

Quicktest



Plutonium Chi-Wah-Wah **£189**

A teeny, tiny wah that works!

CONTACT: Guitar XS **PHONE:** 01227 832558 **WEB:** plutonium.wordpress.com

Take the conventional wah-wah. You can either mount it on your pedalboard, where it takes up too much space, or you can put it on the floor, which means extra plugging hassle every time you set up and break down. So how about this – a fully functioning, completely analogue, inductor-based wah-wah that’s no bigger than a BOSS compact?

Sounds

This so-simple-how-come-nobody’s-done-it-before design requires that you keep your heel on the floor, and toe up and down on the treadle for wah sounds. The level and response of the treadle’s travel feels relatively natural for this seasoned Crybaby user; it takes

a gig or two to get absolutely comfortable with the overall feel. Schenker/Zakk Wyld fans should also be aware that you can’t leave it half-cocked without your foot on it as it’s spring loaded.

On the upside, gone is the conventional switch of Crybaby types; like some Morley pedals, the Chi-Wah-Wah turns on automatically as soon as you push the pedal down, and off again within moments of the pedal springing back to its buffered bypass position – about as quick as you switching fully forward and off as you would on a Crybaby.

You can change the feel and intensity of the wah’s envelope with the contour pot, affect the master output, and also the gain in the circuit, which spans thick and pronounced with a hint of drivey edge, or thinner, more quacky tones.

Verdict

Beautifully, robustly constructed inside and out, this is the most useful addition to the wah market we’ve seen in decades. [MT]

The Bottom Line

We like: Brilliant compact design; automatic on/off
We dislike: No half-cocked

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



Vibesware GR-Junior **€139**

Instant feedback at any volume

CONTACT: Vibesware **PHONE:** +49 1520 1989345 **WEB:** www.vibesware.com

The GR-Junior is a feedback generator that connects in line between guitar and amp and has a gooseneck mounting that fits onto a mic stand to sit level with your guitar neck – bring the neck in close to the black plastic resonator with its glowing blue LED and the magnetic field will vibrate your strings, generating harmonic feedback while you still have both hands free for picking and fretting. The idea is to create controllable feedback and sustain similar to finding the sweet spot in front of a cranked amp, and generate different notes by moving the neck sideways while keeping it parallel to the resonator.

Sounds

The Guitar Resonator works but it takes a bit of getting used to. If feedback was generated by bringing the neck a couple of inches from the resonator it would be easier, but we found

that we needed to be about half an inch away, making it easy to accidentally hit the strings. Still, practice makes perfect, and once you get the measure of it you’ll be have notes and chords taking off into perfectly in-tune feedback. What’s really cool is that it works with computer amp sims too.

Verdict

If you’ve used a similar tool such as an Ebow, you’ll know it takes practice, and the same goes for the GR-1. Persevere, though, and you’ll get addicted to those notes blooming into feedback. [TC]

The Bottom Line

We like: It works; compatible with software amp sims
We dislike: Need to bring strings very close to the unit

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



The GR junior leaves your hands free to play



HardWire TR-7 Tremolo/Rotary pedal **£125**

Versatile, rugged tremolo/vibrato modulation from the Harman stable

CONTACT: Sound Technology **PHONE:** 01462 480000 **WEB:** www.hardwirepedals.com

Guitarist CHOICE



The TR-7 is the latest addition to the HardWire pedal range that centres on a high 'boutique' specification, a ruggedly stage-friendly all-metal design and seven tremolo/rotary effect types. The stereo in/out configuration means that its placement before, or indeed after, a stereo delay or reverb is easily achieved.

Each of the four controls has a heavy duty-feeling knurled metal knob. Speed, depth and modify knobs have multi-indent travel, while the final rotary switch offers tremolo, opto, bias, duotrem, rotary, vibe and vibropan types.

Sounds

Spinning through the seven modulation types here immediately shows off the TR-7's transparency, low effect noise and versatility. Opto is a rich vintage Fender-style tremolo, rotary is a Leslie emulation – both rich and old-sounding. Duotrem places two tremolo effects in series to create rhythm effects, while vibropan varies the phase of its two vibrato voices – both more modernistic, creative effects. There's nothing here to create a really hard gated tremolo and an effect mix would certainly be handy.

Verdict

This is a class act, with a big choice of vintage and modern tremolo/rotary effects. You also get a rubber 'stomplock' pad that fits over the control knobs for onstage protection and to prevent any unwanted control changes, a piece of hook-and-loop material to stick on the pedal's base, and a glow-in-the-dark sticker for the footswitch. Oh, and there's easy-to-use tap tempo and, of course, true bypass operation. **[DB]**

The Bottom Line

We like: Rugged build; versatile sounds; true bypass
We dislike: No mix control; no gated tremolo effect

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

T-Rex Octavius Tri-Tone Generator **£215**

The emperor of octave dividers!

