Fuzz Face

Probably the most famous fuzz of all time, the Dallas Fuzz Face has been around since the dawn of stompbox effects and has spawned a huge number of clones and variants. It is simple to build and is very tweakable, which makes it a great DIY project. Presented here is the silicon version of the fuzz face, along with a bunch of interesting mods.

Mods!
- The first thing to read is The Technology of the Fuzz Face, R.G. Keen’s seminal paper on the Dallas Fuzz Face: http://www.geofex.com/Article_Folders/fuzzface/fffram.htm
- Try different NPN transistors to see how more or less gain affects the sound. You can even try different values in Q1 and Q2. Be sure to check the pinouts!
- Replace the R4 fixed resistor with a 10K linear pot (B10K). This allows you to tweak the bias of the second transistor for some great splatty/starved sounds.
- Use the voltage sag knob on the i/o breakout box: you can sag the voltage to the entire circuit for some great sounds.
- Super compressed bass mod: put a film capacitor between the base and collector of Q2. Try values from 10nf to 100nf.
- You can subtly change the output by using a 100K log pot (A100K) instead of the standard A500K volume pot.
- Experiment with different values for R1. Try values from 1K up to 470K.