

Analogman AR20DL Analog Delay **\$145**

History repeats with a modern yet old-school analogue delay

CONTACT: Analogman **PHONE:** N/A **WEB:** www.analogman.com



A modern take on
an old design

Most digital delay stompboxes have features designed to emulate that vintage analogue delay sound if you want it, but how about the real thing?

Analogman's AR20DL is a real analogue delay using old-style bucket brigade chips to create those blurry, warm repeats that blend so nicely into the overall sound. Based on pedals like the BOSS DM-2 and Ibanez AD80, the AR20DL is a very solidly built little stompbox not too dissimilar in size or design to a BOSS compact pedal. It runs

from a 9V battery or power supply and has controls for delay time, delay level and feedback. Unlike all the other Analogman pedals that are entirely built in the US, this one is more cosmopolitan in origin, being sourced from a Japanese company, made in China and then further modified by Analogman in the USA.

Sounds

The AR20DL does all the things an analogue delay should – from metallic bathtub reverb, through rockabilly slapback to longer repeats up to around 300ms, plus those downright spacey effects you can get by fiddling with the knobs – easily done as the knobs are tall, thin and nicely spaced. Tonally the repeats are a tad brighter than a DM-2, with a touch more clarity, but they still dissipate in a way that really complements

the guitar sound, enveloping and enhancing it.

Verdict

It is unfortunate that the AR20DL is only available via internet sales and it's also unfortunate, though promising, that each new batch sells out really quickly. But that may be worth persevering with as, providing basic, easy-to-use, nice sounding delay, this pedal offers a viable alternative to resorting to seeking out battered vintage units on Ebay. **[TC]**

The bottom line

We like: Compact size; very usable vintage sound; easily tweakable knobs

We dislike: In short supply

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

ESP LTD KH-Junior **£219**

A miniscule metal machine mimicking Metallica's main man's

CONTACT: Selectron UK **PHONE:** 01795 419460 **WEB:** www.espguitars.com

Kirk Hammett's three-quarter-sized monster



There's not a great deal that's cuter than a three-quarter size version of a very familiar design and it's also a tad strange that a band such as Metallica – for which the word 'cute' should only be applied when James Hetfield can't

hear you – would be the subject of such a thing.

This is ESP's first foray into the world of three-quarter-sized (or travel sized, if you're an adult) electrics, yet, full Floyd Rose whammy aside, the Junior is very close in spec to Kirk Hammett's enduring KH-2 model. With a 521mm (20.5-inch)

scale it boasts the same reverse headstock, ultra-black finish and skull and crossbones neck inlays. Pickups comprise an EMG-ESP LH-300 set of passive 'buckers and there are 22 fat frets too.

Sounds

It's possible to tune the guitar to regular concert pitch but we found the strings too floppy and unstable, so we settled on tuning a full tone upwards – F# to F#. The basic tone is very focused and works well with that classic scooped crunch, while the pickups are hot enough to give an impressively warm tone with lower gains.

It goes without saying that adult fingers will have a problem with accurate playing around and above the 12th fret, simply because the wires are so close together, but if there's a Metallica fan amongst

your little monsters, it's safe to say they'll love this.

Verdict

The line between gimmick and serious instrument is always blurred with items such as this, but it plays well enough and sounds surprisingly good, all things considered, and it goes without saying that it looks the part too. Invisible Kid? Not with one of these strapped on... **[SB]**

The bottom line

We like: The surprisingly good tones; price; sheer vibe

We dislike: In practical terms, adults at least are better off sticking to powerchords...

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

ThreeGuitars Meta Salvo Correri Signature €3,900

Forward-looking European design. But does it work?

CONTACT: ThreeGuitars by 3-Esse snc **PHONE:** +39 030 7760773 **WEB:** www.3guitars.com

Formed by brothers Franco and Paolo Turra and luthier Giovanni Tensi, Italy-based ThreeGuitars specialises in carbon fibre and aluminium alloy technologies. The Meta Salvo guitar reviewed here is the signature model of eclectic Satriani-esque Italian guitarist/producer Salvo Correri and features a CNC-machined aluminium body and a 'tubular' carbon graphite neck bolted to the body via a patent pending 'Steady Lock' dual bolt fixing on a minimal heel. The Gotoh/Wilkinson vibrato and Seymour Duncan Custom/'59 humbuckers are more familiar; likewise the Sperzel tuners adorning the aluminium headstock. At just under 9lbs in weight it's not overly heavy and the workmanship is top quality.

Sounds

It's an extremely in-tune sounding

guitar, precise, even and pristine. The five-way selector gives standard humbucking linkages, dual single-coils and neck single-coil and the tonal range is good. There's a very defined separation which makes high-gain clearly audible, only the bridge 'bucker can sound a tad shrill with older-style lower gains. Certainly not vintage or woody, it's much more modern sounding and excels at clean funk chops contrasted by inspiring high-gained textures. The fingerboard edges could be less sharp and the frets feel tall, but it's a guitar that grows on you.

Verdict

Anyone looking for a new voice that's well-made, excels at high gain and stays impeccably in-tune should check this out. It ain't cheap, but then neither is its construction, sound or vibe. **[DB]**

The bottom line

We like: Alternative materials; tuning stability; pristine tones

We dislike: Pricey; lack of UK availability; hardly vintage in tonality

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

This Italian stallion features an aluminium body and carbon graphite neck



Carl Martin Quattro €359

Danish FX specialist updates its analogue multi-FX

CONTACT: First Line Distribution **PHONE:** 01626 830336 **WEB:** www.carlmartin.com

Back in issue 276 we took a look at Carl Martin's first attempt at a non-programmable multi-FX. Impressed by its organic analogue tone the only thing we questioned was the inclusion of the more niche vibrato effect over a more mainstream effect, such as chorus. Seems we weren't the only ones as in late 2007 we received the MkII model that combines compression, overdrive and delay with chorus. Carl Martin has also tweaked the compressor circuit to make it less 'invisible', but aside from that all is pretty much the same. It's housed in a rugged all-in-one metal unit (with integral mains adaptor and trailing lead), idiot-proof controls, tap-tempo switch for the delay and choice of two gain levels for the overdrive. Along with the single input we get stereo/mono outputs plus a handy FX loop (placed after

overdrive but before chorus) to add in one or more additional, primarily drive FX.

Sounds

Not only are the individual effects high quality, they create – in combination – a wonderful organic tone that's noticeably different from many modern multi-FX. The chorus widens the appeal while the dual overdrives can be used for differing textures and/or gains for rhythm/lead tones.

Verdict

The addition of the chorus here makes this a tempting purchase. There are no push-button menus, no programmability but also no patch leads – it's a convenient ready-to-go multi-FX for the many of us that love old-style FX and their sound. **[DB]**

The bottom line

We like: Inclusion of chorus; excellent sounds; easy to use

We dislike: You just need a chinagraph pencil to mark your control settings!

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

The addition of chorus makes the Quattro very tempting indeed

