

## Order of pedals – Robert Keeley

### Which Chain Of Effect Pedals Makes Life Easy?

- **Wah** -> Which,
- **Compressor** -> Chain,
- **Overdrive** -> Of,
- **EQ** -> Effect,
- **Pitch** -> Pedals,
- **Modulation** -> Make,
- **Level** -> Life,
- **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 draw back 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.