

# Claymore

by Alphawave Research

“Built to  
destroy—



Not to  
destruct!”

*The magic of germanium at your fingers or at your feet!*

## Features:

- Authentic germanium fuzz
- Rugged stage-worthy construction
- Reverse polarity protected
- Integral pedal-board mounts
- Touch-sensitive asymmetrical clipping
- **Handmade in the USA!**

## What makes germanium so special?

When the transistor was first invented in 1957, the only material available at the time was germanium. With its lower threshold voltage compared to silicon, a germanium transistor can be overdriven directly by an electric guitar's output without the pre-amplification necessary to make silicon distort. Also, its reduced bandwidth produces a smoother, less harsh tone than silicon does.

## What is “touch-sensitivity?”

By setting your guitar's volume at slightly less than maximum, or by playing with a lighter touch, a cleaner, less-distorted tone is produced. Maximizing the volume, or playing harder, produces more distortion. The amount of distortion can be controlled using your touch alone!

## What is asymmetrical clipping?

A musical sound is represented by an electric signal of alternating polarity, also known as an AC signal. An overdriven circuit flattens the top and bottom of, or clips, an otherwise smoothly curving signal. A good vacuum tube based amplifier produces asymmetrical clipping, and the human ear perceives asymmetrical clipping as more musical sounding than symmetric clipping.

## Why is the **Claymore** so expensive?

Each **Claymore** is assembled and soldered by hand—this takes time! Furthermore, each circuit is hand-biased. Early germanium fuzz pedals were assembled using stock valued resistors and transistors of widely varying gain, leading to the lore of “magic gain” transistors. Hendrix and others would sort through boxes of pedals to find the few that sounded good. By hand-selecting the resistors appropriate for each transistor, each **Claymore** is guaranteed not to sound good—it sounds great!