

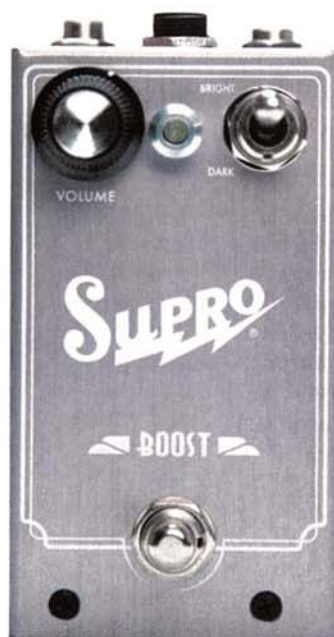
# The 20 EFFECTS BRANDS *to watch in 2017*

From established big guns to basement start-ups, **GARY WALKER** rounds up the pedal manufacturers to look out for on both sides of the Atlantic next year and finds out what new stompboxes they're preparing to unleash

**1 SUPRO**  
After relaunching its much-missed amp brand in 2013, Supro turned its attention to pedals, announcing its literally-titled Drive, Fuzz and Boost trio at NAMM back in January. The Drive is an absolute corker that made our 2016 Gear of The Year shortlist.

**Q What have been your main success stories of 2016?**

"The Supro Drive. Putting an output transformer in a distortion pedal to fully realise the 'amp in a box' concept has resonated with customers who want authentic



Supro dirt in a stompbox. Inside this award-winning pedal, we replicated the preamp, phase inverter, power amp and magnetic saturation of the original 1960s Supro tube amps."

**Q What do you have in store for 2017?**

"The Supro Tremolo. Using the same concept of replicating the actual topology of old-school tube amps, we've created a modulation and gain pedal that features a recreation of the original Valco-style tube tremolo found in Supro amps, as well as the Leo Fender-style harmonic tremolo found in Fender's coveted blonde amps of the early 1960s."

**Dave Koltai, president** [www.suprousa.com](http://www.suprousa.com)



## Supro 1305 Drive

A musical, old-time Supro amp-aping overdrive with an output transformer and an intriguing expression-pedal option for increasing gain

### KEY FEATURES

- **DESCRIPTION** USA-made true-bypass overdrive pedal with Volume, Gain, Tone and Bold/Rich transformer toggle switch; inputs for TRS expression pedal and 9-18v power supply
- **CONTACT** [www.suprousa.com](http://www.suprousa.com)

**S**upro - a spin-off of the once ubiquitous Valco guitar and amp manufacturer - was one of those near-mythical Stateside brands that people used to drool over in well-pawed catalogues throughout the Golden Age of the electric-guitar boom.

By the late 1960s, it had been consigned to history, the pawn shops, and later, eBay. There it largely remained until, in 2014, Pigtronix owner Absara Audio saw fit to revive the Supro name, releasing a series of well-received amps which we'd recommend you check out, too.

Earlier this year, the company announced its expansion into the stompbox realm with three pedals - the Fuzz, Boost and Drive. In keeping with the styling of its retro Americana

forebears, the Drive's brushed aluminium enclosure, with its lightning logo and blue finish, cuts a fittingly retrofuturistic dash.

Supro claims it's the closest thing money can buy to the sound of a real overdriven Supro amp, achieved by mimicking the amp circuit at every stage - with special focus on the unique characteristics of the power-amp section, hence the unique Transformer switch.

Setting the in-built transformer to Bold results in a smidgen of dirt and

a distinct thickening of the mids; flick it over to Rich and you'll be rewarded with a smoother crunch, with the mids flattened out and with more fizz in the top end.

Cranking up the gain adds solid and controlled drive with no obvious effect on playing dynamics - overall, Supro delivers on its promise that the Drive offers a pretty faithful reproduction of a throaty Supro's output stage, and the pedal is full of highly musical, highly usable sounds throughout its range. 🌀