



Electro-Harmonix Freeze

£89

Experience texture in a box with this chilling effect

Fade in/out
By moving the toggle switch when powering up, you can select various fade in/out times for smoother transitions



Toggle switch
The toggle gives you three options for 'freezing' your sound

Level
This balances the volume of the sampled notes against your original signal

At a glance

Electro-Harmonix Freeze

TYPE: Sound retainer (sampler)
CONTROLS: Fast, slow, latch, level
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: PSU (included)
CONTACT: EHX info@ehx.com
WEB: www.ehx.com

When we reviewed Electro-Harmonix's Cathedral Reverb in TG199, we loved its Infinite Reverb mode for sustained synth pad-esque sounds. The Freeze Sound Retainer is a standalone pedal version of this effect.

It works by sampling your guitar, but unlike a looper it takes a snapshot of the signal running through the pedal at the moment you stomp, and sustains it until you reset the footswitch. This creates a



backdrop that lends itself well to post rock and electro music.

The toggle switch lets you flip between Fast, Slow or Latch modes. In Fast mode, the pedal starts sustaining as soon as you stomp, and stops when you

release your foot. Slow mode gives a variable-speed fade in and out to the sustain, which, when you're switching between chords, is much smoother than the slightly unnatural on/off reaction in Fast. The stomp switch can also be used in Latch mode, so you can take your foot off for long sustained periods.

While you do get an effect level knob that controls the volume of the sustained tone, we'd like to have seen an option for controlling this with an expression pedal, too.

Conclusion: The Freeze effect is ideal for creating thick soundscapes and drones with your guitar – especially when you run it through other effects like wah, tremolo or delay. Yes, it's a specialist pedal, but it's great if you create a lot of non-traditional guitar sounds.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Full-sounding guitar textures
Against: No use for *Back In Black*

★★★★☆

TG says: Cool as a cucumber

Vox Satriani Ice9 Overdrive

£117

A versatile overdrive purchase for more than just Satch fans

Gain
Don't expect bucket-loads of distortion – the Ice9 is all about full-sounding overdrive



Vintage/Modern
Switching to Modern mode adds a Germanium diode to the circuit for extra bite

Boost
The More switch acts as a clean boost on top of your overdrive sound

At a glance

Vox Ice9 Overdrive

TYPE: Overdrive
CONTROLS: Gain, tone, bass, volume, more, vintage/modern switch
SOCKETS: In, out, power
POWER: PSU (optional), batteries
CONTACT: Korg UK 01908 857100
WEB: www.voxamps.com

Fans of Joe Satriani have had plenty of signature gear to be excited about over the past two years, and the Ice9 is the fourth pedal from Vox to bear Satch's name.

Sharing a similar control layout to the Satchurator Distortion, the Ice9 has Vintage and Modern modes, plus Gain, Tone, Bass and Level controls. Next to the bypass switch sits Satch's trademark More button, adding 14dB of clean boost on top of the overdrive. But you



likely have two questions: what if I don't like Satriani, and do I need another overdrive pedal?

If you're not a fan of Mr S, it doesn't matter. This pedal adds a chiming, Vox-flavoured

overdrive to singlecoils and gives a meaty rock 'drive when used with humbuckers. Regardless of pickup type, it sounds defined in a way that we haven't heard from a stompbox since trying the Satchurator, with open strings cutting through nicely. Switching from Vintage to Modern introduces a germanium diode into the circuit, offering extra bite and more attack than Vintage mode. All proof, we think, that the world really does need another overdrive pedal.

Conclusion: The Ice9 is a pure classic rock, indie and blues machine, and we'd urge non-Satch fans to look past his connection or risk missing out. So, whether you're *Surfing With The Alien* or not, get surfing the web for the best deal.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Classy, defined drive sounds
Against: Non-fans could miss out

★★★★★

TG says: Ice, ice, baby!