

IBANEZ MINI ROUND-UP £59-£75

The Japanese guitar giant aims its shrink ray at three more 9 series stompboxes, accompanying the Tube Screamer Mini in the company's diminutive pedal line-up

THE Ibanez 9 series is an effects institution. Pedals such as the TS-9 Tube Screamer, AD-9 Analog Delay and CS-9 Stereo Chorus have been mainstays on pro pedalboards since their introduction in the early 80s, and remain sought-after in tonehound circles. Last year, we saw the first mini-pedal to join the Ibanez effects stable, as the Tube Screamer Mini incited guitarists to involuntarily "aww!" in unison. Now, three new shrunken stompers join the TS – the Analog Delay Mini, Chorus Mini and Super Metal Mini – and all of 'em pack reassuringly weighty 9 series-style housings, true bypass switching and nine-volt power supply operation. Plus, compared with their big-box counterparts' £100-plus price tags, they're bargains to boot. Let's see how the tones stack up...



IBANEZ CHORUS MINI £65

Chorus that doesn't bore us

WHERE MANY minis end up going down the pristine Boss CE-2 route, the Chorus Mini takes the denser path of Ibanez's CS-9. It's a sweet, syrupy chorus that's very 80s (think Prince, Metallica), but the level control – a new addition for this mini version – affords extra versatility, with near-vibrato wobbles at higher levels and speeds, while you can nab a decent flanger approximation down the other end of the rate knob. It all adds up to one of the best mini-choruses on the market.

IBANEZ ANALOG DELAY MINI £75

Sweet repeats

UNLIKE SOME mini 'analogue' delays that are actually digital, this is the real deal, and it's a masterful recreation of the AD-9. With times ranging from 20 to 600ms, it delivers similarly moody repeats, which don't interfere with your playing, and are perfect for creating an atmosphere rather than dominating your sound. Longer delay times get muddier and fuzzier, and it boasts some of the best pitch-bending oscillation in the business. As far as dark-voiced mini delays go, it doesn't get much better.



It's surprising how well the Super Metal adapts to modern playing

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Delay, chorus, distortion and overdrive

CONTROLS: Chorus Mini: speed, depth, level;

Analog Delay Mini: delay time, repeat, blend;

Super Metal Mini: drive, edge, punch, attack, level;

Tube Screamer Mini: overdrive, tone, level

SOCKETS: Input, output, power

BYPASS: True bypass

POWER: 9V power supply only (not included)

CONTACT: Headstock

Distribution 0121 508 6666

www.ibanez.co.jp

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

IBANEZ ANALOG DELAY MINI					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

IBANEZ SUPER METAL MINI					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

IBANEZ TUBE SCREAMER MINI					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

IBANEZ SUPER METAL MINI £75

It is a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Super Metal

THE ORIGINAL Super Metal never garnered legendary status, but Ibanez has seen fit to revive it here, complete with natty stacked controls: edge adjusts treble, while attack tweaks presence, and punch adds or subtracts bass. Given that the Super Metal was born in the 80s, it's surprising how well it adapts to modern playing. Extended-range players will love the control over high and low frequencies, and while there's not much scoop, there's gain aplenty for everything from hard rock and stoner vibes to *Kill 'Em All* rasp. It's a little fuzzy in certain EQ regions to cover all heavy purposes – and don't look for low gain – but the Super Metal more than justifies its inclusion in the mini line-up.

IBANEZ TUBE SCREAMER MINI £59

Kicking and screaming

THE TS Mini does exactly what it says on the tin. Like its forebears, it cuts low-end a little, and there's not a ton of volume on tap, but nothing helps your guitar cut through like a little TS mid kick, and this is the real deal. Boosting is the TS Mini's forte, and for anyone who's longed for more definition with their chug or a little extra oomph for solos, sign right up. The only snag is that there are more versatile TS-style mini overdrives available elsewhere, but none of them are as authentic as this.

