

T-Rex Tonebug Effects

Four new stomps in T-Rex's less expensive ToneBug range *by Trevor Curwen*

ToneBug Fuzz

£115

A fuzzy bug that buzzes

With controls for fuzz, tone and output level, the ToneBug Fuzz offers variations on the classic fuzz sound, plus a signal boost (or cut) – if you should want one – when you kick it in.

Sounds

Old-school square wave clipping creates sounds from a mild distortion at the very minimum setting on the fuzz knob, through to full-on raspy fuzz at the other extreme. The tone control offers powerful shaping, from a crisp, trebly sheen with lots of the mid scooped out, through to a sound that gives more emphasis to a honking upper mid-range.

Verdict

Finding the right fuzz is a nightmare, as there are so many variations on the theme. But if you like your fuzz edgy and raw – not as soft as a Fuzz Face, not as barking mad as a Big Muff Pi – you'll like this.

Spec Check

PRICE: £115
ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Fuzz pedal
CONNECTIONS: Standard jack input, standard jack output
CONTROLS: Fuzz, tone, level
POWER: 9V battery, 9V DC power
BATTERY LIFE: 8 to 12 hours
DIMENSIONS: 120 (d) x 78 (w) x 60mm (h)
Westside Distribution
0141 248 4812
www.t-rex-effects.com

The Bottom Line

We like: 1960s-style fuzz tones revisited; useful sonic shaping options
We dislike: Not a lot

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

ToneBug Booster

£109

Make it louder, simple

Designed to let you cut through the mix when soloing, the Booster lets you dial in a set amount of boost that you can switch in at any time.

Sounds

There's no problem with the amount of boost available here – it ramps up the volume when needed, offering enough extra gain to make a single-channel valve amp act like it's a twin-channel. Tonally, the scoop knob adds nuance to proceedings rather than radically altering your core tone, working in a frequency range that allows the sort of fine-tuning and enhancement that can add presence to solos.

Verdict

A practical alternative to turning up your volume knob, the Booster puts extra power under foot whenever you need it with an optional tonal tweak to boot.

Spec Check

PRICE: £109
ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Boost pedal
CONNECTIONS: Standard jack input, standard jack output
CONTROLS: Boost, scoop
POWER: 9V battery, 9V DC power
BATTERY LIFE: 8 to 12 hours
DIMENSIONS: 120 (d) x 78 (w) x 60mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Practical way to boost your signal; subtle tonal shading available
We dislike: Not much

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



ToneBug Sensewah £155

Automated funk

The Sensewah is an envelope filter for producing an autowah effect and what T-Rex calls a 'yoy yoy' – it's similar but with more high frequency content. A sense knob determines how much effect you get while the range knob sets the width of swept frequencies.

Sounds

Juxtaposition of the two knobs gives a useful range of automatic wah sounds that respond to player dynamics. While others could find a use for it, this is really tailor-made for funk players looking for consistently rhythmic wah sounds to fit a groove and a bit of 'quack' when digging in to single notes.

Verdict

If you'd rather concentrate on what your hands are doing (or your dance moves!) than manually control a treadle, this pedal will let you get funky.

Spec Check

PRICE: £155
ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Autowah pedal
CONNECTIONS: Standard jack input, standard jack output
CONTROLS: Sense, range, wah wah/yoy yoy switch
POWER: 9V battery, 9V DC power
BATTERY LIFE: 0.5 to 1 hours
DIMENSIONS: 120 (d) x 78 (w) x 60mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Nice range of playing sensitivity
We dislike: We'd like to have seen more variation in the effect; expensive

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



ToneBug Totenschläger £120

Black box distorter

If metal distortion is your thing, the Totenschläger aims to supply it, courtesy of level and gain knobs and a three-band graphic EQ.

Sounds

There's a very useful range of distortion on tap here from overdrive-like grit through various shades of grind, to a full-on dirt-fest with plenty of sustain. But the really remarkable thing is the amount of tonal shaping that can come from three tiny faders. You get real girth with the low, nasal parked-wah or classic scoop from the mid, and ice-pick-in-the-ear nasty from the high.

Verdict

If you stick Totenschläger into Google Translate all it comes out with is 'dead bat' – a tribute to Ozzy, perhaps? Either way this is a really good distortion pedal and, graphics aside, not just for metal. **G**

Spec Check

PRICE: £120
ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Distortion pedal
CONNECTIONS: Standard jack input, standard jack output
CONTROLS: Gain, level, low, mid, high
POWER: 9V battery, 9V DC power
BATTERY LIFE: 8 to 12 hours
DIMENSIONS: 120 (d) x 78 (w) x 60mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Versatile tonal shaping; it's black and has an umlaut in the name!
We dislike: EQ faders feel a little wobbly

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★