Was the Fatboost "Boosted"....if so, from whom?

a short story by Michael Fuller

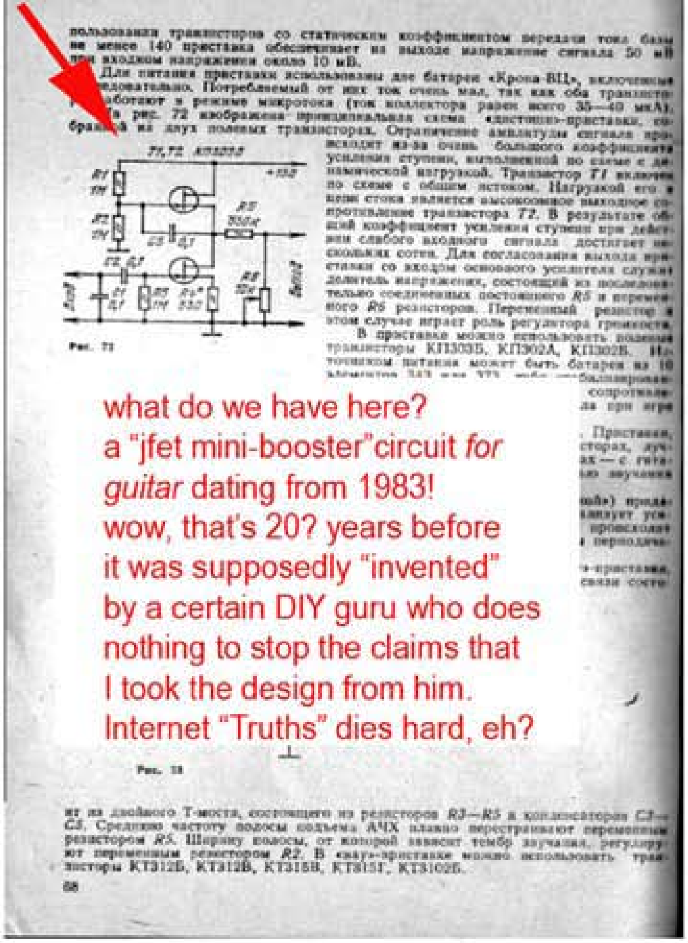
Fair question, if you believe the 6+ year rumor floating around the Internet.
There is a rumor that I'm a thief, that I got caught stealing "Internet Guru's" design called a "minibooster" and put it out as my FatBoost, then when caught I supposedly "*fessed up and paid up.*" Right? Uh uh. Read on.

An ex- employee, now with another booteek pedalmaker (known for alphabetically infused product names) came to me years ago with a little FET booster. I liked it, asked where it came from, he said he found it in an old FET Applications Manual...cool. Done deal. I added a a tone control and did another thing (so obvious yet subtle that no one's even noticed it) which causes the Lows to stay clean while the Highs get clipped.....and we're off to the races.

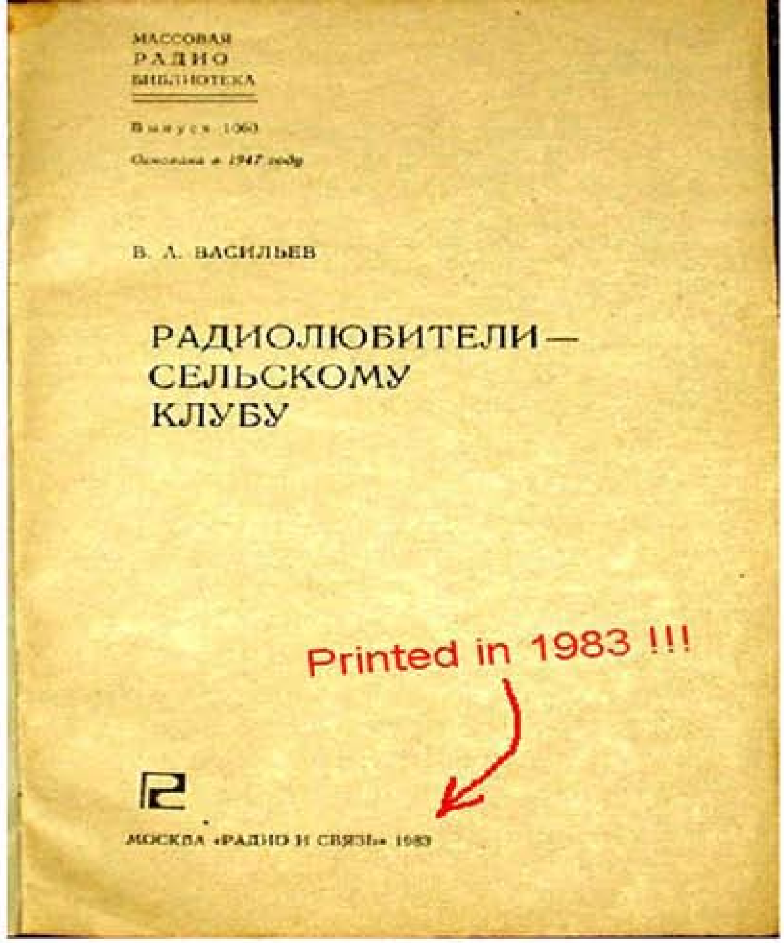
A year later I started seeing things being said about it being a ripoff of Internet Guru.
so I ask ex-emplyee...he says "No, like I said..apps manual"
I finally see Guru's schematic and DAMN, that's close, not exact, but close.
This is right about the time ex-emp is asking me to go "offsite"
(too long of a drive to work etc) and he would like to work out of his home.
I find out soon after that ex-employee has been designing for another company while on my computer, my programs, and while on my clock.....buh bye ex-employee!

