

## MOOER PITCH BOX £59

Moorer than meets the eye

### CHINESE

pedal manufacturer Mooer has been steadily building itself a reputation on the web, and now its range of tiny, affordable stompers is finally available to buy in UK shops. After perusing the catalogue with all the excitement of a child eyeing up the jars at the back of a sweet shop, we finally settled on the quirky Pitch Box for pitch shifting on a budget.

For what looks like a very simple pedal, the Pitch Box has a lot going for it. The three-way toggle at the top of the pedal selects one of three modes: a harmoniser, pitch shifter or detune effect. The rotary control then selects the interval of the pitch shift, taking you all the way up – or down – two octaves.

The detune option mixes a subtle pitch shift with your original guitar tone for a spacey, ambient sound that isn't a million miles away from a chorus or tremolo, but different enough to stand out on its own. The harmoniser, meanwhile, is accurate and responsive, but doesn't allow you to select a specific key for the harmony.

The Pitch Box copes well for its price when it comes to tracking and audio artefacts. In pitch shift mode, there's a delay between your playing and the processed-sounding result, but you get used to it. Serious pitch-shifters will want to invest in something more sophisticated, but if you're on a budget, you don't have much to lose with this crafty little box.

Alun Lower



#### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Pitch shifter  
**CONTROLS:** Rotary pitch interval selector, 3-way mode selector  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, power  
**BYPASS:** True bypass  
**POWER:** PSU (not included)  
**CONTACT:** Strings and Things  
 01273 446809 www.mooeraudio.com

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

## ELECTRO-HARMONIX CRYING TONE WAH £72

The most sensitive tearjerker yet

### VETERAN

wah users will know that long-term reliability can be an issue, with moving parts prone to wear and tear. Electro-Harmonix thinks it's come up with the ideal solution in the Crying Tone, by removing all moving parts from the equation.

The result is an affordable wah that sits nicely between vintage growl and modern clarity, but the real selling point is its sensitivity. It works by physically rocking the whole pedal, and a motion sensor inside takes care of business. It's quick, and less restrictive than traditional wahs. However, for all the Crying Tone's ingenuity, there are problems. When you've got your foot down, it obscures the

backlit centre logo on the treadle. Normally, this wouldn't be a big deal, but when you have to tip the pedal forward to switch it on and off, it becomes easy to trigger by accident. The wah also scoots forwards across the floor while in use and, due to its construction, can't be placed on a pedalboard.

There are some cool extra modes, such as cocked and square-wave wahs, but you have to hit the calibration switch and hold the pedal in different positions to access them, making on-the-fly changes a bit slow. It's a shame – the Crying Tone sounds and feels great in use, but thanks to these quirks, we reckon it runs the risk of frustrating rather than inspiring.

Alun Lower



#### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Wah  
**CONTROLS:** Calibrate switch  
**SOCKETS:** Input, output, power  
**BYPASS:** Buffered bypass  
**POWER:** 9V battery, PSU (not included)  
**CONTACT:** Electro-Harmonix  
 +1 718 937 8300 www.ehx.com

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

Photography: Jesse Wild