

Siegmund Pup Emu

User Review by Trace Hamrick

Hard to find amp builders in the guitar industry today who will custom make prototype ideas for customers. Meet Chris Siegmund...

I saw the Gig Rig Z Cable thing that they stopped making a while back (which was also \$300 and required one per amp used in A/B/Y setup) and wanted to achieve that solution of restoring the impedance. I needed the amp to think it was seeing a guitar and the guitar to see the front end of the amp.

I am happy to say that I achieved this exactly like I imagined in my head, and it was only with the help of Chris to make this device. He was skeptical at first, but it turned out he loved it so much he started making them for everyone!

I run my guitar into a board that uses the Gig Rig 10 loop switcher, so I do have the option of running a fuzz before anything. But let me explain what my general clean sound is like.

My guitar goes into the Siegmund Missing Link (low gain - full freq range version) and then into a Telonics Pro Volume pedal. The volume pedal sends off a shoot to the tuner and back into the loop switcher. At the 10th loop I have my Pup Emu.

I pretty much leave that on the 5K setting even with my Les Paul. The difference in feel is remarkable. The bounce and direct feel is all there. It allows you to have that direct connection, but still utilize a pedal board to change your sound. I feel it's the only way to do a board right.

Say, when I turn on my Siegmund Double Drive pedal... the Pup Emu doesn't make as much of a difference. Or when I engage my Chase Tone Secret Preamp I have to disengage it because that pedal actually raises impedance or something... kinda the same idea built into that but not in design. Other than that though, if I'm using like an Analogman Sunface or Astrofuzz... or my Wampler Euphoria or Jam Tubedreamer, the Pup Emu makes all the difference.

So I have Guitar -> Missing Link -> Telonics Pro -> Pup Emu -> Preamp -> Strymon in effects loop -> Power amp out.

The fuzz comes on before the Missing link, but everything else would come on between the volume pedal and the Pup Emu.

The whole sound just totally comes to life. I definitely plan on uploading some YouTube videos when I have the quality recording equipment to capture it. It does positively affect the sound, creating a more open natural air but most of it is in the response curve and feel of the instrument. The lows are tight and defined yet they softly bounce, the mids are woody/punchy yet liquid and the top end is clear and open without losing the smoothness.

That sounds like a bunch of mushy words I know, but the illustration is that in guitar we have opposites that we like to strike a balance between... or better yet have the best of both. That's a good way to put it.

The Pup Emu allows you to use the pedal board and still have the best of both all the time... unless you also use a Chase Tone Secret Preamp to emulate an echoplex... but other than that it's always on! And it's not hard to switch them back and forth anytime you turn on an EP circuit, especially with a loop switcher (it does that automatically).

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I would venture as far as to say that my humbuckers have those rare 'single coil quality' feelings that people rave about old pickups having. I really dig it. My fingers think Strat but my ears hear Les Paul. Very playable. My wife approves as well.

I don't know what else to say, it's not complicated and it works better than you can imagine without any serious drawbacks in my experience.

I haven't even experimented with the tone and volume knobs, and I rarely switch it from 5K to the higher settings. I basically just leave it on the way it is all the time and when I switch on my EP pedal the loop switcher turns it off automatically until I switch back.

I never seen much talk about pickup emulators on the internet except for old forum threads with more questions than solutions. So thanks Chris, for doing this.

Trace Hamrick