



TC ELECTRONIC DITTO X4 LOOPER £185

The latest addition to the Ditto family presents looping 'times two': twice the fun and even greater layering opportunities

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Olly Curtis

The original Ditto Looper's immediacy and ease of use simplified the whole pedal-looping thing for us guitarists. Since then, we've seen a Stereo version with the ability to store a 'backing track' alongside loop transfer to a computer over USB, and the X2, which added a second footswitch to stop loop playback or add effects. On a wishlist for many, though, was the ability to have two loops: enter the Ditto X4, which effectively puts two Ditto Loopers side-by-side, each with their own footswitch. The two loops can either be set to 'serial' mode where the loops can play one after the other for a verse/chorus vibe, or to 'sync' mode, which can have both loops at the same time.

Each loop has a knob to set its volume, while the Decay knob is common to both and sets the rate at which previous loops fade into the background (fully clockwise gives no volume reduction in a loop cycle). Mono or Stereo operation is possible, as is dual mono, where you can connect two instruments with the outputs going to different amps. It has the same loop transfer and backing track ability as the X2, MIDI connectivity for synchronisation and more, plus mode switches to set up your own options relating to overdubs, loop switching and bypass.

In Use

Recording, starting and stopping loops can be carried out with each looper's footswitch, but the

super-practical Stop footswitch can stop both at once and also erase, if needed. A fourth footswitch applies an effect to the loop with seven options: you get three ways to end a loop (play once and stop; fade out; or tape-slowing style), and options to play a loop in reverse, at half speed (octave down) or twice speed (octave up); a hold function repeats a short segment of the loop as long as the footswitch is held down – great for stutter effects or to stick on a particular chord to play live over.

Verdict

The X4 extends creativity way beyond its siblings: two loops greatly increase the options for layering and building your music, but TC's 'switches, knobs but no menus' approach keeps things easily manageable. While this is a fine creative looper for home use (namely, songwriting or practice), it has features that really lend themselves to live work, particularly improvisational pieces where the effects footswitch can be put to great use. It balances sophistication with simplicity while being great fun to use. **G**

PROS Simple operation; huge leap in creativity with two loops; nice array of effects; easy loop import/export options

CONS Indicator lights obscured with foot on switch – just when you need them!; needs high current outlet on power distributor

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: Thailand

TYPE: Dual Looper

FEATURES: True bypass/buffered bypass (switchable), 7 FX types, loop import/export, 5 minutes max. loop time per loop

CONTROLS: Loop 1 volume, Loop 2 volume, Decay, FX selector, 3x toggle switch, 4x Mode switch; Loop1, Loop2, Stop & FX footswitches

CONNECTIONS: Standard inputs (mono and stereo), standard outputs (mono and stereo), MIDI IN, MIDI THRU, USB

POWER: 9V adaptor (supplied) 300mA

DIMENSIONS: 235 (w) x 145 (d) x 57mm (h)

TC Electronic

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