

## DIGITECH VENTURA VIBE £142

This isn't just a phase you're going through...

**THIS** sturdily-built, true bypass stompbox from DigiTech offers three vibrato and rotary effects. 'Vintage' is based on the classic 60s Uni-Vibe made famous by Jimi Hendrix, most notably on *Machine Gun* and his iconic deconstruction of *The Star Spangled Banner* at Woodstock in 1969; 'Modern' is described as a "pure pitch-based vibrato effect"; and 'Rotary' simulates a Leslie rotating speaker.

The Uni-Vibe sound is convincing with that great phased-out wash that Jimi dug so much, while the Modern setting is as wobbly as a shell-shocked trifle, great for nailing the intro of *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds*. Holding down and releasing the on/off

switch automatically increases and decreases the speed on all three settings, but it's on the Rotary function that it really works at its best – it swooshes and throbs like the real deal. The Leslie was used by The Beatles in the 60s and you can also hear it on the epic guitar breakdown on Cream's *Badge* – one of the sample settings in the Ventura Vibe manual. Anyone who has tried shifting a Leslie cabinet between gigs will know how life-changing a pedal version is!

Authentic sounds, bulletproof build quality and, despite not having a power supply included, worth every penny. Ignore the joker on the box; the Ventura Vibe is a serious bit of kit.

Ed Mitchell



**TYPE:** Rotary/vibe pedal  
**CONTROLS:** Rotary/vibrato type switch, speed, depth, mix, tone, drive  
**SOCKETS:** 2x inputs, 2x outputs, power  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** 9V power supply only  
**CONTACT:** Sound Technology  
 01462 480000 www.soundtech.co.uk

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★			

## IK MULTIMEDIA IRIG ACOUSTIC £42

Time to go mobile with your acoustic recording?

**THE** best way to record an acoustic is with a decent condenser mic, but that's a bit of a faff if you're in a hurry. Thankfully, IK has put its brainiacs on the case, and the result is the first iRig for acoustic players. Like Fishman's Aura technology, the idea is to recreate that detailed condenser tonality with modelling tech. To achieve this, the iRig is paired with the AmpliTube Acoustic app on an iOS or Android device. There's a free version that offers several presets, or the full version (£7.99) with expanded amp and model options.

The iRig itself is a plectrum-shaped MEMS mic/interface that's easy to secure to the inside of your soundhole. After calibrating our

dreadnought with the app (this is vital to ensure you get the right levels) and choosing the 'Friendly' preset, we strum, fingerpick and... it really does present the character of a condenser mic well. It's surprisingly sensitive, but owing to its positioning on the body it picks up more fretboard finger/string noise than we'd like. It's still a worthy compromise for anyone who has neither the time or facilities to set up a condenser, and with Audiobus support for use with recording apps as well as AmpliTube's onboard tuner and one-track recorder, this is the first time acoustic musicians have an easy hardware and app package to inspire mobile recording.

Rob Laing



**TYPE:** Acoustic guitar microphone/interface & modelling app  
**CONTROLS:** App-based EQ and modelling  
**SOCKETS:** 3.5mm audio out, headphone input  
**CONTACT:** IK Multimedia 01223 234414  
 www.ikmultimedia.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★			