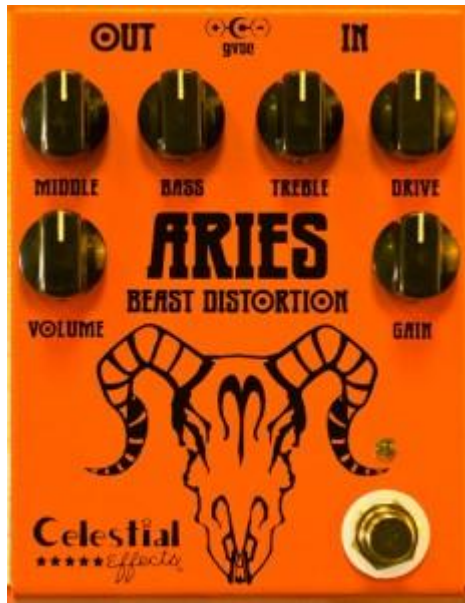


PEDAL FINDER'S REVIEW OF THE AIRES BEAST DISTORTION



At [Pedal Finder](#), one of the greatest joys we get when partnering with builders on giveaways is that we get to hook the pedal up and take it for a spin before we pass it on to some lucky musician. When it came time to giveaway a Celestial Effects Aries Beast Distortion we were filled with anticipation based on what we had heard and we were not disappointed.

The Set Up

The Aries Beast distortion is housed in a durable metal enclosure that has just a bit of slope to keep the angle of your foot and the controls on the same plane. Four easy to reach/remove screws give you access to the innards where you will find the 9 volt battery connector along with posts to ensure the battery stays in one place. On the face of the pedal you have 6 easy to access knobs, the switch and an

LED light to let you know all systems are go.

The six knobs consist of the volume knob, three EQ settings (mids, bass and treble), a gain knob and a drive knob. The variety of knobs are what give the Aries flexibility without crushing the spirit of the uninitiated. In particular, it's the two gain stages that really let you dial in different types of distortion. The first stage is controlled by the gain knob. It provides a really open tonal growl. This stage flows into the drive stage, which has a much more compressed tighter sound under the influence of a clipping-diode. Adjusting these two stages against each other is enough to drum up a wide array of sounds, but then Celestial gives you a three-band EQ to mess with and the possibilities seem to fly out to the horizon.

The Knock Down

According to a review at [Premier Guitar](#) one of the goals of the Aries was to highlight the mid-range tones prominently. We found that they absolutely succeed in this aspect. Using the three EQ knobs we took turns boosting treble and bass. All the while we were still able to primarily maintain a full, deep mid-range. All this even when we cranked up the gain and drive on the Beast past (what we consider) good taste. Overall, the EQ seemed very responsive and consistent across all knob settings.

We got lost for a while (in a good way!) playing with the two gain stages. The wide open gain stage leading into the tighter drive stage allowed us an array of distortions from full throated-growls and dense, chewable-chuggy-goodness to smoother, more responsive distortion that added more flavor to the tone than it did aggression. The places in-between these two settings are the fertile ground where you could lose a day while finding true happiness.

Your Sign Doesn't Matter

No matter what your sign or when you were born, the Aries Beast Distortion has something to offer all musicians. The durable enclosure makes it road worthy, the selection of controls gives you flexibility without being panic inducing and the circuit design delivers on its namesake, for this pedal surely is a Beast.

