

MXR NOISE CLAMP **£119**

MXR says 'hiss off!' to noise

MANY seasoned players own a battered old pedal they can't bring themselves to chuck out, despite the fact it hisses like a lispy python having a strop and generally makes a nuisance of itself. Noise gates are the answer to this problem and MXR's Noise Clamp is the latest addition to the ranks of no-nonsense noise-eliminators.

As with all MXR pedals we've seen, The Noise Clamp is a sturdy brute that looks like it'll take years of repeated pounding onstage. The sockets, Trigger control and switch are all of a similar quality, and it's black, which is proverbial for never going out of fashion.

It's a straightforward piece of kit to get to grips with, featuring a single Trigger knob for setting the threshold at which the noise gate

activates, a standard input and output, and a send and return for its own effects loop. Your effects chain is placed into the Noise Clamp's send/return loop, then you set the Trigger to kill noise, but retain note definition. After that, you can start getting used to playing in a hiss-free soundscape. The Noise Clamp gets the job done with little fuss, reduces noise by up to 26dB and – this is important – does so without messing with tone or overcomplicating things.

Yes, it's £120, but the Noise Clamp is an unobtrusive and effective noise gate that mercilessly jumps on unwanted pedal noise without sapping all the life out of your tone. Switch it off and you'll wonder how you managed without it.

Rob Power



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Noise gate
CONTROLS: Trigger
SOCKETS: Input, output, send, return, power
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
CONTACT: JHS 01132 865 381
jimdonlop.com

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

T-REX SENSEWAH **£145**

Need funk? Try a little Sense-u-wah healing

AUTO-WAH

isn't the first effect you'd add to a pedalboard, but whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool funk renegade, or are simply looking to add something extra to your sonic palette, this effect could just be for you. The Sensewah, part of T-Rex's more affordable ToneBug range, takes the auto-wah template and gives it an extra twist.

Smartly dressed in a claret casing, the Sensewah looks classy and functional. Speaking of the latter, it reacts to how hard or soft you hit the strings and there are a trio of controls. Sense dictates how sensitive the wah is to your picking dynamics, Range controls the extent of the wah's frequency sweep, and there's a Wah Wah/Yoy Yoy switch, which we'll discuss in a

moment. It's a simple set of controls for what is an extremely flexible pedal. The range of sounds that can be accessed after a few minutes' acclimatisation is vast: you can eke out a retro and understated sound, a narrow 'fixed' wah, or a more intense wide-ranging sweep, akin to the classic auto-wah sounds of the 70s.

Played clean, things are pleasant, if a little restrained. With a hint of overdrive, though, the Sensewah has character by the bucketful. Switching from Wah Wah to Yoy Yoy offers up a whole new set of sounds, adding an extra zing with a more vowel, robotic resonance to it. The Sensewah has loads of tonal possibilities; it's an excellent option for adding a bit of funky flavour into your sound.

Rob Power



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Auto-wah
CONTROLS: Sense, Range, Wah Wah/Yoy Yoy
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: Battery or PSU (optional)
CONTACT: Westside Distribution
01412484812-t-rex-effects.com

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