



Looping
Layer up loops to play along with – the LED changes colour to display the mode you're in

Switching
You can cycle through your stored loops here, but you'll need the optional footswitch to get the most from it live

Features
The Solo adds extra power to the original JamMan design with a USB and SDHC slot

DigiTech JamMan Solo £223

This streamlined version of DigiTech's flagship looper packs some punch

We've all seen that guy down at the local open mic night. The ever-so-slightly introvert singer-songwriter who woos onlookers by tapping out a beat on his electro acoustic, wows them by overdubbing some heartfelt chords over the top, and before you know it, this smart-arse has built an entire backing track out of nothing. How does he do it? He uses a looper pedal.

Alongside the more expensive JamMan Stereo, DigiTech's JamMan Solo is the latest addition to its line of loopers. It scales most of the features of the original JamMan (minus the mic input) into a single-sized pedal with added extra memory and USB connectivity, allowing you to record the signal from your guitar (or an iPod, CD player or other line-level devices using aux in) to create loops for jamming along with.

You can record your loop as a 'one shot' phrase in Single mode or a repeating phrase in Loop mode, the latter of which allows you to overdub extra parts on

top. The loops are then stored in its internal memory (35 minutes, up to 99 loops) or you can use the new SD card slot for up to 32GB of additional storage (about 16 hours).

Operation is easy enough: stomp on the pedal to put it in record, playback or overdub mode, and its LED indicator changes colour to correspond to your selection. You can access DigiTech's free JamManager software via the USB port, and arrange the order of your loops in the memory slots. If you've created audio files using a computer you can drag-and-drop them into the pedal too.

The Loop Up/Down switch lets you move seamlessly between a verse/chorus section of your song, and it only cycles to the next loop when the current one ends, thus avoiding timing errors. The concept sounds great, but it's actually where the Solo falls down slightly. To flick through your loops without taking your hands off your guitar, you'll need the FS3X footswitch (a built-in feature of the JamMan Stereo) at an additional cost of £47.

Conclusion: Looper pedals can be used as tools for writing extra guitar parts, building textures and harmonising with yourself. It's an addictive process; both singer-songwriters tired of simplistic strumming and sole guitarists in bands can benefit from the extra depth it offers. Sure, the JamMan Stereo provides greater useability and a reverse playback mode, but with it comes a £335 price tag. So if you want to be *that* guy at the open mic night without spending too much, there's a lot to be said for the JamMan Solo.

Stuart Williams

At a glance

DigiTech JamMan Solo

TYPE: Looper pedal
EFFECTS: Looping
PATCHES: 99
CONTROLS: Loop level, tempo, store, loop up/down, rhythm level
SOCKETS: Input, aux in, output, SDHC Card (optional) USB
POWER: PSU (included)
CONTACT: Sound Technology 01462 480000
WEB: www.digitech.com

SUMMARY

For: Powerful looping, loads of storage

Against: You'll need the extra footswitch for gigs

★★★★☆

TG says... Let's Jam, Man

"THE SOLO SCALES MOST OF THE FEATURES OF THE ORIGINAL JAMMAN INTO A SINGLE-SIZED PEDAL WITH ADDED MEMORY"



The JamMan Solo could help you unlock your creativity