



GEAR

REVIEW

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FULL STEAM

SviSound'a Overdrive OverZoid oz01

Price: \$165 (list)
Info: www.svisoundamerica.com

Tonally and aesthetically, SviSound's Overdrive OverZoid is a study in good taste. Handcrafted in Bulgaria, the OverZoid matches a very natural-sounding gain with a distinctive steampunk design to earn its spot as the best-looking box on your pedalboard. A true-bypass pedal with point-to-point wiring and an all-metal enclosure, from the moment its blue indicator begins glowing behind its little copper cage, it reveals itself as playable and rewarding.

Gearheads know that a quality overdrive capitalizes on the natural tone of a guitar and amp rather than robbing them of character. Indeed, the beauty of the OverZoid is, first and foremost, its transparency, as the pedal enables a transition between clean and overdriven voices that you'd sooner expect to hear on a two-channel amp. The gain is soft, but not overly

creamy like a Tube Screamer can be; crisp, but not harsh like a hard-clipping Rat.

With the Volume at 10 o'clock and the Gain at about 9 o'clock, the OverZoid adds body and warmth with little to no breakup, which for some players will make this a great "always on" pedal. At a Gain setting of noon (with the Volume dropped to maintain a consistent level), the amount of drive is easy to control with guitar volume and string attack, and a nice growl is available for chords. By 3 o'clock, the tone is definitely growing hair, and at 5 the sound is fully saturated – though not so soaking wet that the dynamics of a lead are lost or individual notes of a chord can't be distinguished.

The OverZoid's Tone dial sweeps something like a presence control, which we

found more effective than a traditional tone adjustment for tailoring a setup. We could brighten up a humbucker or take the sharp edge off a single-coil bridge pickup without unwanted coloration. Additional EQ'ing is available via the Bass Boost toggle, which provides a very subtle bump of mid-low frequencies. Positioned at the front of the pedal, the Bass Boost can be flipped with your foot, which makes it usable for fattening a lead then drawing back the low-end for more low-string bite.

The OverZoid succeeds tonally where few others do (especially at this price), and its design is a cut above. Note that cosmetic details may differ slightly from one pedal to the next and you'll need to provide external power. Anyone who prefers higher-gain distortion or fuzz to an OD would do well to check other SviSound boxes like the MetalZoid and Ge Fuzz. – *Rich*

Maloof VG

