



1 MXR M300 REVERB £189

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Reverb pedal

FEATURES: True bypass or buffered 'Trails' bypass, wet mode, 6x reverb types (Plate, Spring, Epic, Mod, Room, Pad)

CONTROLS: Decay, Tone (+ FX select switching), Blend, internal stereo/mono DIP switch, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard (TRS) input, standard (TRS) output, exp pedal input

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (supplied), 240mA

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 110 (d) x 50mm (h)

After the popular Carbon Copy analogue delay, it's MXR's turn to tackle reverb. The M300 puts six types (Plate, Spring, Epic, Mod, Room, Pad) into one of its standard enclosures, all called up by pressing the Tone knob, which cycles the selection.

In normal use it's a mono pedal, but it has a stereo mode that involves the use of TRS splitter cables. You also get the option of bypass modes that either stop the effect dead or let it decay naturally after bypass.

Of the reverbs, the Spring setting sounds nicely authentic, Epic will give you a massive sound for spacey solos, and Mod adds a touch of chorus, but Pad uses up and down octaves for a huge shimmering sound with the flavour of an organ through a rotary speaker behind your guitar. Furthermore, all sounds have the performance option of an expression pedal morphing between two sets of knob settings. **[TC]**

Westside Distribution
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VERDICT A great compilation of reverbs with practical options in a pedalboard-friendly package

9/10

2 MXR M76 STUDIO COMPRESSOR £182

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Compressor pedal

FEATURES: True bypass, gain reduction meter, 4x compression ratios

CONTROLS: Release, Attack, Ratio, Output, Input, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 110 (d) x 50mm (h)

MXR's M87 Bass compressor has been around for a little while now, and the new M76 Studio Compressor is more of the same, but with a new look and name, aimed to give it more universal appeal. This is based on the sort of classic compressors you would find in studios, with a choice of compression ratios as found on Urei's rackmounted 1176, plus attack and release knobs to give you control over shaping the envelope of the sound. You also get a very useful green/orange/red LED meter showing you the amount of gain reduction that's going on.

The M76 is a naturally transparent-sounding compressor rather than one providing an obvious sonic signature. In this respect, it's a very different beast from MXR's Dynacomp, which is still a favourite with guitarists for its own flavour of snap and squash. With no top-end dulling, this is a pedal that will unobtrusively keep your dynamics in check, whether just thickening the sound, keeping levels consistent or making it chime. Class. **[TC]**

VERDICT A solidly performing compressor with plenty of variables to get your sound just right

8/10