

ELECTRO-HARMONIX £47-£117

ROUND-UP

The revered effects mages cook up three distinctive new budget overdrives and a potent polyphonic pitch shifter

Words: Michael Brown

THE ZANY world of US effects maker Electro-Harmonix is one we've been more than happy to populate over the decades, but recent years have seen Mike Matthews and his stompbox wizards flooding the effects market with innovations such as the POG and Freeze, alongside classics such as the Big Muff and Small Clone. However, something that's long been missing from EHX's extensive and esoteric catalogue is a 'regular' dirt pedal, and one that doesn't revolve around the word 'Muff'. Now, the company's only gone and released three at once: the East River Drive, OD Glove and Hot Tubes Nano. As if that wasn't enough, EHX has finally added a foot-controllable polyphonic pitch shifter to the mix: enter the Slamm!, part of EHX's 'no moving parts' Next Step series. So, let's give this quartet of fresh stompers a whirl and find out whether they all live up to the EHX legacy...



EAST RIVER DRIVE £47

Dirty ol' river

WE'VE SEEN many green overdrives in our time, but EHX doesn't do anything by halves: the East River features the much-revered JRC4558 op amp, which you'll find in vintage Tube Screamers. The pedal gives you classic mid-boosted overdrives, which are perfect for everything from American blues to raunchy rock at higher gain levels, where the East River really excels. There's not a huge amount of volume on offer, so it might not be the best dirt for boosting your amp, but this is one seriously impressive – if not entirely original – overdrive.

OD GLOVE £47

Smell the Glove

TOUCH-responsiveness and a range of drives are the OD Glove's modus operandi. So, you get a tone-shift switch to alter the mid character, and even an internal voltage control, which boosts a nine-volt input to 18 volts for more open, less compressed tones. 12 o'clock on the gain dial yields tight distortions for heavy rock and metal, while you'll find a solid low-gain crunch at lower levels. Too much gain can lead to an overwhelming low-end, but be careful with the controls, and the OD Glove could be a perfect fit for your playing.

**AT A GLANCE**

TYPE: Overdrive, pitch-shifting, distortion, and overdrive pedals

CONTROLS:**East River Drive:**

Volume, tone, drive

OD Glove: Volume, tone, gain,

tone shift switch, internal voltage switch

Slammi: Dry volume, max bend, bend up/down button, calibrate button

Hot Tubes Nano: Volume, tone, overdrive, tone on/off switch

SOCKETS: Input, output, power

BYPASS: True bypass (except Slammi: buffered)

POWER: 9V battery, 9V power supply

CONTACT: Electro-Harmonix
www.ehx.com

ELECTRO-HARMONIX EAST RIVER DRIVE					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

ELECTRO-HARMONIX SLAMMI					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

ELECTRO-HARMONIX OD GLOVE					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

ELECTRO-HARMONIX HOT TUBES NANO					
SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★	★	★	★

SLAMMI £117**Pitch-shifting powerhouse**

AS WELL as a motion sensor, the Slammi boasts three octaves of pitch shifting, plus four controls, either side of the pedal: dry volume, for blending shifted and dry signals; max bend, for setting the interval; a bend up/down button, and calibrate button for the sensor. That means more flexibility than the Slammi's rhyme-sake, and the sounds are on a par, with speedy polyphonic tracking and convincing tones. Accessing the controls is pretty fiddly, though, and we found the sensor *too* sensitive; it picks up every slight foot wobble, so it's hard to get a smooth pitch bend. An acquired taste perhaps, but a commendable alternative pitch shifter.

HOT TUBES NANO £47**Vintage drive revisited**

THIS Nano re-imagining of the 70s Hot Tubes is a versatile drive, capable of light break-up and distortion, all with a hint of fuzz. Its tone control gets pretty extreme, while the tone bypass switch removes the tone circuit entirely for woollier sounds. The Hot Tubes is a fickle, noisy beast, though, so you need take it easy with the hiss-prone high-gain sounds – a shame, because the tones are all impressively amp-like. It's still a great overdrive for garage-rockers and alt-rock riffers, though.

