

Zoom RFX-2200/Echoes From The Past £199

Shads fans rejoice: more authentic sixties multi-FX by Roger Newell



Hankering after the sound of The Shadows? Look no further!

THE LATEST IN THE SERIES OF Echoes From The Past patches has just arrived, and it comes pre-loaded into the Zoom RFX-2200. Apart from the usual fine-tuning that occurs with each upgrade of this brilliant echo system this new Zoom unit boasts an onboard power supply so we reckon it's definitely the best combination to date if you're wanting to take it on the road.

It also takes up the minimum of space – being a standard 1U rack mount – and you get one hell of a lot of alternative multi-tap echoes, reverbs and general recording effects associated with the golden age of guitar instrumentals and beyond.

SOUNDS: The RFX-2200 has a very logical and user-friendly control panel, and with the added help proved by the Echoes From The Past guide book you'll be up and running within minutes of plugging in. Although obviously aimed primarily at guitarists wanting to get the authentic sounds associated with Hank Marvin on The Shadows' records, and similar instrumental bands of the sixties, this also serves well for the modern player who wants that extra dimension of echo that digital foot pedals just can't hope to match.

ZOOM RFX-2200/EFTP	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Authentic classic echo sounds; clarity; relative ease of use

■ **WE DISLIKED** Takes time to fully familiarise yourself with the control panel

Verdict

Programming multi-FX to achieve just the right balance – especially where multi-tap delays are concerned – can be really time-consuming and frustrating for many users but, thanks to the Shad-friendly chaps at Echoes From the Past, it's all done for you. What's more the price stays the same as the previous version at just £199, so can you really afford not to have one?

Guitarist RATING



KEY INFO ZOOM RFX-2200 WITH EFTP PROGRAMMING **PRICE:** £199 **TYPE:** MULTI-TAP ECHO UNIT **TEL:** 01268 642689

Planet Waves Joe Satriani Signature Straps/Picks £19.95/£4.95 for 10

A new range of signature accessories as unusual as the man himself by Simon Bradley



These Satch designed straps and picks are works of art



WHERE DO YOU GO once you have a hugely successful signature guitar, an award-winning amp and a number of pickups to your name? If you're Joe Satriani, you link up with the company

that has been supplying your cables since the year dot and put your unique vision to work.

This new range of JS accessories from Planet Waves comprises six designs and gauge of pick and a quintet of straps in a range of Joe's own illustrations.

His earlier JS Ibanez guitars boasted all manner of swirls and designs courtesy of the man himself – and that's the vibe here.

Each utilises super strong 50mm-wide tubular nylon with injection moulded rings supporting JS-branded leather ends, and can go from 35 to just under 60-inches in length.

The picks come in packs of 10 and, whether you opt for a gauge of .48mm, .71mm or .96mm in either white or black, each has its own sketch again from the hand of Satch. Made from colloid and offering a slightly streamlined teardrop shape, Satriani himself uses the heaviest gauge.

JS STRAPS	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Vibe	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** The cool vibe and excellent choice of designs

■ **WE DISLIKED** All things considered, nothing

Verdict

The strap design ensures that they're very comfortable in use and, depending on your personal preferences, the picks are just dandy too. The Satriani branding is subtle, so any guitar player who is in need of slightly left-field straps could use one of these without any concerns with regard to the level of associated stigma. Us? We absolutely love 'em.

Guitarist RATING



KEY INFO JS STRAPS AND PICKS **PRICE:** £19.95 AND £4.95 FOR TEN **TYPE:** ACCESSORIES **WEB:** WWW.PLANETWAVES.COM

Maxon Vintage Series AD999 Analogue Delay £255

Delay enthusiasts look away now, lest we lead you into temptation by [Chris Vinnicombe](#)

IN ISSUE 273 WE LOOKED AT A range of impressive dirtboxes from Maxon – the Japanese effects aficionados behind the original Ibanez Tube Screamer. In the same series as the OD-820 Overdrive Pro that wowed us a couple of months ago, the candy shop pink AD999 is an analogue delay with up to 900msec of delay time on tap. Delay time, repeat and delay level controls perform their functions just as you would expect, while a useful additional dedicated dry output allows

MAXON ANALOGUE DELAY TEST RESULTS

Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** From the beautiful to the unhinged, the sounds are as good as anything we've heard

■ **WE DISLIKED** Only the price, but this is pro quality in every aspect

you to separate both the pedal's wet and dry signals.

