

Control knobs
The amount of controls means that you won't get buried in monotonous menus



Foot pedal
The expression pedal is assignable, so you can use it for more than just wah sounds

Modelling
The ME-70 features COSM modelling derived from the GT-10

BOSS ME-70 £269

A multi-effects system with the hands-on control of a stompbox

Boss effects are often considered industry standard, so it's no surprise that the company's sold millions of units. The ME-70 is the latest addition to the Boss family of floor-based multi-effects processors, taking over from the popular ME-50 unit with some valuable upgrades.

The sizzle: Boss has expanded upon the blueprint for the ME-50 here with an upgraded COSM modelling section from the GT-10 effects processor, as well as adding another footswitch, extra effects, a 38-second phrase looper and the inclusion of the EZ Tone function for simple programming. The ME-70 functions in two modes: Manual, where each section is switched in or out like a series of single compact pedals; or Memory Mode, which lets you call up patches of combined effects.

We say: The first thing you notice when you open the ME-70's box is that the unit is supplied with batteries instead of an adaptor (which is an optional extra

priced at £21.53). Still, this gripe is forgiven when you discover that there are an impressive four control knobs for every section on the processor (this sort of unit often requires you to go through enough buttons to induce RSI just to turn the volume up!). Having complete real-time control of each effect is a real bonus, making it easy and fun to experiment with different sounds, rather than laborious.

The solid collection of gig-worthy effects includes all of the standard delay, modulation and overdrive effects you'd expect to find, and what's more, they are all useable. As well as the regular effects, there are some more experimental models like the Defretter, Reverse Delay and, one of our favourites, the Slow Gear. This nifty effect mutes the initial attack of your notes to create spooky violin effects, and mixing a few of the more ethereal effects together leaves you with some tripped out sounds that give this unit an extra dimension.

The expression pedal adds hands-free control of the volume, filter and pitch-based effects,

plus mod rate and delay level. It travels with a smooth sweep and switching it in and out requires just the right amount of pressure to the toe of the treadle.

Another bonus of the ME-70 is the onboard looper. Loop pedals are becoming more and more popular, so it makes sense for one to be built in here. You get 38 seconds of looping time and the footswitch makes overdubbing simple. Add rock hard build-quality and a highly intuitive interface, and the result is a great-value effects unit.

Stuart Williams

At a glance

Boss ME-70

TYPE: Multi-fx processor
CONTROLS: 25 control knobs, footswitches 1-4, expression pedal, EZ Tone
SOCKETS: Input, Output Left/Right, Record Out/Headphones, Aux In, Preamp/Reverb on/off
POWER: Batteries (supplied) Boss PSA Power Adaptor (optional)
CONTACT: Roland UK Ltd 01792 702701
WEB: www.roland.co.uk

SUMMARY

For: First-rate sounds, easy to use

Against: No power adaptor included

★★★★★

TG says... It's the Boss

"HAVING COMPLETE REAL-TIME CONTROL OF EACH EFFECT MAKES EXPERIMENTING FUN, RATHER THAN LABORIOUS"

