



T-Rex ToneBug Phaser £145

Set your guitar to stun with this 'affordable' model

Modes
This toggle switch lets you choose between a vintage and a throaty, modern phase sound



Controls
You only get two knobs, but they'll give you tons of sounds

Pedigree
T-Rex makes Mark Tremonti's signature phaser, so you know you're in safe hands

The market for high-end effects pedals is as saturated as a Coldplay fan's mattress. The good news for the tight-of-fist is that this filters down to off-shoot ranges that aim to give you your said tone at blue-collar prices. T-Rex's ToneBug series packs its upper-range design ethos into a more budget-conscious bracket, with streamlined controls.

The ToneBug Phaser features a minimal control set, with one dial for rate and another for depth settings. Then there's



a toggle switch that lets you choose between two modes: Modern and Vintage.

Vintage mode is designed to produce the sound of an analogue phaser pedal, and when played through your amp's

clean channel it introduces a subtle swoosh to funky guitar parts. Add some overdrive and you can get close to Van Halen/ Brian May style phaser sounds. Set the rate high and the depth at about half, and playing arpeggios produces some organ-like Leslie swirls.

If you're after a harder, more metallic edge to the pedal's sweep then flick over to the Modern mode. The sound is more 'throaty' here, too, so this is the place to go for more vocal-like phaser sounds.

Conclusion: £145 won't qualify as 'affordable' for everyone, but given the quality on offer (and the price of its competition), we think it's a good deal. This unit offers a lot of different sounds, and its easy-to-use format makes it a great introduction. We've got the bug. Have you?

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Comprehensive range of sounds
Against: It's not true bypass



TG says: Full of swirly goodness

Electro-Harmonix Neo Clone £49

Classic chorus re-packaged to a 'board-friendly' size

Battery
You'll need a screwdriver when the battery runs out, which is a bit of a pain



Build
The Neo Clone casing is the same size as the Nano Clone's...

Features
...but it includes the same circuit and Depth switch of the Small Clone pedal

The Electro-Harmonix Small Clone chorus is an undisputed classic. It's one of the best-loved chorus pedals ever made thanks to Kurt Cobain (*Nevermind* is awash with its sounds).

The Neo Clone is the latest in the three-strong Clone range, and is housed in the same sized box as the more diminutive Nano Clone. The difference is that the Neo Clone uses the same circuit as the original Small Clone, including the Depth switch (in



this case, a toggle). The only other control is the Rate knob, which you use for changing the speed of the modulation.

With the toggle switch down and a slow Rate setting, you get

a moderate sprinkling of Andy Summers style chorus. Whack the switch to 'up' and the Neo sweeps over a deeper range for more aggressive pitch wavering. This pedal does chorus with a classy analogue flavour – you can thicken your high-gain solos or add shimmer to your clean rhythm sounds. The only gripe is that you'll need a screwdriver to change the battery.

Conclusion: The Neo and Small Clone are the same price, so

apart from re-claiming some real estate on their board, Small Clone owners will have little reason to swap. However, if you're yet to delve into the filthy waters of chorus, the Neo is perfect for first forays into the sound in all its guises.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Classic sounds, manageable size
Against: No quick battery access



TG says: Attack of the clones