

In its quest seemingly to make keyboard players redundant, EHX has produced the Mel9



The Mel9 features nine classic Mellotron sounds to choose from



The Mel9 brings classic Mellotron sounds to a compact guitar pedal

ELECTRO-HARMONIX MEL9 £170

A keyboard classic that you can play from your guitar...

WHEN The Beatles used a Mellotron on *Strawberry Fields Forever*, it immediately elevated the instrument to 'must-have' status for many bands in the late 60s/early 70s. The legendary instrument was sort of a forerunner to the digital sample-playback keyboards that are made today, except it used tape loops to offer recreations of orchestra, flute, cello, strings and more. The nature of the technology meant that unlike today's pristine duplications of samples, the sounds actually ended up being slightly crunchy,

warbly alternatives that became the sound of the instrument in their own right.

In its quest seemingly to make keyboard players redundant, EHX has produced the Mel9 – a box that allows you to play Mellotron sounds from your guitar.

It features nine classic Mellotron sounds, includes a blend between your guitar and the Mellotron sounds, attack and sustain controls to manipulate the shape of the effected sound, and has dry/effect outputs so you can run your guitar and the effected sounds to different outputs if you like.

Tonally, the Mel9 is our favourite of the range so far. The nature of the sounds mean that latency is less of a problem – strings don't need an immediate attack to sound convincing. The flute, cello, strings and orchestra sounds are great, and we reckon anyone from covers bands to post-rockers could find a use for them. The clarinet, brass and choir sounds are more 'nice to have', but there is a big elephant in the room here. It costs £170. At this price, it's a definite luxury that will never trump staple effects on the wishlist.

Stuart Williams

TYPE: Mellotron emulator
CONTROLS: Dry/effect volumes, attack, sustain, model select
SOCKETS: Input, dry and effect outputs
BYPASS: Buffer
POWER: 9V adaptor (included)
CONTACT: Electro-Harmonix
www.ehx.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES	GRID
SOUND QUALITY		■ ■ ■ ■ ■
VALUE FOR MONEY		■ ■ ■ ■ ■
BUILD QUALITY		■ ■ ■ ■ ■
USABILITY		■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★