

DUNLOP SC-95 SLASH CRY BABY CLASSIC £181

Slash goes back to basics – and it rocks

THINK of Slash, and we'd wager that nine times out of 10 you'll hear a wah-drenched solo wailing away at the back of your skull. Songwriting and chops come way above tone in the pecking order, of course, but there's no doubt that Slash's wah tone had a part to play in causing countless guitar players to sit up and take notice.

It's no surprise, then, that Dunlop has been keen to keep Slash's boot firmly stuck on a Cry Baby of his very own. The iconic rocker's original SW-95 model notably included a distortion circuit, but that has been dropped for this latest version.

So, did Slash have his top hat screwed on too tightly during the design phase? Of course not! He

simply wanted something that was more immediately accessible and ended up with the SC-95, a simplified pedal that has been tuned to a lower frequency and given a very wide sweep. Another welcome change is that the pedal no longer requires 18 volts to operate. We approve.

Strap on a Les Paul, warm up a decent lead tone, and this pedal fits right in. With your toe down, the wah's wide sweep gives you a cutting solo tone that keeps every note high up in the mix, without being too shrill. Rocking back to the heel position doesn't muddy things up too much either, which ensures that every tone in the sweep is useable and, more importantly, audible.

Alun Lower



AT A GLANCE

- TYPE:** Wah pedal
- CONTROLS:** N/A
- SOCKETS:** Input, output, power
- BYPASS:** True bypass
- POWER:** Battery, PSU (sold separately)
- CONTACT:** Westside Distribution
0141 248 4812 www.jimdunlop.com

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

TC ELECTRONIC SPARK BOOSTER £105

Massage into rig to revitalise dull, lifeless tone

LIKE all pedal makers worth their salt, TC Electronic tries to cover all the bases. We witnessed this last year with the MojoMojo Overdrive, Dark Matter Distortion and the Röttweiler Distortion – three distinctive overdrives that each held their own, and also worked together as a team. A trilogy, if you will. Unfortunately, the best trilogies tend to go off the rails once you introduce a fourth instalment, so we're concerned the Spark Booster could be 'the Dull-tone Menace' that spoils the fun.

Fear not, young Padawan. TC has advanced its series with the only addition that makes sense – a booster pedal brimming with versatility. The Spark Booster

works as both a coloured and a clean boost, with the level knob alone offering up to 26dB of clean boost. The gain knob controls the character of the boost between clean and pushed, and when it gets up really high, it starts to add a soulful character similar to TC's MojoMojo drive. Bass and treble fine-tune the frequencies, and the toggle switch in the middle can be set to Clean, Fat or Mid to boost different bands of frequencies.

Playing with each control is very intuitive and really does give extra life and flavour to your tone. Whether you've picked up any of TC's other drive pedals or not, you'll be in fine company with the Spark Booster.

Alun Lower



AT A GLANCE

- TYPE:** Boost pedal
- CONTROLS:** Gain, level, bass, treble, 3-way EQ toggle
- SOCKETS:** Input, output, power
- BYPASS:** True bypass
- POWER:** Battery, PSU (not included)
- CONTACT:** TC Electronic
0800 9178926 www.tcelectronic.com

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