



Eventide ModFactor £299

Following the TimeFactor delay the ModFactor has loads of modulation effects in one stompbox *by Trevor Curwen*

A staple of professional studios as well as finding their way into the rigs of many top guitarists, Eventide processors have never been the first choice for the budget-conscious. There are also many guitar players who would not entertain the thought of onstage rack-mounted gear, so the introduction last year of the company's processing in affordable stompbox form was very welcome. The first Eventide stompbox was the TimeFactor delay reviewed in issue 295's delay round-up, and that has now been joined by the ModFactor.

Powered from a supplied 9V adaptor and operable in mono or stereo, the ModFactor is well put together and at 122mm x 190mm takes up less pedalboard space than some pedals that only do a fraction of what it can do.

The ModFactor has 10 distinct modulation effects – chorus, phaser, Q-wah, flanger, ModFilter, rotary, TremoloPan, vibrato, Undulator and RingMod. These can be chosen using a rotary switch while a further knob selects up to four types of effect in each category. There are four phaser types, four flangers and three each of chorus, ModFilter and vibrato, while each of the other categories has two types each.

A large array of nine further knobs is available to tweak the sounds. Most of these have the

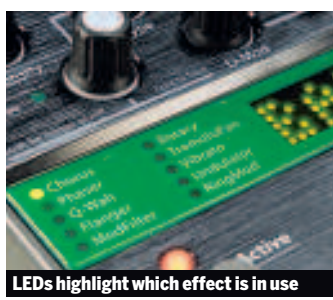
same function whatever category of effect is selected while other knobs have different functions depending on the category of effect – the Intensity and Xknob knobs always control something specific to a particular effect. The parameter for any knob being tweaked shows up in the display instantly so you always know where you are.

The ModFactor has 40 user presets on board in 20 banks of two, which should be plenty to save all your favourite effects.

Three footswitches give instant control to the ModFactor but these have different functions depending on the mode you are in. In 'Play' mode the first footswitch turns the effect on and off while the second switches between slow and fast speeds as well as acting as a braking effect that slows down the modulation rate as long as it is held down. The third switch is for tap tempo but holding it down changes modes calling up 'Bank' mode introducing access to the presets. In this mode the third switch calls up the 20 banks sequentially while the other two switches select each of the presets in the bank.

Sounds

A large number of controls are pretty much a necessity when building the sort of versatility you'd get in a rackmount processor into a pedal, and that makes the ModFactor much more



LEDs highlight which effect is in use

complicated than an average stompbox – just starting out in 'Play' mode. With the detailed manual as a guide, though, and starting by tweaking the factory presets, you can get the measure of the unit and unlock the massive sonic potential within.

The 40 presets are initially filled with factory-programmed sounds. The versatility stacks up even further by adding an expression pedal for real-time control over any combination of eight parameters.

Always classy, the sounds range from Fender and Vox-style amp tremolo through many chorus, flanger and phaser variations to more esoteric stuff like metallic ring modulation and 'Undulator' which, using combined delay, detuning and tremolo, can create a unique soundscape.

Verdict

The ModFactor will do all the standard modulation sounds but it can take them all further so is a great tool for creating something different for the studio or stage. A ModFactor fully programmed with your own sounds ready for instant recall will increase your pedalboard's versatility no end. **G**

The Bottom Line

We like: Programmability; huge range of classy sounds; informative display

We dislike: It's complex so there's a lot to learn

Guitarist says: A small box with huge sonic potential – possibly all the modulation effects you'll ever need

The Rivals

TC Electronic's NM-1 Nova Modulator (£199) offers seven modulation effects. **Line 6's MM4** (£269) has a range of 16 classic modulation effects and has four programmable presets. **DigiTech** has the **EX-7 Expression Factory** (£209) that offers Univibe, Leslie and flanger alongside Whammy and Wah, while the **CF-7 Chorus Factory** (£99) packs seven different chorus effects.



Eventide ModFactor

PRICE: £299 (inc power adaptor)

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Programmable modulation pedal

EFFECTS: Chorus, phaser, Q-wah, flanger, ModFilter, rotary, TremoloPan, vibrato, Undulator and RingMod. 27 variations overall.

PATCHES: 40 onboard (Patches can be archived and loaded via MIDI)

DISPLAY: Eight character LED (green)

CONTROLS: Switches for selecting guitar/line level and amp/line level, 11 control knobs, three footswitches

CONNECTIONS: Input 1/Mono and 2, Output 1/Mono and 2, exp pedal jack, aux switch jack, USB (for future upgrades), MIDI in, out/thru

DIMENSIONS: 122 (h) x 190 (w) x 54 (d) mm

WEIGHT (kg/lb): 1/2.2

POWER: Supplied mains power adaptor (9V)

EXT CONTROLLERS: Expression pedal, three extra footswitches via aux socket, MIDI

RANGE OPTIONS: The companion pedal is the TimeFactor delay effects stompbox (£299). The Eclipse (£1,586) is the most compact of the Eventide rackmount units

Source Distribution

020 8962 5080

www.sourcedistribution.co.uk

www.eventide.com

Test results

Build quality ★★★★★
Features ★★★★★
Sound ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

