

# PIGTRONIX™

## OFO Disnortion

### User's Guide



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## WELCOME!

Thank you for entering the realm of Pigtronix. Your OFO is a professional quality, 100% analog distortion pedal that features three original Pigtronix effects. The "Overdrive" and "Fuzz" effects in this pedal are wired in parallel, allowing you to blend two separate distortion sounds for a remarkable range of thick yet articulate sounds. There is also a frequency doubling, "Octava" circuit, wired in series before the Overdrive and Fuzz. Each of these three effects can be used independently or in any combination.

In keeping with Pigtronix tradition. The controls on the OFO have been tuned to provide the fattest possible tone and widest range of musical possibilities.

The OFO will accept instrument or line level signals, making it a suitable effect for guitars, basses, keyboards, turntables, laptops, studios, amplified brass and wind instruments... you name it.

Our OFO was born out of a passion for versatile, expressive musical effects; it is built to last and designed to inspire.

We hope it will provide you with years of creative satisfaction.

Peace,

Pigtronix



# ANATOMY OF THE OFO

The Interface:



## Jacks

1. IN - Effect Input - Plug instrument in here
2. DC POWER 9-15VOLTS - Power input. We strongly recommend that you use *only* the 15-Volt, negative tip power supply that came with your Pigtronix OFO. Using the wrong power supply could result in a damaged pedal.  
*\*note:* The OFO is able to run on 9-Volts, however, for best performance please just use 15-Volts at all times.
3. CLEAN - Your clean signal is always present at this jack. When the unit is powered up. This feature can be used as a side-chain source and also is ideal for direct recording, as you may wish to track both a clean and a distorted sound at the same time.  
*\*note:* When using the OFO in conjunction with the Pigtronix EP-1, be sure to connect the OFO Clean output to the EP-1's trigger input. This will allow your clean signal to control the EP-1's envelope follower, regardless of how much distortion you pile on.
4. OUTPUT - Effect output - to amp, mixer, recording desk, etc.

### Overdrive Controls

5. LEVEL - This dial sets the output volume of the Overdrive.
6. GAIN - This dial sets the amount of gain in the Overdrive. Since the Pigtronix Overdrive is touch sensitive, you can set the gain control higher than you might on a different pedal and still achieve soft distortion by playing softly. With the gain set all the way counter-clockwise, the Overdrive circuit will act as a clean booster.
7. TONE - This dial sets the cutoff frequency for the Overdrive. Unlike most overdrive tone knobs, this control is bypassed when it is fully clockwise. As the tone control is turned counterclockwise, more high frequencies will be filtered out of the Overdrive sound. You may wish to set this control higher than you would on an standard overdrive pedal

OVERDRIVE FOOTSWITCH/LED - This footswitch engages the Overdrive. When the Overdrive is on, the LED above the footswitch will shine blue.

### Fuzz Controls

8. LEVEL - This dial sets the output volume of the Fuzz.
9. GAIN - This dial sets the amount of gain in the Fuzz. Though not as drastically touch sensitive as the Overdrive, the Pigtronix Fuzz will still react to your playing dynamics at high gain settings. With the gain set all the way counter-clockwise, the Fuzz circuit will act as a clean booster.
10. SHAPE - This 6-way rotary switch allows you to select any one of six different filters for the Fuzz.

- 1= Full Range
- 2= F.A.T. (Mid Boosted)
- 3= Smooth
- 4= Treble
- 5= Mid Scoop
- 6= Bass

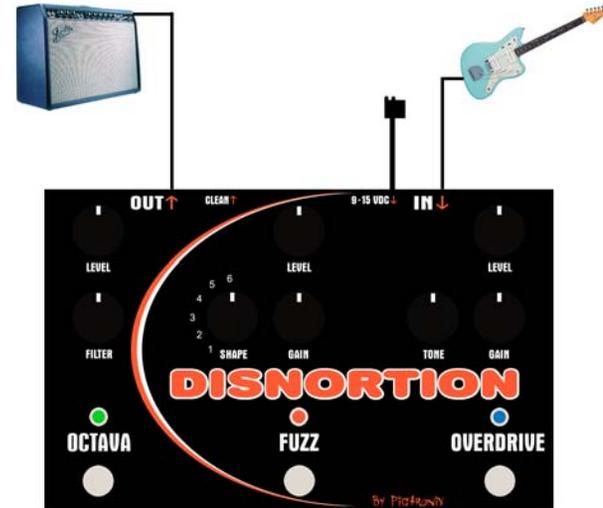
11. FUZZ FOOTSWITCH/LED - This footswitch engages the Fuzz. When the Fuzz is on, the LED above the footswitch will shine red.

