



Harmonies ■
Make like you're in Maiden and build up to three-part harmonies

Detune ■
This thickens your sound by shifting your pitch up or down and blending it with your original signal

Pitch bend ■
S-Bend offers up to minus three or plus four octaves of pitch bend – best used with an expression pedal

BOSS PS-6 Harmonist £149

Boss 'pitches' its new pedal for interesting harmonies and divebombs

The problem with pedals like the Harmonist is that it can feel like you need a degree in music theory to be able to use them properly. Boss puts these fears to rest with the PS-6, which features four different modes for effecting your pitch (Harmony, Pitch Shifter, Detune and S-Bend) and four control knobs (Balance, Shift, Key, Mode).

First off, the Harmony mode adds up to two harmonies to your input signal. This mode only works on single notes and it's the one to use when you're creating Maiden/Queen-style harmonised parts. Selecting a key is easy, as is choosing whether you want a major or minor flavoured harmony. However, because the Shift control selects different interval ranges depending on which mode you're in, there are no markings around the control, which makes selecting an interval tricky. We reckon this problem could be fixed if Boss provided some printed overlays for the control in each mode.

The Pitch Shifter mode can be used on chords or single notes,

and unlike the Harmony mode you don't have to select a key. It tracks the incoming signal of your guitar and can shift up or down two octaves, with 3rd, 5th and 7th intervals in between. The tracking is solid without wavering, but we did experience a short latency between our dry and pitch-shifted parts in this mode.

Onto the Detune mode, which subtly shifts your pitch up or down (by up to 20 cents of a semitone) and blends it with your dry sound. This function works well for thickening chords or lead parts, and is best thought of as a fixed chorus.

Finally, there's the S-Bend (or Super Bend) mode, which can bend your pitch down by three octaves, or up by four. The effect is activated by pressing the footswitch, and the Balance and Key modes control the rise/fall time of the pitch bend in this mode. While this may sound similar to a DigiTech Whammy pedal, there's an added vibrato effect on two of the settings, and you can simultaneously bend up and down two octaves. We'd suggest plugging in an optional

expression pedal (EV-5, £69) to get the most from it, though.

Conclusion: If you're the only guitarist in your band, creating multiple parts is an obvious use of a harmony pedal, but the PS-6 includes enough modes to emulate the sound of a 12-string, play unison riffs, thicken up a rhythm sound or create those Morello-esque pitch bends. Select extreme settings and a certain amount of 'chipmunking' is inevitable, but overall the PS-6 is a versatile, useable pedal.

Stuart Williams

At a glance

Boss PS-6 Harmonist

TYPE: Pitch shifter
EFFECTS: Harmony, Pitch Shifter, Detune, S-Bend
CONTROLS: Balance (rise time), Shift, Key (fall time), Mode
SOCKETS: Input, Out A, Out B, Expression pedal
POWER: 9V battery; PSU (optional)
CONTACT: Roland UK 01792 702701
WEB: www.roland.co.uk

SUMMARY

For: Plenty of pitch-based effects

Against: Noticeable latency in some modes

★★★★☆

TG says... Buy this and fire your bandmates

"THE PS-6 INCLUDES ENOUGH MODES TO EMULATE A 12-STRING, PLAY UNISON RIFFS OR CREATE MORELLO-ESQUE PITCH BENDS"



Forget singing, the Boss PS-6 lets you shred in perfect harmony