

Ibanez WD7 Weeping Demon wah £99



A do-everything adjustable Q wah with lo/hi sweeps and auto-switching by Benji Bartlett



Great looking and great sounding: the Ibanez Weeping Demon

THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE Ibanez Tone-Lock range is this incredibly versatile wah pedal. Built using the same bomb-proof cast metal housing as the rest of the range, the WD7 Weeping Demon is unique in that it combines all the hottest wah features around in just a single unit. The most

advanced of these is a mechanical lever that enables you to switch between conventional switching or the auto-on style switching that Morley made famous. In true Tone-Lock style the control knobs for level, Q and Low frequency boost can be first set and then pushed into the unit to keep them safe from accidental adjustment.

SOUNDS: The first thing you notice is how fast and easy it is to pop a wah in this pedal. No screws, just a push button and the heavy-duty function switch flips open to reveal the battery compartment. In addition to the main tone controls the WD7 has an extra range control to aid compatibility with seven-string, down-tuned guitar and bass. With our ESP VB300 demo guitar the Weeping Demon sacrifices virgins and eardrums in equal measure! Traditional wah tones are good too, and with variable Q and fine-tuning controls you can dial in any wah tone you want.

IBANEZ WD7 WAH	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Usability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

- **WE LIKED** Looks cool, sounds cooler, über versatile
- **WE DISLIKED** Takes up a lot of space on your pedal board

Verdict

The real ace in the hole is the ability to switch between manual and auto-on operation. With the auto switch engaged a spring returns the wah to the off (fully back) position for you, so all you have to worry about is your expressive use of the pedal. It also includes pedal friction, spring tension and an auto-off delay setting to ensure seamless return to effect-off playing. The WD7 is a most versatile and funky-looking wah, and an absolute bargain.

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

KEY INFO IBANEZ WD7 WEEPING DEMON WAH **PRICE:** £99 **TYPE:** ADJUSTABLE AUTOMATIC WAH **TEL:** HEADSTOCK 0121 5086666

Double Trouble switching expander £99

Need more sounds for your Strat? You need this! by Benji Bartlett

HERE'S A NIFTY WAY TO DOUBLE the tonal options of your Strat thanks to the tone-seeking experiments of one Mark Baldwin. Not entirely happy with the traditional quintet of Strat tones, Mark invented a simple switching system as a retrofit for Stratocaster guitars that employs two pull/push switched pots (that replace the existing tone control pots) to engage five extra

sounds. The system costs just £99.95 to have fitted including return postage of your guitar. Mark can turn the job round in a couple of days in normal circumstances. Alternatively, the happy home solderer can purchase a kit including all the parts plus a 20-page booklet with photographic instructions that takes you through every step of the modification procedure for just £49.95.

DOUBLE TROUBLE	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

- **WE LIKED** Good selection of extra tones
- **WE DISLIKED** Pull pots can be difficult to operate quickly mid song

Verdict

Bearing in mind the relatively inexpensive Rothwell Audio Products Cool Little Knob we recently reviewed, the main benefit of a system like the Double Trouble is to people who aren't too handy with the soldering iron. For solder-shy guitar players the option of being able to send off their guitar and have it return with the system all fitted is a real boon. However, sonically there is plenty here to make the system worthwhile, especially those series pickup combinations and the age-old but eminently useful Tele-style combination.

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

Two pull/push pots open up five new tones on your Strat



SOUNDS: The beauty of the Double Trouble is its non-intrusive fitting, and with nothing other than the two pull-pots to contend with operation is simple – though not as fast and positive as it would be with separate toggle switches. Along with the Tele-like neck and bridge pickups together, we get the broad sound of all three together. Then there's the fat neck and middle in series, and the bridge and middle in series. Finally we get neck and middle in series with the bridge in parallel. The series combinations are the most obviously useful, giving a surprisingly fat and bigger output – a neat secret weapon for your Strat.

