

# DUNLOP JOE BONAMASSA CRY BABY £218

Express yourself, JoeBo style

**THE** JB Cry Baby, unveiled at the NAMM Show in January, features a number of tweaks designed around Joe's personal preferences. For starters, the pedal has been designed with an especially large vocal sweep. Controlling the extended range may take some getting used to, but the tone has been balanced perfectly, so you'll soon find that there's oodles of expression and control at your disposal.

The tone sings with plenty of mid-heavy oomph to get you noticed, but also has a snarling, throaty side to it that supposedly comes from the implementation of a Halo inductor, a prized component that was common on early Vox wahs. Other than the tone itself, this Cry Baby also

features an output buffer, which means it'll work much better with the kinds of vintage pedals that Joe adores. The pickiest of tone-hounds can often spend hours debating the use of true or non-true bypass, and the good news is that Dunlop has seen fit to include both, thanks to a switch hidden beneath the base plate.

Dunlop has no less than nine signature Cry Baby pedals currently waiting away in its catalogue. So is the JB any different? We're inclined to say yes. Currently, it's the only model that sports the ever-desirable Halo inductor, which combined with the extended range and clever extras, results in a superb blues and rock-oriented wah.

Alun Lower



## AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Wah pedal  
**CONTROLS:** Bypass selector switch  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, power  
**BYPASS:** True or buffered selectable  
**POWER:** Battery, PSU (sold separately)  
**CONTACT:** Westside Distribution  
01412 484812 [www.jimdunlop.com](http://www.jimdunlop.com)

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

# EC CUSTOM THE MYSTICAL SUSTAINER £149

Distortion with a little voodoo magic

**THIS** little handmade noise box from Israel aims to provide you with a huge range of distortions, from a soft and subtle crunch to high gain rhythm and lead.

Low gain sounds are perfect for smouldering lead runs and crisp, crunchy chord work. If you're not interested in the higher gain sounds you'll only be using a small portion of this pedal's potential. But if you are, then hold on to your headstocks because you're in for a treat. From thunderous waves of saturation to liquid smooth sustain, this pedal obliges and owes a lot of its mojo to the controls. The level control works almost like a boost, so you get the exact volume increase

you're after when you engage the pedal. Switch between different combinations of level and gain for a feel of what this pedal can do.

The tone control works as normal, but from here the fine control lets you tweak the frequencies even further. The clever thing about this is that it solves the problems that can arise on other pedals from dialling in too much of one area. Turn muddy into thick or hiss into sizzle; it really is up to you.

The Mystical Sustainer is a clever little pedal that covers a lot of ground. It's great as a straight boost/drive pedal, and high gain tones this good are worth every last penny. Exceptional.

Alun Lower



## AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Distortion  
**CONTROLS:** Level, gain, fine, tone  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, power  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** PSU only (sold separately)  
**CONTACT:** Sounds Great Music  
01614 364799 [www.ecpedals.com](http://www.ecpedals.com)

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