CONTACT: Westside Distribution **PHONE:** 0141 248 4812 **WEB:** www.t-rex-effects.com

Guitarist CHOICE



Octavius splits your signal into three: one octave down and one up, besides the original pitch. Both octaves have volume pots so you can achieve the ideal blend, while the 'master mix' knob lets you set the overall level of that pitch-shifted sound against the original sound. The effect is turned on and off by one footswitch while a second, with associated level knob, provides signal boost for solos whether the effect is engaged or not. It's a relatively current-hungry pedal, and thankfully T-Rex includes a mains adapter – there is no battery option.

Sounds

Tracking is pretty flawless on single notes and pretty good playing chords – not something all octave dividers can carry off. The Octave down emulates playing in unison with a bass but also adds extra girth to your notes. Likewise, the high octave adds subtle sparkle, imparting a bit of a 12-string vibe or a more obvious tracked high voice.

The amount of sonic variation, by not only varying the amount of octave shift with the normal sound but also blending high and low octaves proportionately, means that

Octavius gives you loads of new tones to discover.

Verdict

This is a cool pedal – you might not use it in every song, but it will spice up your sound, and when you don't need octaves the boost is great for driving an amp. **[TC]**

The Bottom Line

We like: Continuously variable sound; boost switch
We dislike: Not cheap; no battery option

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

The amount of sonic variation means that Octavius gives you loads of new tones to discover

Mogami Platinum & Gold guitar cables

£72.99 (12ft) & £39.99 (18ft)

Guitarist
CHOICE



When you're ready to get serious about guitar leads

CONTACT: Sounds Great PHONE: 0161 436 4799 WEB: www.mogamicable.com

Every time we write about high-priced cables, people get indignant. Indeed 'better' tone is impossible to define, so let's stick to the facts...

Mogami's top-of-the-range Platinum 12-footer uses 8mm diameter 3302 cable: 20AWG, 99.997 per cent copper conductor and fat polyethylene insulation – both with their own PVC shields – then a high-density copper shield, all within a tough exterior coat. The result is low capacitance (70pF/metre, according to Mogami), meaning minimal high-end frequency attenuation, zero handling

noise and superb shielding from external noise. You also get high-quality Neutrik plugs, one of which is a Silent Connector so you can swap guitars without any pops or hums.

The Gold series uses 6mm 2524-spec cable and gold-plated G&H plugs; this is still very high quality with low handling noise but with higher capacitance (130pF/metre).

In Use

The Platinum transfers a wider range of frequencies, most noticeably in the upper end, so if you're running a Strat straight

into a Vox AC30, for example, you might not appreciate all that super sparkly stuff right on top; the 18-foot Gold cable is smoother for that set-up. Yet a thick-sounding Les Paul into a duller amp has more presence using the Platinum, likewise if you introduce a few pedals. It's a balancing act – finding the 'right' cable for your rig is more important than buying the 'best'.

Verdict

As it is, the Platinum is on a par with the best lo-cap cables from Providence, Van Damme et al: highly revealing and ultra clear

right across the frequency spectrum. The Gold cable is more down-to-earth in price and the biggest tonal difference is very marginally less apparent presence and upper high-end, in line with a more 'normal' high-quality cable. [MT]

The Bottom Line

We like: Platinum's top-end tone and build; Gold's price

We dislike: Genuinely nothing we can think of

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Guitar Man GMP01 Power Supply £82.95

Power to the pedals!

CONTACT: Strings & Things PHONE: 01273 440442 WEB: www.stringsandthings.co.uk

Power supplies, you say? Hot under the collar about voltage, current and polarity? You'd better believe it, because with more people running more and more pedals, we're all needing a bit more juice on the floor.

Closely resembling Dunlop's stalwart DC Brick, the GMP01 offers a total of eight eight-volt outputs and two 18-volters, all on centre-negative BOSS-style barrel plugs. You get 10 hook-up leads included, again all BOSS-style, and the additional wall-wart to run from the mains. The 18-volt outputs have a maximum current output of 800mA and the nine-volters punt out a total of 600mA, albeit not all at once because maximum current output is 1,000mA. That is more than adequate for most 'normal'

pedals, but do check the requirements of your particular pedals and the total load.

In Use

The GMP01's outputs are not individually isolated, which means that you're more susceptible to ground hum, and there can be an adverse tonal effect the more pedals you connect. All those criticisms stand for many cost-effective power supplies it should be said – including the Dunlop DC Brick.

Verdict

The GMP01 is perfectly okay for a small collection of simple pedals, but tone hounds and serious pedal monkeys need to look further up the price and features food chain. [MT]



The Bottom Line

We like: Compact design; 18-volt option; good price

We dislike: The outputs are not isolated

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★