

**EVENTIDE PITCHFACTOR** £399  
EFFECTS



PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMANDA THOMAS

# Eventide Pitchfactor £399

Eventide's famous Harmonizer appears at last in stompbox form *by Trevor Curwen*

The Pitchfactor is the third in Eventide's series of stompboxes, following the Timefactor and the Modfactor, but it's perhaps the most anticipated of the three as, historically, the company has been best known for its pitchshifting effects. Eventide did, after all, trademark the Harmonizer name with the H910 unit back in the seventies, and calling the Pitchfactor an Eventide Harmonizer in a pedal is probably no misnomer, as the company says that it: "includes Eventide's best pitch-changing effects from the past

36 years without compromising quality or flexibility."

So what do we get? Well, the Pitchfactor offers 10 distinct stereo or mono pitch and delay effects, each with a capability based on up to four voices of diatonic pitchshifting and up to 1.5 seconds of stereo delay. There are 100 factory presets stored onboard in 50 banks, but all can be overwritten with your own edited sounds.

The layout of the Pitchfactor follows that of its siblings – powered from a supplied 9V adaptor with mono or stereo operation, the connections

switchable from guitar/amp operation to line level. Three footswitches take care of everyday operation and work in two modes – Play and Bank.

In Play mode the first footswitch is the active/bypass switch while the function of the second, the Flex/Learn switch, depends on the effect type. It can variously set the key, change the pitchshift by a set amount, restart the arpeggiator sequence or instigate infinite repeat. Switch number three is for Tap Tempo, but by holding it down you can change modes. Bank mode utilises the

footswitches to access the presets with the third switch stepping sequentially up through the banks, while the other two select or bypass the two presets that are stored in the bank. In addition to the onboard switches there are sockets for adding an extra

## The Rivals

**DigiTech** offers specialist harmony pedals. The **Harmony Man** (£316) generates harmonies based on your chord progression with four onboard memories. **The Whammy** (£212) offers control of pitch with an expression pedal. The **BOSS PS-5 Super Shifter** (£179) is an intelligent pitchshifter that can provide pitchshifting, harmonies, detuning and tremolo effects.



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triple footswitch and an expression pedal. MIDI control is also well implemented.

A very clear display lets you see what bank, patch or effect type is active and the relevant parameter values automatically show up momentarily in the display if you twist any of the 11 knobs or operate a footswitch.

### Sounds

A couple of the knobs adjust different parameters according to the effect type, so it's best to begin with the factory presets and then start tweaking knobs to get the measure of the Pitchfactor. With the 10 selectable effects types, it can yield up an incredible range of sounds – from the subtle (such as chorus-like thickening using the MicroPitch effect) to the freakishly outlandish.

Loads of variations on diatonic (interval based on a selected key and scale) and chromatic (fixed interval) pitchshifting are available and accuracy is good, with the processing tracking your playing exceptionally well, whether it's distinct harmony notes you want to hear or pitched up sounds mixed in at low level like a sprinkling of harmonic fairy dust. Elsewhere you can dial in 16-step arpeggios with three selectable sequenced elements – pitchshift, rhythm and effects (including fuzz); crazy stuff, but still usable in a live setting if you tap the tempo in. Eventide's vintage H910 and H949 units are emulated, there's a solid Octaver with a big fuzz sound and the Synthonizer effect generates a synthesised tone

from your playing creating analogue synth-style sounds. While the Pitchfactor is eminently versatile, an expression pedal is essential to unleash its full live potential, especially for the PitchFlex effect where you can sweep the pitch from heel to toe taking Whammy-style effects to whole new levels.

Operationally, Bank mode might be preferable to tweaking those knobs onstage, but being able to only scroll through the banks in one direction could cause problems if you get foot-clumsy and go past the desired bank. However, adding an extra footswitch does allow you to scroll in the opposite direction and you can also limit the number of banks that are active, so if you only need perhaps four distinct sounds for a live set, they can be called up with minimal switching – problem solved.

### Verdict

This stompbox offers a selection of pitchshifting and delay effects unparalleled in any other pedal – the only comparable hardware would be one of Eventide's rackmount units. It's not cheap but it's the only game in town for floor-mounted, intricately editable, software-upgradeable, studio-quality pitchshifting.

### The Bottom Line

**We liked:** Comprehensive selection of effects; excellent tracking; dual modes  
**We dislike:** Complex  
**Guitarist says:** All the pitchshifting you'll ever need (plus more) in a single box

### Eventide Pitchfactor

**PRICE:** £399 (inc power adaptor)  
**ORIGIN:** China  
**TYPE:** Programmable pitchshifting pedal  
**EFFECTS:** Diatonic, PitchFlex, Quadravox, Octaver, HarModulator, Crystals, MicroPitch, HarPeggiator, H910/H949, Synthonizer  
**EXTRAS:** Tuner  
**PATCHES:** 100, onboard  
**DISPLAY:** Eight-character LED (green)  
**CONTROLS:** Switches for selecting guitar/line level and amp/line level, 11 control knobs, three footswitches  
**CONNECTIONS:** Input 1/Mono and 2, Output 1/Mono and 2, Exp pedal jack, Aux switch jack, USB, MIDI in, out/thru  
**DIMENSIONS:** 122 (h) x 190 (w) x 54mm (d)  
**WEIGHT (kg/lb):** 1/2.2  
**POWER:** Supplied mains power adaptor (9V)  
**EXT CONTROLLERS:** Expression pedal, three extra footswitches via aux socket, MIDI  
**OPTIONS:** The Pitchfactor's companion pedals are the Timefactor and Modfactor stompboxes. The Eclipse is the most compact of the Eventide rackmount units  
**Source Distribution**  
**0208 962 5080**  
**www.eventide.com**



### Test results

**Build quality** ★★★★★  
**Features** ★★★★★  
**Sound** ★★★★★  
**Value for money** ★★★★★

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★



The PitchFlex effect really comes into its own with a separate expression pedal