

PIGTRONIX EFFECTS £99-£395
EFFECTS



Pigtronix effects £99-£395

Since 2004, this US firm has made some of the most interesting boxes around - but can they bring home the bacon? *by Trevor Curwen*



Pigtronix EP-2 Envelope Phaser

Pushing the envelope to extremes...

This second incarnation of the very first Pigtronix pedal is a total redesign, informed by six years of user feedback on the original. What you get is a phaser where the motion of the phasing can be controlled by an LFO, an envelope filter, or both together.

Sounds

In LFO mode you'll find familiar phaser and Univibe sounds but, with more controls on the EP-2 than your average stompbox phaser, there's a far greater range of sound and subtlety. Switch to envelope mode and things start to get funky as the phase sweep is triggered by playing dynamics, and you can conjure up chewy Mutron or talkbox-y sounds.

Verdict

Conventional phasing meets off-the-wall funky weirdness in one box. Excellent.

Pigtronix EP-2

PRICE: £195
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Envelope and rotary phaser
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Sensitivity, depth/blend, centre, speed, resonance, EF trigger, sweep & speed pedal, staccato off/on, EF sweep up/down, blend off/on, LFO smooth off/on, invert +/-, footswitch x 2
CONNECTIONS: Input, output
POWER: 18V DC (PSU included)
DIMENSIONS: 145 (w) x 119.4 (d) x 38mm (h)
WEIGHT (kg/lb): 0.603/1.33

The Bottom Line

We like: Nice range of phasing sounds; funky weirdness controlled by playing dynamics
We dislike: Nothing

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Pigtronix Philosopher's Tone

A big plate o' sustain and distortion

The Philosopher's Tone is designed to do all the usual pedal compressor tasks, but also has smooth diode clipping distortion on tap to dirty things up.

Sounds

The PT can tighten up dynamics for arpeggiated chords or country picking as well as delivering a shedload of clean sustain, but it has more tricks up its sleeve. The treble knob can fine tune the top end, to add some jangle, perhaps, while the blend knob dials in any ratio of dry to effected sound allowing subtle parallel compression and, with the grit turned up, dirty and clean sounds simultaneously.

Verdict

Compression and distortion in one pedal? We'll certainly have some of that. A versatile addition to any pedalboard.

Pigtronix Philosopher's Tone

PRICE: £129
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Compressor/sustainer/distortion pedal
FEATURES: True bypass
CONTROLS: Grit, sustain, blend, treble, volume, footswitch
CONNECTIONS: Input, output
POWER: 12-18V DC (18V PSU included)
DIMENSIONS: 112 (w) x 61 (d) x 25.4mm (h)
WEIGHT (kg/lb): 0.234/0.52

The Bottom Line

We like: Versatile range of sounds; horizontal layout helps with 'board positioning
We dislike: The extra PSU required perhaps negates the pedal's compact size

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



Pigtronix Echolution

Echo evolution or Echo revolution?

Combining digital delay with analogue processing, the Echolution aims to deliver a range of sounds that includes tape echo emulation and modulated delay with chorus and/or tremolo applied.

Sounds

With eight knobs, 12 toggle switches, three footswitches plus provision for a remote switch and expression pedal, the Echolution gives you plenty to play with. Multitap delays are built with a series of virtual tape heads at fractions of the master delay time and with all the different treatments that can be applied there's a vast palette of echo and delay.

Verdict

It sounds great, but could you justify spending the best part of 400 quid on a box that has no memories to store your sounds?

Pigtronix Echolution

PRICE: £395

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Delay with modulation

FEATURES: True bypass, 12 seconds max delay time

CONTROLS: Blend, drive, hi-cut, feedback, tremolo, chorus, delay time, LFO speed, mod delay time S/M/L, trails, reverse, loop, multitaps x 5, phi

CONNECTIONS: Input, output,

stereo output, exp, remote switch

POWER: 15V DC (15V PSU included)

DIMENSIONS: 188 (w) x 117 (d) x 38mm (h)

WEIGHT (kg/lb): 0.743/1.64

The Bottom Line

We like: Huge range of sounds; phi switch

We dislike: No onboard memory; US plug on PSU

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Pigtronix Class A Boost

Plug in for some extra grunt

After a slew of pedals that offer a left-field take on effects with maximum tweakability, the newest addition to the Pigtronix range has just a single knob and one function: the Class A Boost is a compact preamp/booster based around a J-FET transistor.

Sounds

You can boost a signal by up to 20dB, dialled in with the pedal's gain knob, but it has been designed with a linear frequency response so that it doesn't mess with your tone as it gets louder. The result is a pedal that you can kick in to let solos cut through, drive your amp harder or add an extra dimension to an overdrive or distortion pedal.

Verdict

One louder when you need it, classily delivered. **G**

Pigtronix Class A Boost

PRICE: £99

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Booster/preamp

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Gain, footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Input, output

POWER: 9-18V DC 300mA (18V PSU included)

DIMENSIONS: 61 (w) x 112 (d) x 25.4mm (h)

WEIGHT (kg/lb): 0.194/0.43

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The Bottom Line

We like: Transparent boost; compact; runs from 9V PSU

We dislike: 18V PSU takes up more pedal real estate

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★