### Octava Controls

12. LEVEL - This dial sets the output volume of the Octava. **This control is only active when the Octava is used by itself. When the Octava is used in conjunction with Overdrive and/or Fuzz, the Octava Level control is bypassed.**
13. FILTER - This dial sets the cutoff frequency of the signal going into the Octava (and the Fuzz/Overdrive when the Octava is in use). As the tone control is turned counterclockwise, more high frequencies will be filtered when the Octava is in use. This is similar to turning down the tone knob on your guitar. This control is bypassed when it is fully clockwise.
14. OCTAVA FOOTSWITCH/LED - This footswitch engages the Octava. When the Octava is on, the LED above the footswitch will shine green.

# GETTING STARTED

## Basic Hook Up



1. Unpack your OFO and place it on a flat, stable surface.
2. **Make sure you are using the 15-Volt DC (negative center) power supply that came with your Pigtronix OFO.** The OFO will work with 9 OR 12 Volts DC (negative center) but this is not recommended.

Plug the power cord into the 9-15VDC jack on the back of the OFO and then plug the power adaptor into an electrical socket.

The OFO is now powered up. To turn the device off, unplug it from the wall or turn off the power going to the socket that the power supply is plugged into.

**Because of the complex switching that is necessary to make the OFO do all that it does, true bypass was not possible in this design. The OFO must be powered up for audio to pass through the pedal. When the unit is bypassed, there is no degradation of the audio signal.**

We recommend that you do not leave your OFO powered up for long periods of time when it is not in use.

3. Plug your instrument into the “IN” jack and plug your Amplifier into the “OUT” jack as shown above.

## GUIDED TOUR

The following steps guide you through the sonic palette of OFO and show you how to get at the range of tones that it has to offer.

1. Set all of the OFO's controls to the 3:00 position with all three LEDs turned off. The SHAPE control should be set to #1. Make sure the volume knob on your guitar is all the way up and that your amp is turned on and set to a reasonable playing volume.

### Overdrive

2. Turn on the Overdrive, the blue LED should light up. Play softly at first, gradually playing harder and harder. Notice how the Overdrive responds to how hard you play. Even greater dynamics can be achieved using your guitar's volume knob. Depending on the strength and type of the pickups in your guitar, the Overdrive LEVEL control should be set between 12:00 and 3:00 to give you a volume boost.
3. Explore the range of each of the Overdrive controls. Most people prefer to keep the TONE control nearly all the way up, as this will give you the most natural sound. Notice how turning the GAIN all the way down and the LEVEL all the way up gives you a clean boost sound.
4. When you have explored the Overdrive's controls, return them to the 3:00 position and turn off the Overdrive.

### Fuzz

5. Turn on the Fuzz circuit, the red LED should light up. Play softly at first, gradually playing harder and harder. Notice how the FUZZ responds to how you play. Depending on the strength and type of pickups in your guitar, the Fuzz LEVEL control should be set between 12:00 and 3:00 to give you a volume boost.
6. With the LEVEL and GAIN still set to 3:00, cycle through the six different filters available from the SHAPE switch. Notice how each of the six filter shapes gives the fuzz a different voice.
7. Explore the range of each of the Fuzz controls. Notice how turning the GAIN all the way down and the LEVEL all the way up gives you a clean boost sound.
8. When you have explored the Fuzz controls, return them to the 3:00 position and turn off the Fuzz.

### Octava

9. Turn on the Octava circuit, the green LED should light up. Using the neck pickup on your guitar, play some single note lines, gradually playing higher and higher up the neck. Notice how the Octava responds to what you play.

10. Now try some power chords using the bridge pickup.
11. Now, play an open E major chord. The Octava will remain stable with major chords. Next, play an open E minor chord. As you will quickly notice, the Octava becomes unstable with some chords and sonic carnage sets in.
12. Explore the range of the Octava TONE control. Notice how as you play higher up on the neck, the octave up sound becomes more pronounced. The classic Hendrix Octavia sound can be achieved by using the neck pickup on your axe, and rolling off either the Octava TONE control or the tone control on your guitar or a combination of the two. This sound is most pronounced when you play above the 9<sup>th</sup> fret.

### **COMBINATIONS (now the real fun begins!)**

#### **Overdrive + Octava**

13. Return the Octava controls to 3:00 and turn on the Overdrive so that **both** the blue and green LEDs are on. The Overdrive/Octava sound is unique to the Pigtronix OFO. Dig it. Play low, play high. Notice the increased sustain and knarly yet expressive grind of this combination.

