

# KEELEY ELECTRONICS D&M DRIVE

REVIEW BY **SAM HILL**  
STREET PRICE **\$299.00**



If you're like me, you roll out of bed Friday morning and gleefully check your YouTube account to see that another episode of *That Pedal Show*, featuring gearhead blokes Mick and Dan, has been uploaded for your viewing pleasure. That Pedal Show is just what it says it is—a show about pedals. The hosts pick a type of effect and talk about how to use it, giving great demonstrations, and use a bunch of effects in the process, ranging from readily available, off-the-shelf stuff to uber-boutique unicorn gear. Whether you watch it to

learn how to implement something into your rig, or you just enjoy guitar-related entertainment, it's a blast, and Dan and Mick don't take themselves too seriously, so it's easy to digest. The folks at Keeley Electronics take them seriously enough to give them their own signature overdrive pedal, the D&M Drive.

Named after Dan and Mick, the pedal offers two shades of dirt. A boost-and-low gain overdrive based on Mick's preference is paired with a more wild overdrive chosen by Dan to give you

plenty of options. You can run them independently, and you can combine them for any boost or overdrive combination you can think of. A switch allows you to choose which effect is first in the chain. With the boost side first, it pushes the overdrive into further saturation. With the overdrive first, you have the ability to boost the overall signal after the overdrive effect and get cleaner tones.

The boost side offers everything from sweet chimey cleans to light overdrive. If you're into articulate, slightly boosted

solo tones a la John Mayer, this side will have you drooling. With the gain all the way up, you can almost get into some vintage Santana tones, especially with a slightly overdriven amplifier. I liked using a generous amount of boost with the gain about halfway and tone set to taste. The overdrive side can do everything from classic rock rhythm crunch to soaring, saturated liquid overdrive that will make you want to put on spandex. While some may miss the full EQ section available on some pedals, I for one love the simple "volume, gain, tone" interface. The tone knobs are very effective, and both the volume and gain have a great, useable range.

I used the D&M Drive with a variety of amplifiers, including a Swart Super Space Tone 30 with a matching 2x12 cabinet containing Celestion Alnico Cream and Greenback speakers, a Vox Lil' Night Train into that same cab, and a solid

state Vox Pathfinder 15 combo. With the Swart, it accentuated every wonderful nook and cranny, and combined with the wide range of tones in the amplifier, I had access to every dirt sound I would ever use, with the exception of extreme fuzz. With the Lil' Night Train, I found the boost to be the perfect companion to coax extra sizzle from the two-watt monster, especially with the amp's Bright mode. The Pathfinder defies all logic as a cheap 1x8 practice amp that sounds really good, and the D&M Drive warmed it up significantly. Paired with the EarthQuaker Devices Dispatch Master reverb-and-delay combo, it's the perfect mini rig to take to a small show or rehearsal. The pedal itself is responsive and dynamic and added a whole new dimension to the tiny, tubeless Vox combo.

This pedal is awesome. It's easy to use, sounds freaking great and it looks cool, not to mention it's built by one of the best

companies in the business. If you're looking for a do-it-all overdrive that gives you sweet sounds without any hassle, this is it. Now excuse me while I go buy one.

### WHAT WE LIKE

Incredible boost and drive tones in a convenient, well-built package. Ability to choose order of effects. Cool art. It's inspired by *That Pedal Show!*

### CONCERNS

None.

