

Congratulations on enrolling in the 2008 Pigtronix Pedal Building Workshop at NGW. Since we'll be spending a week together this summer, I'd like to provide some background info about Pigtronix, as well as a general overview of what this seminar will cover.

Beginning in 2002 I became inspired by an obsessive desire to craft killer new guitar sounds for use in my music. Guided by the wealth of DIY information on the web and in print, I constructed a wide variety of effects projects. These were mostly clones of classic pedals, but as I gained experience and modified the designs, some new sounds began to emerge. By 2004, having become totally (tonally) fixated on an envelope controlled phaser project, I founded Pigtronix with a close friend and fellow musician whom I met at Middlebury College in Vermont. Together, we have built a company that is endorsed by many top musicians and respected as a leader in guitar effects innovation. Our goal has been to design, manufacture and distribute high quality analog effects pedals that are unlike anything else available. Currently we have five unique pedals on the market, with number six coming this spring and several more in the works. We have debuted new pedals at the NAMM show for 4 years in a row and are proud to say that Pigtronix pedals are assembled by hand and tested by musicians in Yonkers, New York.

The material goal of the Pigtronix pedal building workshop is for each student to construct a world-class guitar pedal that they can take home and play for years to come. In addition to building techniques, a pedal builder must learn to understand the connections between the musical aspects of effects and the hardware elements that make them work. Students will learn how to use basic tools such as a soldering iron, oscilloscope and voltmeter while becoming familiar with printed circuit boards and wiring. We will also go over how to identify and read the values of various components such as resistors, capacitors and IC chips. We will explore concepts of stompbox modification, examining common schematics and experimenting with circuits in order to hear *and* understand how changing components will affect the overall sound of a musical device. In this course, students will be encouraged to develop a keener sense of sonic awareness as well as pedal building chops and a rudimentary understanding of electronics.

At the outset of the class, we will go through the entire range of musical effects that can be achieved by electronic means. From the basic diode clipping of a Tubescreamer overdrive, right up through Pigtronix's state-of-the-art Mothership analog guitar synthesizer and Echolution delay, we will delve into every type of effect pedal and the various ways they can be combined. Taking this class will provide each student with an opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to make and modify numerous guitar pedals and perhaps even design a few of their own. In addition to building an awesome guitar pedal, I hope that each student will be empowered to realize that there are many paths in the music industry and that a positive, "can do" mentality will lead to success.

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