



DigiTech CF-7 Chorus Factory £99

The FX behemoth turns its attention to modulation modelling with a stompbox that features a septet of classic choruses... by Simon Bradley

PHOTOGRAPHY: JESSE WILD

DIGITECH CF-7 CHORUS FACTORY

PRICE: £99

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Digital chorus modeller

PROGRAMMABLE: No

MIDI: No

CONTROLS: Three dual-concentric pots, level, speed, depth, and seven-way rotary model selector

CONNECTIONS: Mono input, amp output, mixer out

POWER: 9V battery or optional PS200R supply

OTHER FEATURES: Seven specific pedal and cabinet models, flexible output mode

OPTIONS: The DigiTech X Series Multi Chorus goes for £69

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Such has been the success of DigiTech's Artist and X-Series pedals that we're surprised a collection of chorus pedals crammed into a single unit hasn't been issued sooner from the company's Utah HQ. Still, it's been worth the wait as the CF-7 Chorus Factory has now landed – a stompbox with a vibe and design that will be very familiar to most guitarists.

In fact, until you plug the pedal in and hear the very stark differences, it's very similar in look to the DF-7 Distortion: same front panel, fifth-colour orange logo and weight. Even the faux carbon fibre finish is identical, and although we'd applaud DigiTech's resistance to the idea of producing yet another sky-blue chorus, a slight change in hue might have been a good plan. The thought of mistakenly treading on your DF-7 prior to an emotive ballad intro on a darkened stage is not a pleasant one.

The seven units that have been modelled within the CF-7 range from the soupy organic (Voodoo Lab's lauded Analog Chorus), via the legendary (E-HX's Small Clone) to the pin-sharp (the difficult to find but very

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desirable TC Electronic SCF). There are a couple of BOSS models too – quite a step considering the crowded market at which the CF-7 is aimed – and the Fulltone Choral flange too.

Each is selected via a seven-way rotary pot and, depending on which model you've selected, the influence of the trio of dual-concentric pots. For example, when using the Voodoo Lab model, the third control pot regulates the effect's width: with the BOSS CE-5 it controls the low filter. This versatility is repeated across the seven choruses and, in the case of the TC Electronic and Fulltone models, you can also dial in a legitimate flanger.

One of the series' more thoughtful innovations is the flexible output mode, something we would gauge to be

very useful when using the CF-7. You can enable the lauded CIT cabinet modelling by powering the pedal up while the footswitch is depressed and, from there, obtain a natural tone for recording and such. It's automatically applied to the pedal's two inputs, thus giving a truly stereo operation.

The only practical downside here, and which is repeated across the X-Series in its entirety (with the exception of the Red Special Artist pedal), is the lack of the remote switching of models and, unless you're happy to bend down and reset the tone every time you wish to utilise a number of models, we're confident that most of us would stick to one chorus throughout a single set.

So why would you actually buy the CF-7 at all?

SOUNDS: The answer is down to the very high quality of the choruses on offer, and whether you prefer the classic Nirvana throb of the Small Clone, the lavish tonal polish afforded by the BOSS CE-5, or the myriad steps in between, this pedal has it covered.

It goes without saying that you will





DIGITECH CF-7	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

- **WE LIKED** Quality and range of tones; cabinet sim makes it ideal for recording
- **WE DISLIKED** Lack of remote switching; same colour as DF-7; cramped controls

need to alter the EQ for each chorus model depending on the guitar you use, your amplification and the style you employ, but we can report that the relevant controls for each model offer a suitably efficient way of rounding off unnecessarily spiky corners or, indeed, sharpening proceedings to your exact liking.

As we've suggested, performing this tone-tailoring whilst on-stage isn't going to be easy simply due to the unavoidably cramped front panel. So we'd suggest that, if your project studio is missing a seriously versatile chorus or three, and one that also provides an industry-standard cabinet simulation, the CF-7 is the only seriously affordable option.

Battery life is restricted to four hours of continuous use, too, so many hardened giggers may well feel that they'll stick with their BOSS CH-1 or DigiTech Multi Chorus, and use the CF-7 for recording purposes: we certainly would.

Verdict

Aside from practicalities, the CF-7 is yet another extremely impressive



There are models of seven classic chorus pedals that can be tweaked as required

stompbox from DigiTech and if you have a problem with the modest asking price, try adding up what it would cost to buy all seven units that are modelled within: it's a great deal more than £99!

Tonally the pedal is above derision and the models are certainly close enough in sound to their specific genuine articles to make anyone with a decent ear take notice. In addition the versatility offered by what is, in effect, a six-knob front panel means

that you'll never be short of a serious dollop of modulation.

In conclusion, think carefully on the practical side if you fancy the CF-7 for live use: for recording and experimenting at home, it's certainly one of the very best modelling choruses out there, which pretty much says it all. 📺

Digitech CF-7 Chorus Factory

Gitarist RATING ★★★★★

The rivals

BOSS CE-20	£149
Carl Martin Chorus xII	£149
TC Electronic SCF	(approx) £195

If you need full programmability in your chorus, you won't go far wrong with the CE-20. Boasting six chorus modes and a host of other features, it's less of a dedicated modeller and more of a tonal palette. Carl Martin's xII is basically two of the same chorus pedals in one ergonomic chassis; you can set them independently to have two different modulations at your boot tips. It's mega-quiet and super-rich, just like Bill Gates. Back in the day TC's Stereo Chorus Flanger was considered the very best modulation stomp you could buy and, 25 years after its inception, its popularity shows no sign of wavering. Worth hunting one down.