

# DUNLOP JOHN PETRUCCI SIGNATURE CRY BABY WAH £187

Making the Dream a reality

**GIVEN** the simplicity of a wah pedal – basically a tone knob you control with your foot – Dunlop has a huge catalogue of Cry Baby models. Just in terms of artist collaborations, it offers versions for Dimebag Darrell, Zakk Wylde, Eddie Van Halen and Kirk Hammett. Now, Dream Theater guitarist John Petrucci gets in on the action with the most tweakable Cry Baby yet.

At first glance, his signature wah is a handsome devil, with its smoke chrome finish and bright blue status LEDs to let you know when the effect is engaged. Yet, it's what's going on inside the pedal that makes it special. Unscrew the baseplate's four rubber feet and you'll find a bank of mini trim pots

that allow you to tweak volume, 'Q', and a six-band EQ. The Q pot alters the intensity of the wah effect, and the pedal comes preset with Petrucci's favourite setting: a very vocal-sounding sweep that most of us would be satisfied with. It's just the ticket for funky Jimi Hendrix stuff and classic porno soundtrack boom-chika fun.

As with any artist-endorsed kit, Petrucci fans will be all over this thing, yet a regular Cry Baby costs a hundred quid less than John's fancy upgrade, and will provide what most of us need from a wah. That said, the JP signature justifies its price tag by allowing Petrucci's fellow sonic adventurers to nail their own unique wah sound.

Ed Mitchell



**TYPE:** Wah pedal  
**CONTROLS:** Internal trim pots: volume, Q, and six-band EQ  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, mains adaptor  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** 9V battery or mains adaptor (not supplied)  
**CONTACT:** Westside Distribution  
 0844 3262000  
[www.jimdunlop.com](http://www.jimdunlop.com)

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

# BLACKSTAR FLY 3 BASS £49

No space for bass? Try this

**BASS** amps are usually big boxes because they need large speakers to chuck out all that low-end energy. Clearly nobody told Blackstar, which has made its first dedicated bass amp a minuscule affair. The Bass Fly shares the Fly 3's tiny enclosure, and like the guitar version, this three-watt amp can be battery-powered. Also like the Fly 3, if you need more power, the Stereo Pack (£79) adds a second three-watt extension cab and power supply.

You get two channels (clean and OD) with gain, compression and master volume, and an EQ control that goes from a mid-rich bite to a mid-cut thump. There's a built-in Sub control, too, which layers bass harmonics to provide further beef. The Bass Fly also has an input for your phone or mp3 player, and a

headphone/emulated out for silent playing or recording.

We loved the Fly 3, but we were sceptical that an amp of this size could do the business an octave down. We were wrong. This little monster has more than enough volume for home practice, and the tone is something else. The Bass Fly holds its goodies even when you crank it, and the drive sound is genuinely great, with none of that small amp honk. Using our Jazz Bass on the clean channel, with the compression up, and the EQ set fully clockwise the tone is punchy, clear and has plenty of low-end. You'll want to be careful with that Sub control, as dialling it too high can create some flappiness, but this is a new standard for space-strapped bassists.

Stuart Williams



**TYPE:** Bass practice amp  
**OUTPUT:** 3W (single), 6W (Stereo Pack)  
**SPEAKER:** 3"  
**CONTROLS:** Gain, EQ, Comp ratio, sub, channel Master vol  
**SOCKETS:** Input, aux in, headphones, speaker  
**POWER:** 6x AA batteries (included), 6.5V power supply (available separately, £12.99)  
**DIMENSIONS:** [HxWxD] 125 x 170 x 100mm  
**CONTACT:** Blackstar Amplification  
 01604 817817 [www.blackstaramps.co.uk](http://www.blackstaramps.co.uk)

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	VALUE FOR MONEY								
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	USABILITY								
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★★							