

RED PANDA

Red Panda pedals

A trio of gadgets designed to challenge convention

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Red Panda is a company based in Motor City (Detroit, USA) whose stated design ethic is to build effects for experimentally-minded musicians, using DSP to create effects that warp, twist and bend sound without losing the underlying musical quality and control. Red Panda says that the digital algorithms they come up with behave in natural, organic ways without being direct models of analogue circuits.

Currently there are four pedals available, including the Bitmap bitcrusher pedal – a type of processing that can offer a refreshingly different flavour of dirt to the usual overdrive, distortion, fuzz triumvirate of stompbox design. What we are looking at are the other three, which comprise a reverb pedal and two that are less conventional, not fitting neatly into any established genre and that seem to fulfil that warping and twisting promise.



Red Panda Context £249

Red Panda's Context reverb pedal offers a minimalist vibe with mono operation only and four easily-accessible knobs to tweak its six algorithms, selected by a large rotary knob. Five of the six offer familiar reverb types: Room, Hall, Cathedral, Gated and Plate (but no spring), while the sixth, Delay, is a very practical hybrid that mixes delay (with adjustable time and feedback) with the reverb. The Context's emphasis is on studio quality sound rather than a vast array of parameters, but there's plenty of variation available from the Damping knob which adjusts the high frequencies to sit your guitar sound just right in its space and the Decay knob which can dial in a little over 40 seconds of reverb with lovely sounding tails. Great if you like long, deep ambiences, especially in Cathedral mode where modulation in the reverb tail delivers a huge wash of shifting sound.

Verdict An easy-to-use pedal, delivering sounds to place your guitar in a natural spatial context

Tech Spec

- ORIGIN:** USA
- TYPE:** Reverb pedal
- FEATURES:** True bypass (buffered with Trails engaged), Room, Hall, Cathedral, Gated, Plate and Delay modes
- CONTROLS:** Blend, Delay (pre-delay), Decay, Damping, Reverb Type selector, Trails switch (internal) Bypass footswitch
- CONNECTIONS:** Standard input, standard output
- POWER:** 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
- DIMENSIONS:** 93 (w) x 121 (d) x 60mm (h)

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Red Panda Particle

£299

Anyone who records using a DAW is likely to be aware of what a granular delay does, but it may be something new for some. The idea is to chop up the incoming audio into segments (grains) and play them back at different pitches or out of order. How this is done here is governed by eight selectable modes, all of which provide a different take. Five modes use delay alongside another parameter like grain density or LFO speed while the other three apply up or down pitch shift and either detune range, LFO speed or grain density. With all of these adjustable parameters you can call up plenty of variations, many of which work well just sitting behind dry sound, these include altered textural repeats and shimmering delays as well as plenty of stuttery stuff. A Freeze mode takes signal from the delay buffer, letting you incorporate loops and drones into your playing.

Verdict Plenty to explore in this musically interesting pedal from creative twists on the conventional to the outright bizarre!

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Granular delay/pitch-shifting pedal
FEATURES: True bypass, 20-750 ms delay time
CONTROLS: Blend, Chop, Delay/Pitch, Parameter, Feedback, Mode selector switch, Expression switch, Bypass footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, expression pedal input
POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 93 (w) x 121 (d) x 60mm (h)

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Red Panda Raster

£269

Digital delay at heart with 750ms of delay time, the Raster incorporates a pitch-shifter into its feedback loop to warp the repeats for a diverse array of alternative sounds. As the pitch-shift has its own footswitch, you can use the pedal as a pure delay for all the conventional tasks and it has a neat feature in that there's a nice graduation of the delay time in its lower reaches to dial in a range of hollow metallic resonances and bathtub reverb. Repeats can be shifted up or down by an octave in semitone steps or more smoothly with options that run from a fourth down to a major third up including light de-tunings, chorus-style. A combination phase/frequency shifter can also be applied. Repeats can be set to continuously shift up or down or be at a single pitch, so can take off like sequenced arpeggios, sit in harmony or even run backwards.

Verdict A pedal of two halves – straight delay when you need it, otherworldly pitched delay when you fancy it.

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Digital delay with pitch-shifter pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Shift, Feedback, Delay, Blend, Feedback switch, Shift switch, Bypass footswitch, Shift footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, expression pedal input
POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)
DIMENSIONS: 82 (w) x 115 (d) x 60mm (h)

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