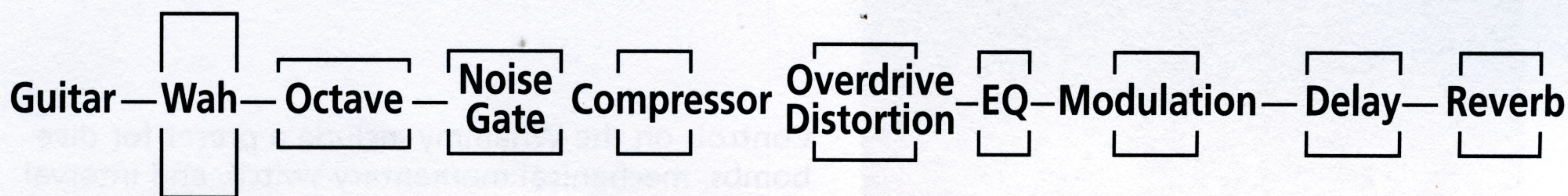


Chapter 12

COMBINING EFFECTS

Now that you're familiar with some of the most common guitar effects and their sounds, you should learn how to arrange them for the best sound possible.

Whether you are using foot pedals, rack units, or processors, their placement within the signal chain is crucial to your overall sound. The following diagram lists the effects covered in this book in their proper order. Whether you are using one or all of these effects, follow the sequence of this signal chain, ignoring those effects you're not using in your rig.



Effect Signal Chain

Use this diagram as reference whenever you're unsure about effect placement.

In actuality, it may not be realistic to run this many individual pedals at once with your rig, as such a set-up would be quite noisy. As a result, the noise gate would have to be at a higher than normal setting, and be activated every time you weren't playing—otherwise the hiss from the pedals would be deafening. A better option would be to take a minimalist's approach with effects pedals and try to get the best possible sound from your amplifier before incorporating additional signals to your tone.

Look over some of the suggestions in this chapter, which will help you decide which effect combinations work best together. Both the style of music you play and how much you want to invest in pedals, processors, and patch cables will be determining factors in the elaborateness of your rig. It's not necessary to have a stockpile of these devices; while they're guaranteed to make you a more effected guitarist, they won't necessarily make you a better guitarist—unless the variety of sounds inspires your playing to the next level, which is quite possible!

Check out the following basic effect pedal rig, which is effective for a number of stylistic situations:



Basic Pedal Rig I

This setup would be good for someone who wants more variety than the standard overdrive or distorted amp tone. The ability to add chorus, flange, or phase to their effect arsenal is a nice touch, the compressor would help keep everything balanced and even-sounding, and you'd get a little added sustain to boot!

Here is another suggested pedal rig:



Basic Pedal Rig II