

MOOER SHIMVERB PRO £109

Shimmer and sway with this space-ready reverb

If you've yet to experience the majesty of shimmer reverb, let us explain: the 'verb trail is pitch-shifted – usually up an octave – to create an ethereal haze behind your guitar, a little like a synth pad. A variety of reverb pedals can do this, but Mooer's ShimVerb is one of the most affordable – and the Pro takes it to another level.

Where the original ShimVerb featured only an unusual 5th-up shimmer, the Pro offers a choice of five intervals, which can be combined with octave-up shifting using a small button. The shimmer function is assignable to all five of the pedal's reverb types, activated using a separate footswitch, while holding both footswitches allows you to save a preset, too.

Heading straight for the church 'verb, there are the requisite

mammoth reflections, which are highly customisable thanks to the ShimVerb's handy low cut and hi cut controls. It's the shimmer we're here for, though, and while we weren't expecting Eventide levels of tracking, we didn't think it quite stacked up to shimmers from DigiTech or Zoom, either – to our ears, lower notes sounded a little out of tune. That said, the adjustable intervals are inspirational, while dropping the wet signal and cutting the highs keeps things from getting cheesy.

With its wide array of controls, the ShimVerb Pro covers all the reverb bases. If your guitar sound is based on shimmer, it's worth comparing it with the competition, but for anyone looking to dabble in regular and pitch-shifted ambience, this Shim's a win.

Michael Brown



TYPE: Digital reverb/pitch-shift pedal

CONTROLS: Shimmer interval, reverb type, dry, low cut, hi cut, pre delay, decay, wet, octave button, trail switch

SOCKETS: 2x input, 2x output, power

BYPASS: True or buffered bypass

POWER: 9V power supply only

CONTACT: Strings And Things

01273 440442 www.mooeraudio.com

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

ELECTRIC LOOG £169

Meet the guitar with the shortest scale of all

WE'VE seen some small guitars, but the Electric Loog takes the biscuit: it's an electric incarnation of a Kickstarter-funded three-string guitar, aimed at aspiring learners and children, although it offers diddly bow-style thrills for seasoned players, too. With a 'My First Danelectro' vibe – enforced by a lipstick-style single coil straight from Dano itself – it certainly looks the part. The three strings are tuned to B G D – the idea is that by doing away with the extra strings, you learn faster; after all, three notes are all you need for a chord.

When you open the box, you'll find the Loog in pieces. Not only does this keep costs down, but the designers reckon it helps to develop a bond with the instrument. It took us around 25 minutes to put together –

attaching the tuners, and affixing the neck, bridge and strap pins to the body – and string up, using the straightforward instructions.

Once assembled, the Loog had us exploring ukulele and mandolin-inspired playing; while adding a dose of crunch and a slide instantly conjures dirty Jack White blues. For existing guitarists, adapting chords to just three strings is a bit of a mind-bender, but the handy included chord charts are a big help. Aside from a few build-quality niggles on our review model (a loose-fitting neck pocket and slightly off intonation), the Electric Loog has us convinced. It's not the cheapest starter guitar, but if you're seeking inspiration for a younger player or yourself, this could be the most efficient way to get it.

Michael Brown

BODY: Alder

NECK: Maple

SCALE: 540mm (21.26")

FINGERBOARD: Rosewood

FRETS: 18

PICKUPS: 1x Danelectro

lipstick-style single coil

CONTROLS: 1x volume

HARDWARE: Rosewood bridge,

bone saddle, bone nut

LEFT-HANDED: No

FINISH: Blue, Pink, White,

Yellow, Green (shown)

CONTACT: Loog Guitars

www.letthekidsrock.com

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

