

Visual Sound Warped Distortion

Tread here for 'Off The Wall' distortion

£119

Vans logo
The Warped Distortion aims to give Warped Tour fans the perfect drive sound

Build quality
Visual Sound's brawny design should be safe under the feet of guitar-wielding skaters



Controls
The heavy-duty knobs are protected by the aluminium casing of the pedal

At a glance

Visual Sound Vans Warped Distortion

TYPE: Distortion pedal
EFFECTS: Distortion
CONTROLS: Grind, Edge, Loud, On/Off switch
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
CONTACT: Headline Music 01223 874301
WEB: www.visualsound.net

Every year, Vans takes its travelling institution of skateboarding and loud guitars around the US, and when tone fiends Visual Sound spied its stompboxes on the pedalboards of many Warped Tour artists, it decided to build 500 special-edition Warped Distortion pedals.

Like all Visual Sound pedals, the Warped Distortion is housed in a cast aluminium box (this one's bright green) and has been fitted with heavy-duty pots and Visual Sound's custom switches.



This pedal has been designed towards the typical Warped tour band, but does its performance match its rock aesthetic?

In a word, yes. And given the type of player this pedal is aimed at, we'd say it does it quite well

too. The distortion is more of a chunky, heavy overdrive than a grating metal gainfest. Setting the Grind (gain) control at a moderate level with the Edge turned up gives you the perfect vehicle to bash out pop punk powerchords and melodic lines without becoming too muddy. Up the Grind and lower the Edge, and you're met with a darker, low end distortion that should appeal to the more 'core fraternity.

Conclusion: This pedal is up against some stern competition

in the distortion market, and while it meets them head on, it doesn't blow them away. The build quality is sturdy, it looks great and gives a solid (if not mind-blowing) distortion. Heavier players will want something with more grunt, but if modern punk is your thing, give this a go.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Cool branding, good sounds

Against: A little tame for some

★★★★☆

TG says: More punk, less grunt

Electro-Harmonix Cathedral

£139

Get closer to heaven with this almighty reverb

Reverb
The Infinite Reverb is where the Cathedral really starts to get interesting



Mode
There's plenty of traditional spring, plate and digital reverb sounds...

Mode
...and some less traditional ones like Reverse and Grail Flerb

At a glance

Electro-Harmonix Cathedral Stereo Reverb

TYPE: Digital Reverb Pedal
EFFECTS: 8 reverb modes, Infinite Reverb switch
PATCHES: 1 preset per-mode
CONTROLS: Blend, Reverb Time, Damping/Tone, Feedback, Pre-Delay, Mode
SOCKETS: Input, Left/Right outputs
POWER: PSU (included)
CONTACT: Electro-Harmonix info@ehx.com
WEB: www.ehx.com

Most amps have some kind of reverb built in, but if you want more than a simple spring or single digital reverb then a separate pedal is the way to go. Enter the Electro-Harmonix Cathedral Reverb.

This unit contains eight reverb modes, including spring, digital and reverse reverbs, an echo effect, and the intriguing Infinite Reverb function (more on that later). Each mode shares a number of tweakable options



to tailor your sound. As well as the standard spring and digital reverbs, the pedal has some more creative models – it's a doddle to use so you'll be delving quickly into those ethereal

sounds. Among our favourites are Accu Spring (based on a six-spring Accutronics reverb tank), Grail Flerb (a mixture of flanger and reverb, taken from EHX's Holy Grail pedal) and Reverse (brilliant for creating some unnatural reverse reverb sounds).

The main attraction is the Infinite Reverb switch. With the switch held down you get an unceasing sea of reverb that is great for producing sustained sounds while you play along unaffected over the top.

Conclusion: You may not need the less traditional models (in which case there are more than enough options for regular reverb effects), but the Infinite Reverb, Reverse and Grail Flerb modes are perfect for fans of spacey guitar sounds everywhere.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Flexible and creative

Against: Too many models for some

★★★★☆

TG says: Can we get an Amen?