#### **Fuzz + Octava**

14. Turn off the Overdrive and turn on the Fuzz so that both the red and green LEDs are on. The Fuzz/Octava sound has been available in the past, but the range of textures offered by the Fuzz's SHAPE control presents an unrivaled palette of sonic possibilities.

#### **Overdrive + Fuzz**

15. Return all of the controls to the 3:00 position. Turn off the Octava and set the Fuzz shape control to #4, the Treble filter. By itself, the treble fuzz is thin and cutting (this sounds amazing with a VOX AC30). Listen to the Treble fuzz by itself for a moment.
16. Now kick in the Overdrive so that the blue and red LEDs are on. Notice how all of your low end is injected back into the sound by the Overdrive. Your high strings will sing with Treble Fuzz and your low strings will grind with Overdrive. Bring the Overdrive TONE knob back to 11:00 and listen.
17. Put the Overdrive TONE knob back up to 3:00 and then cycle through the different Fuzz shapes. Try Fuzz shape #5, then #3, then #2, then #1. On Bass, Fuzz shape #6 plus Overdrive is devastating.

#### **Overdrive + Fuzz + Octava**

18. Now for the whole enchilada! Make sure all of the controls are at 3:00 and set the fuzz SHAPE switch to #2, the F.A.T. filter. Now Turn on all three effects so that the blue, red and green LEDs are on. This is the sound of **DISNORTION**. Enjoy!

# USING THE OFO DISNORTION + EP-1 ENVELOPE PHASER

Here is the recommended way to rig up the Pigtronix OFO and EP-1:



## LIMITED WARRANTY

Your Pigtronix effect pedal comes with a 1 year limited warranty on parts and workmanship. During the warranty period we will repair or replace, at our option, defective parts or pedals free of charge, and return them to the owner. Warranty service does not include damaged, modified, or misused pedals and such pedals will be subject to a standard repair charge.

**What we will not do:** Pay for shipping or transportation charges from you to us, or pay for any international shipping charges.

**What you must do:** First, contact us directly via email and describe the problem to us. If the problem cannot be resolved we will have you send your pedal directly to us for servicing.

**How to contact us for warranty service:**

Email: [tech@pigtronix.com](mailto:tech@pigtronix.com)

**Warranty Limitations:** This warranty does not cover defects resulting from improper or unreasonable use, accident, unauthorized tampering or modifications; and, warranty shall be considered void if OFO chassis has been opened. Please consult the instructions and warnings in this manual for proper use. Warranty is only valid if your OFO has been properly registered within 30 days of original purchase date, and upon warranty registration, will be valid for 12 months from original purchase.

To validate your 1-year, limited warranty, please register your EP-1, **within 30 days of purchase**, on the web at:

[www.pigtronix.com/warranty](http://www.pigtronix.com/warranty)

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Please be sure to observe these precautions. The safety precautions listed below are intended to ensure your safety whenever you use the equipment.

**NEVER OPEN THE CASE** - Never try to separate the two pieces of the chassis from one another and/or modify the equipment. Opening this device will effectively void the warranty.

**STOP USE IN CASE OF PROBLEM** - Stop using the equipment if ever you should notice smoke or a strange odor coming from it. Contact your original dealer or nearest authorized service provider for service.

**AVOID HIGH TEMPERATURES & HEAT BUILD UP** - Never cover AC adaptor with cloth or other objects. Built up heat creates a danger of equipment deformation and fire. Do not expose the OFO to direct sunlight, heating devices, or other extreme temperatures.

**USE SPECIFIED POWER ADAPTOR ONLY** - Be sure to use only the 15-Volt DC Adapter that came with your Pigtronix EP-1 and is specified in this user's guide.

**DO NOT EXPOSE TO WATER/BEER** - To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose your OFO to rain or moisture. If water gets inside the unit, turn off the power supply and consult your dealer or nearest authorized service provider.

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### Final Notes

Years of work have gone into making this pedal a reality. We would like to thank the following people for their help along the way:

Howard Davis, Steve Spano, Lisa Rickmers, The Bethke and Koltai Families, Verne Andru, Matt Smith, Hugh Pool, Maroon 5, Soulive, Dave Burnett, Nate Mars, Craig Brodhead, Ed Supple, Analogman, Sky, Candy, Sam and B-Dawg.

The PIGTRONIX OFO Disnortion was designed by Howard "Mick" Davis and David Koltai during the fall of 2005 in Brooklyn, NY.

That is it folks, now go have fun with your new Disnortion pedal!

Peace,

Dave Koltai & Brian Bethke

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