



# ELECTRO-HARMONIX

## LESTER G £179

The wizards at EHX set out to capture the magic of a rotary speaker in a stompbox, with a neat addition that sets it apart from its predecessors

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Neil Godwin

**T**he rotary speaker has been in use as a guitar effect since the 60s. These days, there are many pedals designed to reproduce that complex sound, which includes elements of tremolo, phasing, pitch-shifting and ambience. Electro-Harmonix is the latest company to chip in with a rotary speaker simulator, aka the Lester G, which offers adjustable compression to complement the modulation.

The Lester G is equipped with two footswitches, one being a standard bypass, the other switching between slow and fast rotation speeds or entering Brake mode, where the rotation is stopped for more of a subtle altered tonality. Slow and Fast knobs – with centre detent positions that correspond to a typical Leslie speaker – set the speeds for the two rotation modes, with the transition between them set by the Acceleration knob. Or, you can use an expression pedal for more control over the speed, which can go well beyond the traditional for more radical effects. A classic rotary speaker cabinet has a low-frequency rotor and a high-frequency horn and, here, a Balance knob sets the mix of the two, effectively for a brighter or darker tonality or to get closer to the sound of the sort of rotary cabinet that has no horn, such as a Fender Vibratone.

### Sounds

Overall, in the default positions, the Lester G delivers pretty much as good a rotary speaker sound as you'll

get from a stompbox, with the various elements that make up the sound amply represented – particularly so in stereo, if you wish to use it for recording or have the luxury of two amps.

What is special, though, is the onboard compression that's added via the Sustain knob (zero compression when fully left) – it can make an impact in focusing the effect when you kick the pedal in. With a choice of two compression modes, one squashier than the other, and an Attack knob to tweak the start of your note, you can enhance the whole rotary effect as if it floats on a thick cushion of air.

If you want to add more edge or dirt to the sound, the Drive knob adds the sort of overdrive you'd get from a vintage Leslie 122 or 147 cabinet's valve amp.

### Verdict

While the Lester G provides a very cool emulation of a rotary speaker, with all the elements essential to dialling in the sound plus practical control options, the addition of a compressor is an inspired move that takes it up a level. Highly recommended. **G**

**PROS** Realistic rotary sound; good control options; practical set of parameter adjustments; built-in compressor

**CONS** Very little, though a switch for the compression or drive would add flexibility

### Tech Spec

**ORIGIN:** USA

**TYPE:** Rotary speaker pedal

**FEATURES:** Buffered bypass, built-in compressor, overdrive, **CONTROLS:** Volume, Slow, Fast, Drive, Attack, Sustain, Balance, Acceleration, Squash button, Speed/Brake footswitch, bypass footswitch

**CONNECTIONS:**

Standard input, standard outputs (L/Mono, R), Expression pedal input **POWER:** 9V 200mA adaptor (supplied) **DIMENSIONS:** 146 (w) x 121 (d) x 64mm (h)

Electro-Harmonix  
[www.ehx.com](http://www.ehx.com)



9/10