

DIGITECH ISTOMP £159

One stop stomp shop

EVER looked down at your pedalboard and wondered what you'd sound like if you swapped out your fuzz for an overdrive? Well, wonder no more. The iStomp is a programmable effects pedal with the ability to shift and change into a completely different effect by plugging it in to an iOS device and downloading the Stomp Shop app, your new virtual effects boutique.

There's a great variety of effects that can each be demoed free for five minutes (repeatable as many times as you wish), but, other than the included Redline overdrive and Total Recall delay, they cost anywhere from 69p up to £13.99 if you want to keep them. The most exciting effects are generally the licensed ones, such as the pricey but gorgeous Lexicon reverb.

Once you've loaded up your chosen effect you can disconnect your iOS device and enjoy, but there are a few caveats. The first is that, currently, only Apple's iOS devices are supported, though desktop support is on the way. Then there's the competition. For a similar price, you can pick up a Line 6 M5, which has over 100 effects built in, supports an expression pedal, and doesn't need an extra device to switch effects.

Regardless, the iStomp is still a quality pedal and DigiTech should be applauded for offering a genuinely innovative product with a great range of sounds. The virtual Stomp Shop interface offers almost unlimited possibilities, and we can't wait to see what the company does with it next.

Alun Lower



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Programmable multi-effects
CONTROLS: 4x control knobs
SOCKETS: Stereo inputs, stereo outputs, DigiTech Smart Cable, power
BYPASS: True bypass
POWER: PSU only (included)
CONTACT: Sound Technology
 01462 480000 www.digitech.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES	■	■	■	■
	SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■
	VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■	■
	BUILD QUALITY	■	■	■	■
	USEABILITY	■	■	■	■
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★			

DR SCIENTIST THE ELEMENTS £199

The doctor will see you now

LIKE any good boutique drive pedal, The Elements is built like a tank, has a fabulously quirky paint job and enough controls to make an airline pilot pause for a moment.

The Elements is a clever blend of boost, overdrive and distortion with controls for nearly every aspect of your tone. Aside from the three-band EQ, gain and volume there's a mix control that enables a more gradual changeover between clean and dirty tones. The real fun starts when you start playing with the four toggle switches, which include a low/high-gain selector along with a three different bass cuts, a mid frequency shift and a choice of three different clipping modes that each alter the character and harmonic overtones of the distortion. In low-gain mode,

you can start with a clean boost before making your way through to smouldering bluesy break-up tones and a generous rock crunch. High-gain mode takes things even further, and works very well with the clipping toggle, letting you choose a harsher or more open drive. And as for harmonics, The Elements is positively brimming with them, even with crushing gain levels.

At £199, this pedal is a serious investment, and it's not the easiest to go out and demo. While the sheer quality and versatility of the pedal arguably justifies it, we'd love to see a larger dual-footswitch version for easy switching between high- and low-gain modes. It's not a deal-breaker, though, and we'd still buy one in a heartbeat.

Alun Lower



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Boost/overdrive/distortion
CONTROLS: Gain, volume, mix, bass, mid, treble, gain mode, clip, bass cut, mid freq
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
BYPASS: True bypass
POWER: PSU only (sold separately)
CONTACT: Joe's Pedals joe@joespedals.com
www.drscientist.ca

SUMMARY	FEATURES	■	■	■	■
	SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■
	VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■	■
	BUILD QUALITY	■	■	■	■
	USEABILITY	■	■	■	■
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★			