

MXR STOMPBOXES £109-£134
EFFECTS



MXR
pedals

£109-£134

by Trevor Curwen



MXR M78 Custom Badass '78 Distortion

A classic circuit gets hot-rodded

In this first of a new series of pedals, MXR has taken a classic distortion circuit (although it is not saying which!) and modified it to produce a hot-rodded version.

Sounds

The '78 puts out a recognisable raunchy distortion with a solid mid-range. The tone control adds some sharp top end, while the crunch button gives more of everything, boosting dynamic range and the distortion's harmonic content, effectively giving you two voices – too bad it's not footswitchable.

Verdict

Responding well to playing dynamics, this is a really good distortion pedal with plenty to offer, particularly if you are a fan of late-seventies rock.

M78 Custom Badass '78 Distortion

PRICE: £109

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Distortion pedal

FEATURES: True hard-wire bypass

CONTROLS: Output, tone,

distortion, crunch

CONNECTIONS: Input, output

POWER: 9V DC from adaptor or battery (included)

DIMENSIONS: 70 (w) x 121 (d) x 32.5mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Classic hard clipping distortion; two voices; useful EQ

We dislike: Battery access

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

MXR M195 Noise Clamp

A practical way to make hiss history

The Noise Clamp is designed to reduce hiss and excess noise in your effects chain. You connect your pedals (or maybe just one that's particularly noisy) in a loop from the send and return jacks and set a threshold where your playing opens the gate, letting the full sound through.

Sounds

Capable of up to 26dB of level reduction, the Noise Clamp greatly reduces extraneous noise in playing gaps and can keep chording and riffing well-defined. We used it to great effect on an extremely noisy vintage fuzz and, since it has two modes where the loop can be bypassed or active when the pedal is off, you can use it as a switcher for the loop.

Verdict

A neat solution to a perennial pedal problem.

M195 Noise Clamp

PRICE: £119

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Noise gate pedal

FEATURES: Buffered bypass, two internally switched bypass modes

CONTROLS: Trigger

CONNECTIONS: Input, output, send, return

POWER: 9V DC from adaptor or battery (included)

DIMENSIONS: 70 (w) x 121 (d) x 32.5mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: 26dB of reduction; works as a loop switcher

We dislike: Trigger level could need careful setting to match your playing dynamics

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



MXR M234 Analog Chorus

Compact, controlled chorus

Somewhere between the minimalist Micro Chorus and the larger format Stereo Chorus, MXR's new Analog Chorus combines a pedalboard-friendly compactness with the control provided by five knobs.

Sounds

With true analogue bucket brigade technology onboard, juxtaposition of the rate and depth controls gives a wide range of familiar classky chorus tones. But it's the other three knobs that sweeten the deal, with the two EQ knobs putting the tone in the zone and the level knob adding in as little or as much effect as you want, from a subtle shift in your tone to a full-on ensemble sound.

Verdict

A versatile, quality box for those looking to add some chorus to their pedalboard.

M234 Analog Chorus

PRICE: £134
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Chorus pedal
FEATURES: Buffered bypass, stereo output (using both mono and thru)
CONTROLS: Level, rate, depth, low cut, high cut
CONNECTIONS: Input, thru, mono (using mono and thru together)
POWER: 9V DC from adaptor or battery
DIMENSIONS: 70 (w) x 121 (d) x 32.5mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Small footprint for a five-knob pedal; useful tone controls
We dislike: Four-screw battery access

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

MXR ZW90 Wylde Phase

Guitarist
CHOICE

Phasing just the way Zakk likes it

Following the single-knob tradition of MXR's classic Phase 90 and Phase 45, Zakk Wylde's signature phaser features just a rate control to change the speed of the phasing effect.

Sounds

Unsurprisingly not a million miles away from the sonic signature of the Phase 90, what you get here is a wide range of great phase tones from a very slow shifting cycle through to a fast Univibe-style pulse, with a knob setting around nine o'clock yielding the slow sweep that Zakk Wylde favours.

Verdict

This is an excellently voiced phaser, which Zakk Wylde fans will probably choose regardless. Anyone else should try it out alongside the other MXR phasers and see which tonality they prefer. **G**

ZW90 Wylde Phase

PRICE: £134
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Phase pedal
FEATURES: Hard-wire bypass
CONTROLS: Speed
CONNECTIONS: Input, output
POWER: 9V DC from adaptor or battery (included)
DIMENSIONS: 70 (w) x 121 (d) x 32.5mm (h)
JHS & Co
01132 865381
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The Bottom Line

We like: Great phasing sound; simple one-knob control method
We dislike: Four-screw battery access

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★