So I change the design of the fatboost (amoungst other things to include a detented 11 position Gain pot seen on current version) and I contact internet guru.
I asked him if he believes my fatBoost was *his original Design*.....he says "Yes."
So I pay Internet Guru to the tune of (I don't remember) between $3000 & $4000 (which BTW he said he was going to give to charity yet oddly never offered any follow-up regarding this) and I even sent a schematic of the new fatBoost to internet guru asking if he agreed it's different enough...fine..all's well, move on.

Well Internet Guru wants so badly to be "known" that he never offered any of this up did he?, Never *did a thing* to confirm or deny it, and seems to revel in the notoriety from this drama. which is why I told him "Internet Guru you will never make the big bucks that all your Internet DIY guru buddies are making...you do know that some of those gurus are making great side money with their effects expertise,You Mr Guru don't make the bucks because you are more concerned with seeming important, shooting off your mouth, and stirring up controversy (at worse), and/or doing NOTHING to stop the controversy." (at best)
I often get emails from people linking to see him on web sites throwing logs on any Fulltone fire on any subject from OCD to Fatboost. Oh Internet Guru...yer my hero!
And the great thing is...Guess what?
You know that "original design" that I supposedly stole from Internet Guru?
Taken, it seems from an some MUCH older sources pre-dating Mr Guru....read on!



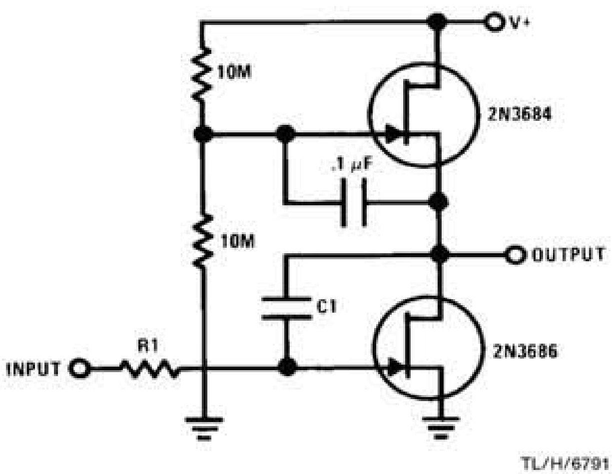
what do we have here?
a "jfet mini-booster"circuit *for guitar* dating from 1983!
wow, that's 20? years before it was supposedly "invented" by a certain DIY guru who does nothing to stop the claims that I took the design from him.
Internet "Truths" dies hard, eh?



Printed in 1983 !!!

FET Circuit Applications

National Semiconductor
Application Note 32
February 1970



JFET AC Coupled Integrator

This circuit utilizes the "μ-amp" technique to achieve very high voltage gain. Using C_1 in the circuit as a Miller integrator, or capacitance multiplier, allows this simple circuit to handle very long time constants.

But wait! What's this???? a 1970 version of the "minibooster?" So you're telling me that this circuit has been around in various forms for 37 years?? Could said "guru" have STOLEN from this .....say it ain't so Joe!!!!!!! No, of course not. this is GUITAR ELECTRONICS, not Rocket science, and we ALL use the same tricks, borrowing from those who came before us and who stand beside us either blatantly or by chance.
Ultimately it's all in the fine tuning of a circuit that determines the flavor.....how else could there be 183 Tube screamer copies (or slight variations thereof) on the market doing so well in this day and age?

Most importantly, enjoy your MUSIC, regards, Mike

FET Circuit Applications

"internet Guru" has changed his website to now include a knod to the 1970 version while completely ignoring the 1983 version which is eerily similar to his "mini-booster."