



## Leviathan Fuzz



Brian hasn't been your typical "fuzz guy" all his life. He doesn't use words like "hair" to describe the amount of distortion, and if one of his pedals sounded remotely "splatty" he'd probably want to get it in for warranty.

Still, there is a necessary measure of respect that any guitarist, especially pedal designers, have to give to the earliest effects pedals, used by the great guitarists who helped define rock n' roll.

In pedal terms, fuzz is an ancient, primal sound, a sound which started with bands tearing or puncturing holes in their speakers (a practice we in no way endorse!) and morphed into an electronic capability in pedal-form when transistors came around and some very clever folks figured out that if you run them hard as they'll go, they stop sounding clean and start sounding fuzzy and huge!

The golden age of fuzz pedals saw a great variety of different fuzz types, and then it tapered off as overdrive and distortion arrived on the scene with more refined sounds and easier tonal control. Classic fuzzes have reemerged today in many forms, the majority of them outright clones of older designs purporting to give you sounds that you might originally have heard your favorite '60s or '70s guitarist use; the rest, "freak-out" fuzzes that make oscillating noises and make your guitar sound more like a really early synth.

Is there room for something new in the fuzz world, something that brings original concepts together and a distortion-focused design mindset to the table?

A challenge like that is something Brian Wampler had to take on, and his idea with the Leviathan Fuzz was to take the kind of effective controls that mark Wampler Pedals overdrive and distortion pedals as stand-outs and apply new design philosophy to the fuzz question. The result: a unique Wampler Pedals fuzz, a thunderous beast designed to make a fuzz lover out of the staunchest distortion pedal advocate or give fine control to those fuzz lovers who might be used to the one "sweet spot" on those older designs' tone or filter knobs.

From the rumble of the deep to the primal roar, Leviathan brings together the goals of having a focused, cutting tone while still providing massive but controllable fuzz and distortion. If this is your first fuzz, the control setup should help you in exploring uncharted waters... but be careful, here there be dragons...

To get the most out of your new pedal, you'll want to become very familiar with the controls. The Leviathan features controls for Gain, Volume, Treble and Bass, as well as a Rumble/Roar switch which changes the internal gain structure between silicon and germanium diodes (profound effect on the sound – I'll explain shortly!). Flexibility is a key feature, as usual, and the controls on the Leviathan are intentionally very interactive, so experimentation will go far. As with all Wampler Pedals products, the Leviathan includes a high-quality true-bypass switch which takes it out of the signal path when bypassed. Experiment and enjoy...

**Bypass Switch** – A true-bypass footswitch ensures solid, mechanical removal of the circuit when it isn't wanted, meaning you don't lose any tone when the pedal is off.

**Volume** – This control adjusts the output level of the Leviathan. There's plenty of volume on tap in either Rumble or Roar mode, so whether you want to go farther than your input level or just make sure it can do unity volume (the same level of signal going out as you feed it, when active), you're covered. The Gain, Treble and Bass knobs, and the Rumble/Roar Toggle all have an impact on total output volume level, so you're probably better off waiting to adjust the Volume until you've dialed in the other controls. Re-adjustment might be necessary if you get it to the desired level and still need to tweak the sound.

**Gain** – This control, in conjunction with the Rumble/Roar Toggle, lets you dial in anything from a smooth fuzz with overtones of drive all the way to screaming, blasting high-gain fuzz monstrosity. The Gain is strongly interactive with the Rumble/Roar toggle, because that switch totally changes how the signal is fed to the fuzz engine of the pedal! You'll want to experiment between the two modes to get a feel for how they work. Also make note of the change in gain behavior at extremes of the EQ controls. With the Bass knob cranked up, you can get a buzz-saw ferocity to the low frequencies that's just a total blast to play. Set the Gain knob lower for classic fuzz sounds. This pedal will do nearly any of them, and more.

**Treble** – This adjusts the frequency emphasis on the highs. It interacts substantially with the Bass knob. Start with the Treble at Noon and adjust from there to your preference. Roar mode has more inherent "projection" of the treble frequencies, so adjust accordingly when dialing in your sound. Rumble mode is darker, and may benefit from raising the Treble to ensure effective cut-through when playing chords and especially single-note runs.

**Bass** – This adjusts the frequency emphasis on the lows. It interacts substantially with the Treble knob. Useful for dialing in more thunder and punch, but past a certain point it rolls over into a flailing fury of fuzzy low-frequency ferocity. Again, experimentation is key here, because the interaction with the Treble and Rumble/Roar Toggles are huge.

**Rumble/Roar Toggle Switch** – This switch allows you to easily shift between the SI and GE gain modes of the Leviathan. Roar is louder and more "raw" sounding, easily capable of transforming (with judicious adjustment of the other controls) from classic sounds reminiscent of the old, famous Tonebender fuzz to more modern, hard-edged, raspy fuzzes. Max the Bass out on Roar mode and it turns into something different yet again. Rumble mode has lower total volume output, but has a more powerfully refined voicing, with tonal control usually reserved for distortion pedals. Make no mistake, Rumble is heavy... But Roar can get there, too.

#### Power Requirements

*The pedal can be powered by a 9V battery. The battery terminal is located inside the pedal. If using a power supply, power needed for the pedal is 9V DC, regulated, center pin negative, as supplied by most standard Boss™/Ibanez™/Etc. supplies. The pedal can be safely powered with a multi-supply, like the Visual Sound 1SPOT™. The pedal was designed explicitly around the usage of a 9V DC power source, and is intended to sound its best at 9V. To avoid damage to the pedal, do not exceed 18V DC, do not use center pin positive adapters, and do not use AC power. Using an incorrect power adapter can lead to damage and will void the warranty on the pedal. This pedal draws 12mA.*

**Please note:** If you are using a battery, it will drain when the input cord is plugged in.

#### Return and Warranty Policy

For direct sales, there is a 7-day "no questions asked" period where you may return the pedal for any reason, provided that it is in its original condition. Please retain all packaging within this period in case you decide to return it! We only require that you pay shipping back. The 7 days start when you receive the pedal. This does not apply to dealer or retailer sales – see their individual return policies for specific information.

All Wampler Pedals, Inc. pedals carry a 5-year, fully transferable warranty that covers defects due to parts and labor. The warranty begins at the point of purchase. Please remember to register your pedal as soon as possible after purchase at the following web page to ensure quicker service if you should ever need to make a warranty claim: [www.wamplerpedals.com/warranty\\_registration](http://www.wamplerpedals.com/warranty_registration)

For warranty repairs or questions, please feel free to contact us at [www.wamplerpedals.com/contact\\_us.html](http://www.wamplerpedals.com/contact_us.html)

### Suggested Settings (volume to suit)



#### Bend Tone

Rumble/Roar Toggle in ROAR mode, Gain at 11 o'clock, Treble at 4 o'clock, Bass at 11 o'clock or a little before. Thin, cutting sound intended!



#### Large Muffler

Rumble/Roar Toggle in RUMBLE mode, Gain at 1 o'clock, Treble at 2 o'clock, Bass at 2-3 o'clock.



#### Face the Fuzz

Rumble/Roar Toggle in RUMBLE mode, Gain at 10 o'clock, Treble at Noon, Bass at 2 o'clock



#### Leviathan Fuzz

Rumble/Roar Toggle in ROAR mode, Gain fully clockwise, Treble at 2 o'clock, Bass fully clockwise.

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