SOUNDS: Despite the deceptive simplicity of the three control knobs, players familiar with this kind of analogue delay, which recalls classics such as the Ibanez AD9 or BOSS DM2, will know that a world of sonics lies merely a twist of a potentiometer away; from simple rockabilly slapback, to theremin-style self-oscillating feedback and all kinds of beautiful textured points in between. What really sets the AD999 apart is the musicality and warmth of even its most psychedelic soundscapes, as the repeats mush and degrade beautifully.

Verdict

While digital emulations from the likes of Line 6 come admirably close to capturing the character of this kind of effect, this analogue unit really is a cut



Maxon AD999: a cut above

above in terms of the musicality and authenticity of its sounds. This is comfortably one of the finest delay stompboxes that money can buy, but therein lies the rub; £255 of anyone's hard-earned is a serious investment for a single stompbox, no matter how mind-blowing.

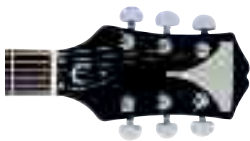
Guitarist RATING



KEY INFO MAXON VINTAGE SERIES AD999 **PRICE:** £255 **TYPE:** ANALOGUE DELAY **WEB:** FILLING DISTRIBUTION +33 01 48 78 01 20

Epiphone Wildkat Metallic £675

A great-looking Epiphone that's a little bit rockabilly, and a whole lot more by [Chris Vinnicombe](#)



EPIPHONE'S LATEST limited edition semi has more than a hint of a certain Mr Setzer about it, with the familiar

Wildkat model given a lick of metallic red paint evoking fifties Americana. Chrome Alnico P-90s and a Bigsby are anchored to a semi-hollow mahogany body with a substantial centre block, maple top and a set maple neck. Although we had some initial tuning concerns, re-stringing with a heavier set of strings – in this case 0.012-0.056-inch – settled things down and seemed to compliment the general vibe. The old-school chrome Epiphone

badge on the headstock didn't sit quite flush to the headstock facia and rattled as a result, but this didn't come through the amplifier, so only proved to be a minor irritation.

SOUNDS: Select the neck pickup, add a dash of overdrive and a pinch of reverb to taste and the result is a sumptuous smoky electric blues tone. Flip to the bridge and there's more bite, although the overall tonality remains muscular and Gibson-like, despite the guitar's aesthetic nod to Gretsch. Open tunings in combination with the bridge pickup proved to be a great platform for slide, with the Bigsby vibrato facilitating ghostly shimmers. The solid centre block does a great job preventing unwanted feedback and the Wildkat remains reasonably well behaved even when treated to an excess of drive, although there's a raucous edge throughout that screams rock 'n' roll.

EPIPHONE WILDKAT TEST RESULTS

Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** A high quality, versatile palette of sounds from a cool looking instrument

■ **WE DISLIKED** Rattling headstock badge; tuning stability not always rock solid



Verdict

This is a great looking instrument that sounds as valid for modern alternative rock as it does rockabilly, and yet another reminder that P-90 pickups are arguably the best all-rounders out there. We felt that the move up to heavier strings was necessary to get the best out of this instrument, and while your fingers may not thank you initially, your ears certainly will.

Guitarist RATING



Cool for 'Kats: the Wildkat screams rock 'n' roll

KEY INFO EPIPHONE WILDKAT METALLIC **PRICE:** £675 **TYPE:** SEMI-HOLLOW SET NECK ELECTRIC **TEL:** ROSETTI 01376 550033