

Mythical Overdrive op-amp rolling test results (for bass guitar)

buffer	post clipping	comments
TL072	TL072	Stock configuration. At medium-low gain, the voice is sweet, woody and a bit snarly, with lovely harmonics chiming on note attack and snaking around in note decay. Response to playing inputs is perfect; completely tactile. Best of all, though, the fundamental is preserved! Yes, the spectral balance changes, so that adjusting the volume to compensate for the midrange emphasis softens bass frequencies. But the bass is real. And the net result sounds alive and Very Big.
TL072	OPA2134PA	It didn't sound bad. But it just kind of sat there and did the job. This configuration seemed to justify my stated concern that the BB op-amps would make the MO sound too polite.
OPA2134PA	TL072	The woody, barking tone is much decreased. The solid, yet sonorous aspect of the voice is emphasized instead. Sinewy harmonics snake around that basis still; but it's the calm, focused solidity that comes to the fore. Solid, calm, planted, dynamic, sonorous, open... that is the new voice.
OPA2604AP	TL072	Similar difference from stock as the OPA2134PA/TL072 config. But thicker low mids and bass. More hi-fi, probably. The overdrive is still there, but the emphasis shifts still more to the fundamental.
AD845JNZ	TL072	No audio. Later I deduced that only 2-channel chips will work in this circuit, not 1-channel chips like this one.
OPA2277PA	TL072	Best of all, so far: articulate, thick, snarling, each in measure. Trades solid lows for articulation, for a more exciting net feeling.
OP275GPZ	TL072	Supposedly what Paul C. was using in his personal Tim recently. Rock 'n' roll. Lo-fi compared to the BB chips; more akin to the TL072, but with more bass. Furry and out of focus overall, but less fizzy when overdriven more. Could be good post clipping.
OPA602AP	TL072	No audio. Later I deduced that only 2-channel chips will work in this circuit, not 1-channel chips like this one.
OPA2277PA	OP275GPZ	Not very different from TL072 post clipping; maybe a bit less exciting.
OPA2134PA	OPA2277PA	This is the one for bass guitar. The key seems to be setting the basic voice in the buffer, then retaining the desirable harmonic content of the overdrive post clipping. Also, as other configurations suggested, the two chips, albeit in different sections of the circuit, have to play nicely together sonically. Together, the focus and solidity of the OPA2134AP in the buffer, then the articulate yet thick snarl of the OPA2277PA post clipping, does both really well.
OPA2604AP	OPA2277PA	Seemingly the two chips did not get along well in these roles. Whereas the OPA2604AP was thick-sounding with the TL072, it sounded furry and low volume with the OPA2277PA.