



Vox Satriani Time Machine

£149

Signature delay, suitable for all

EQ switch ■
Flicking between these takes you from crystal clear to darker repeats

Tap/Mode ■
Stomp here to set the tempo easily and switch between modes



Delay range ■
This control has hidden beat division functions when used with the Tap switch

This Time Machine is one of three Satriani pedals in Vox's catalogue. As with the Satchurator Distortion and Big Bad Wah, this pedal is tailored towards creating Mr S's signature sounds, but there's still value to be found if light-speed shred isn't your thing.

Joe's delay pedal has two modes – Vintage and Modern – and there's an EQ switch to flick between the full bandwidth Hi-Fi mode and a filtered Lo-Fi setting. Vintage mode applies subtle saturation and light modulation



to your sound to emulate a tape-echo style delay, while Modern mode is a squeaky-clean digital delay. For lush, glassy repeats select the Hi-Fi setting; for a warmer tone, go for Lo-Fi, which is great when you want to set a

bar between your delayed and regular sounds.

The Delay Range control breaks up delay time into smaller brackets, making dialling in more accurate settings easy. Use the Tap switch to set the speed, and then head for the Range control for different beat sub-divisions (quarter notes, dotted eighth notes, etc). All this info is in the manual, but it would have been nice to see it printed on the box.

Conclusion: If you crave creative uses of delay like reverse or

dynamic modes, then the Time Machine might not cut it. But delay doesn't have to be genre specific: shredders can give girth to their solos; post rock fans can get ethereal with some long lo-fi repeats; and techheads can create choppy rhythmical effects. The Time Machine does the lot.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Range of sounds, easy to use

Against: Less features than some

★★★★☆

TG says: Versatile delay

At a glance

Vox Satriani Time Machine

TYPE: Delay pedal
CONTROLS: Level, delay range, time, feedback, hi-fi/lo-fi switch, on/off switch, tap/vintage/modern switch
SOCKETS: In, out, dry out
POWER: 9V battery, PSU (not included)
CONTACT: Korg UK 01908 857130
WEB: www.voxamps.com

Electro-Harmonix Riddle: Q-Balls

Funky wah sounds from NY's effects wizard

£129

Blend ■
The Blend control mixes between your original and filtered sounds

Distortion ■
The onboard distortion kicks in some extra weight, albeit with little control



Mode ■
The Riddle has three filter modes: High Pass, Band Pass and Low Pass

No, an envelope filter is not a fancy mail-management system. In sonic terms, an envelope controls the way a sound's characteristics change over time. Here, this theory is applied to controlling the sweep of a filter to give a similar sound to an auto wah.

Depending on the filter mode you choose, you can get an array of sounds: Low Pass mode gives a gutsy low-end sweep; Band Pass can get you more of



a honky tone that sounds great on chicken-picked riffs; and High Pass mode gives a cutting, thinned-out sound that fans of muted funk rhythm guitar will love. The Start and Stop

controls determine the range of your sound's sweep. Think in terms of a traditional wah pedal: Start is equivalent to 'heel down' and Stop is equivalent to 'toe down', from the minimum to the maximum frequencies.

The Attack and Decay controls then let you determine the speed of the sound's sweep, while the Sensitivity dial gives you further control over the pedal's expression. In addition, there's a built-in distortion circuit for adding some bite to your sound.

Conclusion: If you really want to fine-tune the distortion on this pedal, you'll have to tinker with its guts, so you might be better off opting for a dedicated distortion as well. Otherwise, the Riddle offers some powerful flexibility for your wah sounds.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Funky, powerful filter section

Against: Distortion circuit control

★★★★☆

TG says: Get the funk out

At a glance

Electro-Harmonix Riddle: Q-Balls

TYPE: Envelope Filter
EFFECTS: Filter, distortion
CONTROLS: Blend, mode, attack, decay, start, stop
SOCKETS: Input, expression pedal, effect out, dry out.
POWER: PSU (included)
CONTACT: Electro-Harmonix, info@ehx.com
WEB: www.ehx.com