



## DIGITECH TIMEBENDER £316

Go back to the future with this time-manipulating mutant

**D**elay is one of the simplest effects to get your head round: strike a note and it repeats. There have been a few notable developments since the effect became widely used, but DigiTech's TimeBender is for those who want more than just a simple parroting of their signal. This pedal houses an innovative feature set, three key points of which include the Dynamic mode delays, Strum Tempo function and DigiTech's MusiQ intelligent harmony technology. Time for some jargon busting...

Let's start with the Dynamic delay modes. Each one (Digital, Analogue and Dynamic Repeats) uses a 'ducking' circuit, which dynamically adjusts the level of the repeats in relation to the input signal from your guitar. In simple terms, play hard and the delay level drops; play softly and the delay level rises. In Dynamic Repeat mode, the feedback loop is treated in the same way. You can use these modes to make some busy dub-style feedback rises, but the beauty is that if you sense the delay chain is getting

cluttered, you can save it from becoming over-resonant mush by just varying your picking attack.

The Strum Tempo function allows you to create a multi-tap delay pattern by strumming muted strings into the unit. The notes then repeat to the rhythm that you strum, creating a non-linear delay style that opens a whole load of possibilities.

Onto the MusiQ then. This mode transforms simple notes into cascading arpeggios, and the resulting pitch-shifted delay sounds are natural without some of the 'warbly' artefacts associated with pitch shifting effects. We'll be honest – the 'cheat' quality of the harmonised delays could be met with cynicism by some, but plug in and you'll find over 100 different interval voicings that appeal to shredders, proggies and electro fans everywhere. The only grumble is that, given how much this box does, four memory patches seems a bit skimpy.

**Conclusion:** At just over 300 bones, it might look pricey for a pedal but a quick glance at the

competition sees models from Line 6, Damage Control and Boss in the same ballpark. We started this review wondering exactly how different a delay pedal could be, but DigiTech has brought a truly innovative, musical delay processor into the arena. Regardless of the style of music you play, all of the delay sounds you need are present here, and the new features housed within this sturdy metal box open up a world of possibilities to create exciting new sounds. You should definitely check this one out!

Stuart Williams

### At a glance

#### DigiTech TimeBender

**TYPE:** Delay pedal  
**EFFECTS:** 11 delay modes  
**PATCHES:** 4  
**CONTROLS:** Delay Type, Tone, Delay Time, Repeats, Multiplier, Modulation, Voicing, Pattern, Mix Store  
**SOCKETS:** Input Left (mono) Input Right, Output Left (mono) Output Right, Footswitch, Expression, Power  
**POWER:** Adaptor supplied  
**CONTACT:** Sound Technology 01462 480000  
**WEB:** www.digitech.com

### SUMMARY

**For:** Innovative time and pitch effects

**Against:** Can we have more memories, please?

★★★★★

**TG says...** The future of delay pedals



**"DIGITECH HAS BROUGHT A TRULY INNOVATIVE, MUSICAL DELAY PROCESSOR INTO THE ARENA WITH THE TIMEBENDER"**