

Z.VEX INSTANT LO-FI JUNKIE £149

This junkie's got us hooked

THIS pedal is based on the company's Lo-Fi Loop Junkie, with its old-school vibrato and chiming compression, which only applies its magic to the looped sound, not your real-time guitar signal. This is why Z.Vex has produced the Instant Lo-Fi Junkie (minus the looping).

Of the knobs on offer, the Comp/Lo-Fi control acts as a blend: to the left you get punchy clean compression (ideal for boosting your picking), and to the right you get lo-fi modulation; anywhere in between is a mixture of the two sounds. The Tone control only effects the sound of the modulation (it doesn't do anything in Comp mode). On top, there's a three-position mini-toggle for

changing the mod's waveform. You get a sine wave (gentle sweep), triangle wave (more pronounced) or a square wave (straight up/down sweep).

The Junkie works on distorted sounds, but you'll get the most out of it on clean/semi-driven settings. We found our sweet spot (a dream-like warble similar to the sound you get from a stretched cassette tape) with the Comp/Lo-Fi control at about three-quarters with the sine wave modulation shape.

There are certainly straight vibrato pedals that will achieve more traditional sounds, but if you're a fan of crusty retro effects or cinematic soundscapes, you'll be addicted to the Junkie.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Vibrato/compressor
CONTROLS: Volume, tone, comp/lo-fi, depth, speed, waveform
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
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www.zvex.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES								
	SOUND QUALITY								
	VALUE FOR MONEY								
	BUILD QUALITY								
	USEABILITY								
	OVERALL RATING								

ELECTRO-HARMONIX ANALOGIZER £75

Sounding sterile? Try this pedal

WHEN you're talking about 'analogue sound' you'll probably find yourself using adjectives such as 'warm' and 'fat'. There's a reason why these words get used so much. In a digital age where the purest of tones are available, we run the risk of sounding clinical. There's nothing wrong with a bit of grit; it stops our clean sounds from appearing weak and plastic. That's where the Analogizer steps in.

It processes your signal with a mixture of short (3.5ms to 65ms) analogue delay, and up to 26dB of overdrive. The delay time is set with the Spread control, and you can mix your dry guitar sound with the delayed signal using the Blend control. If you've ever tried an analogue delay like EHX's Memory

Man, you'll already know the kind of sound the Analogizer produces. Kick it in, and it immediately adds girth to your sound with a thick mid-rich character. Upping the delay time with the Spread knob acts like a double-tracked guitar – more ambient with a slight lag between the two signals. If you don't want any delay at all, you can turn it off by pushing the Blend control to the left. Pushing the gain at this point turns the Analogizer into an effective boost/OD pedal for the front-end of your amp.

The Analogizer is one of those pedals that's less noticeable the longer you leave it switched in. Turn it off, though, and you'll realise just how thin your rig can sound without it.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Analogue overdrive/delay
CONTROLS: Volume, spread, blend, gain
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
CONTACT: info@electroharmonix.com
www.ehx.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES								
	SOUND QUALITY								
	VALUE FOR MONEY								
	BUILD QUALITY								
	USEABILITY								
	OVERALL RATING								