KEY INFO DOUBLE TROUBLE SWITCHING UPGRADE **PRICE:** £99.95 **TYPE:** PICKUP SELECTOR EXPANDER KIT **TEL:** 07970 924765

Cordial Top Performance guitar cable **£21.62**

High-quality cables from Germany by Benji Bartlett

A GROWING NUMBER OF PLAYERS are realising the importance of high quality cables, especially in that crucial link between your guitar and your amp. With so many to choose from and fierce competition between manufacturers it can be a bit of a minefield choosing one. Many guitar stores carry Monster, Whirlwind, George L, Planet Waves and other American brands, and now with the recent arrival of Cordial cables from Germany, we've got a European contender. Like most cable manufacturers, Cordial produces different ranges to suit various price

points. We're taking a look at the top-of-the-range Top Performance guitar cable.

SOUNDS: The terminals are straight Neutrik, gold-plated jacks in this instance (right angled jacks are also available). These tough industry-standard jacks are worn by all the smartest cables, and with a cast aluminium jacket and strong machined-brass jack the solder connections are well protected. The combination of a plastic chuck and rubber sleeve helps to grip the cable more reliably than the old metal crimp and spring arrangement of bygone days. In addition to a regular shield around the central conductor, Cordial also employs a unique conductive plastic screen that works well to prevent microphonic feedback. Overall sonic performance is impressive, with noticeably punchier bass and an airy headroom around the high frequencies.



Verdict

Everything about these cables oozes quality; from the silky feel, to the crisp sound of the trebles and excellent bass response. You're getting a well made, great sounding cable with cool features like easy coiling, Neutrik jacks and a Velcro cable-tidy, for under £25. Our guess is that we'll be seeing a lot more players adding a dash of Cordial to their rigs.

You are Cordially invited to plug in and enjoy superior tone

Guitarist RATING



CORDIAL CABLE	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ WE LIKED Sturdy build, easy coil, great sound</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED What's not to like?</p>	

KEY INFO CORDIAL TOP PERFORMANCE **PRICE:** £21.62 FOR THREE METRES **TYPE:** HIGH QUALITY GUITAR CABLE **TEL:** 01280 702354

Dytone Smoozy **£88.99**

A super-smooth German overdrive: don't mention the 'wooaargh!' by Benji Bartlett

THE SMOOZY IS JUST ONE OF A handful of straightforward stompboxes from Berlin-based brand Dytone that offer different levels and types of drive.

This little black box is a subdued affair. It features a trio of controls alongside a steel switch mounted on a protective plastic washer, mono in and outs plus a super-bright blue operational LED.

The chassis is manufactured from aluminium and power comes either from an optional PSU or a standard nine-volt battery, the latter accessed by removing the pedal's bottom plate.

SOUNDS: Remember that 'smooth' doesn't necessarily equate with a

cleaner drive; it simply alludes to the lack of sharp edges to the tone. If the dulcet moments of players such as Billy Gibbons, Santana and even Clapton in his most laid-back moments are your thing, this has to be the pedal for you.

Running it through a totally clean amp arguably gives you the best control and the basic sound is reminiscent of the creamy full-fat tone of a Les Paul's rhythm pickup. Increase the drive and proceedings fatten out even further and, adding gain to your amp and repeating the procedure allows you to get close to a singing power-tube saturation in seconds.

Verdict

Some pedals you need to struggle with to obtain that sound in your head, and some ultimately disappoint. The Smoozy, however, allows you to simply plug in and find a classic brown sound immediately. When all said and done, we're unable to locate another pedal that does the same, and to such a satisfying degree, anywhere in this price bracket.

Time for a smooze: Dytone's smooth overdrive pedal



Guitarist RATING



DYTONE SMOOZY	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ WE LIKED Instant brown sound</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED The signal is turned off with the gain set to minimum</p>	

KEY INFO DYTONE SMOOZY **PRICE:** £88.99 **TYPE:** HAND-BUILT OVERDRIVE STOMPBOX **TEL:** GUITAR EXPERIENCE 020 8973 1441