



Texas Multiband Overdrive

The Texas Multiband Overdrive consists of an Overdrive Section that goes from X10 boost to near self oscillation circa x50000 in two stages. It is a variation of the early blues overdrives designed for guitar. There is some eq shaping particularly on the distortion stage but compared to those guitar pedals, the frequency range has been left a bit more neutral to accommodate a wider range of sound sources.

All jacks are normalized – meaning that the jacks route the signal through a predetermined path, but if you insert a cable anywhere on the module, it will break this predetermined path at that specific point. In this way you can quickly setup and route a signal through all of the modules by just using an input and output cable, at the same time, by using more cables, you have the freedom to re-route the signal flow or use each sub section completely independently depending on your needs for a given situation.

The normalized signal flow is Overdrive to EQ to Multiband filter where each of the 4 bands is then sent into each of the 4 channels of the Mixer and then Output through the Line and Headphones Outputs.

The EQ section features an active 2 tone eq. Wide frequency range with gentle slopes due to the baxandall typology which extends well above and below the human hearing range. Baxandall is one of the most ubiquitous eq models. You find it very often on hi fi systems. It is also used often on mastering chains. This is a more subtle eq model than parametric for instance and sounds good even with knobs set in the extreme positions. It is also more of a “set and forget” type of module – of course set according to your soundsource, but sculpting with movement is better done in the next section.

The multiband filter is based on Buchla 194 / 294 filter, Moog and Buchla also created variations on this with more bands which can create all sorts of interesting sounds. But I find 4 bands is perfect for immediate, quick sculpting. I have to say, I find this module to be more useful than a classic low pass or band pass / hi pass filter for sculpting sound with movement. Lo/Band/Hi filters are wonderful, but can easily sound a bit more vintage or retro, especially with the resonance turned up, whereas the multiband filter resembles more a DJ isolator or using the EQ in Ableton Live for example. There is no resonance and the sculpting is more multi-dimensional. You can scoop sections of the mid ranges or really boost specific frequency ranges completely transforming the source material.