



FLANGER ROUND-UP

Though some people mix up flange with other types of modulation, it's a very specific effect that was originally created by placing a finger on a running tape machine to slow down the playback of the recording slightly, and mixing that with a dry source of the same sound – you can hear it on many classic psychedelic recordings. Obviously this wasn't the most practical thing to do in every situation, not least because lugging two tape machines around wasn't possible, so as soon as compact delays became a reality, flanging was not far behind, using delay lines to warp the guitar signal. There's more than one way to get your flange fix though, so we've gathered together some recent favourites, from vintage vibes to modern madness...

Carl Martin Classic Flange £119

GIANT STEPS

While this may look like the least interesting pedal of the bunch, don't let looks fool you. In addition to a second footswitch that allows you to jump between a slow and a fast rate setting, there's also a pre-delay and feedback knob, which make this into a surprisingly versatile pedal. We found the difference between vintage flange for those Police-style arpeggios, and oscillating noise was simply a twist of the feedback control in most cases. Experimental possibilities aside, it's definitely aimed more at a classic rock crowd, and that's where it excels. A no-nonsense, vintage flange sound.

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

OBNE Flat Light £199

HOT FLAT LIGHT

Any Old Blood Noise Endeavours pedal is unlikely to be boring, and the Flat Light proves that OBNE is incapable of making a dull pedal. Sure, if you're after a basic vintage flanger then this might not be for you, but if you feel like you've heard it all then this might be just the ticket. We had the most fun in the detune and echo modes, with radical pitch-shifting and echo-flange combinations proving fruitful for spaced-out lead playing. However, it must be said that the Flat Light is quite a digital-sounding pedal, and where with a glitch box that's usually a plus, for a flanger that's probably a downside.

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



Psycho flanger, qu'est-ce que c'est? The 'jet' flange sound may be too extreme for some, but flange isn't a one-trick pony

Mooer E-Lady

£69



AW, SHUCKS, E-LADY...

There's no prizes for guessing which iconic flanger this micro offering from Mooer takes its inspiration from. The question is, if you'll pardon the size-based pun, does it measure up? Well, it certainly can't compete in the mojo stakes, but in terms of sound it's up there. Like another simple but effective vintage beast, the EHX Small Stone, the E-Lady does its one thing very well indeed; there's a toggleable filter setting, but we found ourselves sticking to the normal mode and enjoying playing some Porcupine Tree and Opeth-style arpeggiated open chords with the rate down and range up.

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

Earthquaker Pyramids

£319

ILLUMINATE YOURSELF

With more knobs and controls than you can shake a stick at, the Pyramids is about as flexible a flanger as you could possibly want, and then some. If you can get over the bewildering array of options, there's some great sounds in here, especially when the pedal is run in stereo as intended by EQD. The stock flanger is decent, if a little clinical, but the really fun sounds in this pedal are definitely the most out-there. There's a step flange setting, which is brilliant, and then there's a random version, which if set to a rapid rate sounds a bit like a random step sequencer.

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

AT A GLANCE

BYPASS

Carl Martin, OBNE, Mooer: True bypass
EQD: Relay true-bypass

POWER

9V DC Centre-negative

CONTACT

Carl Martin: Selectron
selectron-uk.co.uk
OBNE, EQD: Audio
Distribution Group
audiodistributiongroup.com
Mooer: Strings & Things
stringsandthings.co.uk