

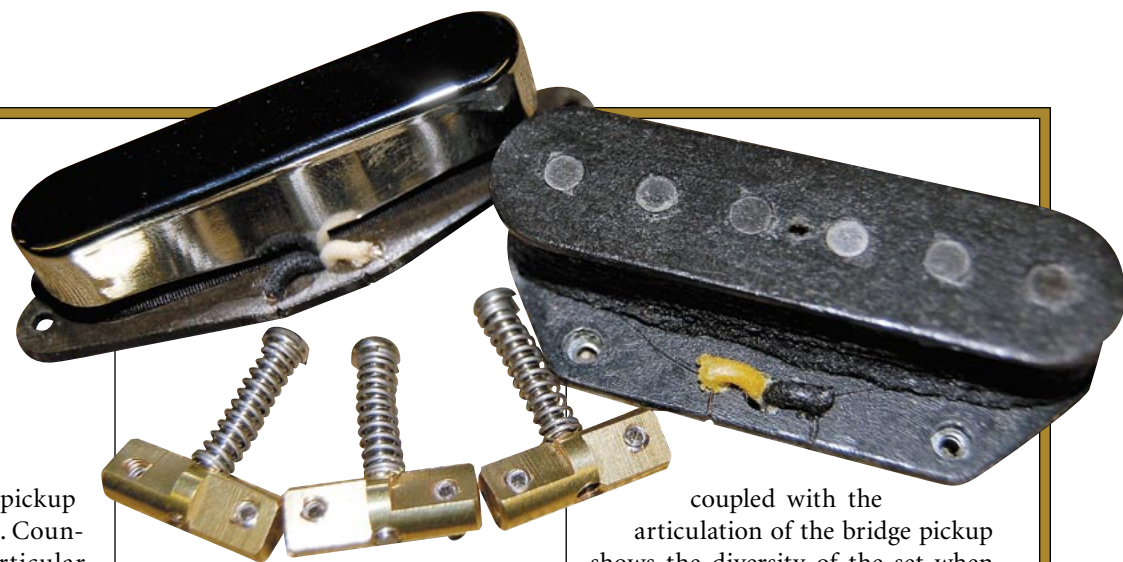
Mounted in their intended target – a Fender Telecaster (plugged into a Fender Bassman amp for testing) – the Purebread neck pickup offered a nice, rich tone – round and thick, with good clarity. This would work particularly well for rhythm playing or for a formidable jazz tone if you roll top-end off the guitar's Tone control. Add a hint of distortion via a high-quality stompbox, and you get great blues/rock drive. The pickup's output is true to its vintage roots – not very loud or hot. To keep output even between it and the bridge pickup means raising the neck unit.

The Purebread bridge pickup flat-out *spanks*. Articulation and attack

BUDZ PUREBREAD PICKUPS

Price: \$180
Contact: Budz Guitars, 7996 North Territorial Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118; phone (734)475-2355; budzguitars.com.

are astounding even as the pickup retains a warm overall depth. Country-style flatpickers, in particular, will appreciate the tonal spectrum of this pickup. Its strong articulation means it reacts well to fast flatpicked lines. And it's discernibly hotter than the neck pickup, allowing for variety with various distortions ranging from



balls-out rockstravaganza to Tom-Petty-style crunch.

The pickup selector's middle position is also quite useful, as the pickups blend nicely even if the bridge is slightly hotter. The neck pickup's rich texture

coupled with the articulation of the bridge pickup shows the diversity of the set when combined to create a warm mid-position tone. Through a Vox AC30, it works great for funk rhythm parts and/or a cool '70s fusion tone suitable for anyone wanting to get their "Return to Forever" on. – Sean O'Bryan Smith

Analog Meets Flexibility

BBE Two-Timer Analog Delay

DIGITAL DELAY DEVICES typically offer great flexibility while analog units offer warmth. With its new Two Timer, BBE Sound aims to bring the best elements of both.

The designers at BBE liked the sound of the long-gone Boss DM-2, particularly the warmth and what they considered its tape-like delay, which means the treble rolls off considerably with each repeat of the initial tone. Going beyond the usual controls associated with this type of pedal, (length of) Time, (number of) Repeat(s) and Mix, BBE added a second Time knob and an additional footswitch to choose between two different delay times.

This Two Timer could withstand the assaults of any number of jealous lovers; its case is heavy die-cast metal, knobs look like they came off a Telecaster, and the footswitches and jacks are securely mounted to the case itself. The rubber anti-skid pad on the bottom covers at least three quarters of the surface and is made of the type of un-shiny material that Velcro can commit to until death do they part, making it easy to get the Two Timer into a lasting relationship with a pedalboard. The battery access door on the bottom also is padded and is secured on one end so that it does not become unhinged just because some changes need to be made.

All switches are the hard bypass

BBE TWO-TIMER ANALOG DELAY

Price: \$209
Contact: BBE Sound, Inc., 5381 Production Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649; (800) 233-8346; bbesound.com.

variety, keeping each channel in the pedal from finding out about each other, and the On/Off switch whisks the pedal out of the music's path to the amp's front door when its services are not required.

While the number of repeats and the mix with the unaltered signal can't be changed, it's amazing how much variety can be worked into a musical interlude with just two knobs. For example, with the mix set low and Time 1 and Repeat both turned up halfway, it's possible to get a reverb suggesting a darkened and mysterious room.

Each channel has a maximum of



330 milliseconds delay, and while this may seem insufficient time for even a musical tryst, it actually covers many, if not most, of the desires for a delay. And if one setting is not right for the moment, there's another waiting close by.

– Bob Dragich

Texas Treat

The Red Iron 5-Watter

TEXAS-BASED RED IRON Amps' 5-Watter is founder Paul Sanchez's take on the tweed Fender Champ – not the oft-copied late-'50s Champ, but the earlier version, which used octal preamp tubes.

The amp is spartan in appearance,

looking something like a prop from a '30s science fiction serial, especially when you

RED IRON 5-WATTER

Price: \$549
Contact: Red Iron Amplifiers, 213 S. Rio Grande, Lockhart, Texas 78644; phone: (512) 376-2939; redironamps.com.

