

# DIGITECH JAMMAN EXPRESS XT **£99**

Lightning-fast looping with a 'Man of action'

**IF 2013** has taught us anything, it's that guitarists love loopers. The JamMan Express XT is DigiTech's entry into the easy-to-use arena, and carries the legacy of previous JamMen plus a few of its forefathers' features, too.

The single-footswitch JamMan is a fully featured looper, with record, overdub, undo/redo and stop/start functions. DigiTech has also crammed in stereo inputs and outputs, 10 minutes of stereo looping and JamSync, which allows you to chain JamMan pedals together for multiple loops and ensemble looping.

Using the pedal is simple: tap once to record, again to play; repeat to overdub, then double-tap

to stop the loop. To play it again, tap once, or hold the footswitch down for two seconds to clear the loop – and here's where it gets really clever. With other single-footswitch loopers, you'd hear two seconds of your loop before it cleared, but the Express XT boasts what DigiTech calls Silent Clear, which detects how long your foot is down and determines whether you want to start the loop again or clear it completely.

It's smart stuff, and combined with the intuitive interface, wealth of ingenious features and killer price tag, it makes the JamMan Express XT a no-brainer for your pedalboard, whether you're a loop newbie or a seasoned loop fiend.

**Michael Brown**



**TYPE:** Looper pedal  
**CONTROLS:** Loop level  
**SOCKETS:** 2x input, 2x output, power, JamSync in/out  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** 9V battery, PSU (not included)  
**CONTACT:** Sound Technology  
 01462 480000 www.digitech.com

<b>SUMMARY</b>	FEATURES	
	SOUND QUALITY	
	VALUE FOR MONEY	
	BUILD QUALITY	
	USABILITY	
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	★★★★★	

# MXR CSP203 LA MACHINE **£139**

Rage avec La Machine

**NOT** content with producing bountiful 'regular' pedals, MXR has recently introduced limited-edition runs of exotic Custom Shop stompers. The latest in the CS line is a gnarly 70s-inspired octave fuzz. An octave button lets you punch the effect in and out, while output, tone and distortion knobs do the rest.

If you're not familiar with octave fuzz, you've probably heard it on Jimi's solo in *Purple Haze* and the main riff to QOTSA's *Little Sister*. La Machine is a fine example, with a bright, ripping-Velcro texture that recalls the classic Foxx Tone Machine, and just begs for wide bends and colossal powerchords.

This being an analogue effect, playing anything other than single

notes triggers some wild results: unison bends become pterodactyl screams, while arpeggiated barre chords turn into self-imploding bursts of static. At the lower end of the gain spectrum, you'll find ring mod-esque overtones, but upping the distortion knob a smidge returns you to crazy territory.

If you can bring yourself to turn the octave switch off, you'll find a thick, Muff-like fuzz that's just as menacing for riff workouts. This side of the pedal is a little dark, though, so you might struggle to get it to cut through in a live mix. Nonetheless, if you're after exceptional octaves and functional fuzz in one, La Machine is well worth plugging in.

**Michael Brown**



**TYPE:** Octave fuzz pedal  
**CONTROLS:** Output, tone, distortion, octave button  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, power  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** 9V battery, PSU (not included)  
**CONTACT:** Westside Distribution  
 0141 248 4812 www.jimdunlop.com

<b>SUMMARY</b>	FEATURES	
	SOUND QUALITY	
	VALUE FOR MONEY	
	BUILD QUALITY	
	USABILITY	
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	★★★★★	