a lot of volume on tap. The Volume knob is also capable of adding a considerable level boost.

The sounds emanating from this box are pure rock and roll. With all knobs at noon and the Boost engaged, the Sagittarius produces a smooth overdrive with a healthy volume kick. The Treble and Bass knobs

boost or cut their respective frequency bands and alter the sound of the drive accordingly. It can get both extremely dark and very bright, so it should be at home with any guitar and amp combination. Celestial describes the overdrive as “transparent,” and while we’ve all heard that buzzword more than a few times, it’s an accurate descriptor. The Drive doesn’t add much of its own flavor, but contributes to the goodness you already have in your rig. It is quite smooth and makes a great general-purpose drive. The real magic, though, lies in the Boost function.

Celestial did everyone a solid by allowing the boost to be used with or without the overdrive section, so you can push your other dirt boxes into sonic oblivion if you so desire. You can make sure everyone hears your solos by placing the boost function after the drive, but my favorite setting was boosting the overdrive. This generates a more saturated tone without too much of

a volume increase. Keep in mind, there is a lot of volume capability in this box. If you have a vintage amp with a frail speaker, treat the Boost and Volume knobs with care.

With the Boost post-drive, I preferred using it on its own to boost other dirt devices. Running the Boost into a silicon Fuzz Face-style box produced a sweet snarl with extra presence and saturation. It is also an excellent clean boost, taking silky smooth solos up a notch to ensure the crowd and the rest of the band hear you in all your glory.

The Sagittarius is an excellent, utilitarian drive and boost pedal that would be a welcome addition to any rig. Whether you’re in the market for either effect, or want to add to your dirt arsenal, it’s worth looking into, and it’s sure to make part of the constellations more accessible to the average Joe.

WHAT WE LIKE

Smooth overdrive. Monster boost capability. Cool graphics.

CONCERNS

Be careful with that Boost knob.