Which Chain Of Effect Pedals Makes Life Easy?

- **Wah** - Which,
- **Compressor** - Chain,
- **Overdrive** - Of,
- **EQ** - Effect,
- **Pitch** - Pedals,
- **Modulation** - Make,
- **Level** - Make,
- **Echo** - Easy.

I like to see wah pedals and sometimes even phasers as the first effect after the guitar. We'll call these Wah effects (yes even the phaser). Wah pedals boost a frequency you sweep to with your foot and phasers cut or notch a frequency that is swept to electronically. Distortion pedals make interesting response changes to the boost or cut from these sweep pedals.

**Compressors** typically go next although I like them after distortion pedals in many cases if the compressor is clean and transparent enough. Compression after distortion has two effects that I really like. First, the noise floor is lower because the noise from a compressor isn't being amplified and distorted by the overdrive pedal. Second, there appears to be more sustain. There is one drawback that some people notice and that is a darker, warmer tone. Some folks might prefer a more conventional, brighter tone.

Next comes **Overdrive** or **distortion**.

**Equalizer** pedals can go next. They are commonly used for a boost pedal if they can be turned on and off, or used to shape the tone of the distortion pedal.

**Pitch changing pedals**, Vibrato for example; go next for the simple reason that many distortion pedals can't handle the many pitches at one time. Try strumming a complex chord with your distortion pedal on, say a C7#9#11.

**Modulation** effects such as chorus and flanging go next.

**Level** pedals that control the volume go next in many cases. This would include tremolo, volume pedals (great at this point in the effects chain because it cuts all the hiss going to your amp), noise gates and limiters. Since compression is a limiter in many cases and this is why it works post-distortion by the way.

**Echo** effects go last. These include delay and reverb.

A sample effects board might contain these effects: Guitar -> Wah, Compressor, Overdrive, EQ, Vibrato, Chorus, Tremolo, Volume Pedal, and Delay-> Amp.

Note – these “rules” are meant to be broken. Use what sounds best in YOUR rig.