

MXR IL TORINO OVERDRIVE CSP033 £102

Custom Shop drive with a license to IL

ONE of the most difficult aspects to pin down on your 'board is dirt pedals: they have to work with the rest of your rig to make the cut. MXR's Custom Shop bods have been turning out stompboxes that fit the bill for a few years, and with the Il Torino Overdrive they reckon they've cracked the secret of overdrive that blends with your amp's natural break-up. The company drafted in Carlo Sorasio, Italy's top boutique amp and pedal builder, who designed the circuit and equipped the pedal with a three-band EQ, plus switchable OD and boost modes.

The pedal's MOSFET transistor-based design provides a tight, glassy, almost hi-fi crunch, but

keeps your core tone uncoloured and intact. That also makes it less forgiving of mistakes than compressed Marshall-style drive. Punching in the boost mode and a low gain level adds an earthy break-up that's hugely responsive to playing dynamics, and makes for a great 'always-on' overdrive, especially with an already-cooking valve amp. This is where the Il Torino shines: delivering valve-aping shimmer, rather than grittier higher gains, nearing fuzzier RAT-like sounds.

If you have a craving for high-fidelity dirt, the Il Torino could be what you need; it's a different, boutique-y overdrive that deserves a play.

Michael Brown



TYPE: Overdrive pedal
CONTROLS: Treble, mid, bass, master, gain, OD/boost button
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
BYPASS: Buffered
POWER: 9V battery, 9V power supply (not included)
CONTACT: Westside Distribution
 0844 326 2000 www.jimdunlop.com

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

DIGITECH MOSAIC £109

The 12-string emulator that's a work of art

IF you want to make your six-string sound like a 12-string without faffing around with MIDI, your best bet until now has been to set a pitch-shifter to double your playing an octave up. The advent of polyphonic tracking has made this much more achievable, but no pedal has properly emulated a 12-string.

The Mosaic aims to accurately recreate the 12-string effect by adding an octave up to the low E, A, D and G as normal, but doubles the B and high E at the same pitch, just like on a real 12-string. This intelligent doubling results in a less synthetic sound than, say, a DigiTech Whammy, which adds a high octave on top of the E and B as well. And while the controls are basic – just level and tone – they're all you need to subtly blend the

shifted sound with your six-string playing.

After testing the Mosaic with both electric and acoustic guitars, we're convinced: this is the closest pedals have come to emulating 12-strings. Open chords from 12-string staples such as *Hotel California*, *Wish You Were Here* and, yes, *Stairway...* ring true with a halo of overtones, and while there's a touch of digital flutter when tracking extended chords, adding some overdrive after the effect makes it infinitely more convincing when using an electric.

The Mosaic may be a pricey one-trick pony – you can get a fully functional pitch-shifter for this price – but what a convincing trick it is. Anyone serious about 12-string emulation will be champing at the bit to plug one in.

Michael Brown



TYPE: 12-string emulator pedal
CONTROLS: Level, tone
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
BYPASS: True-bypass
POWER: 9V power supply only (included)
CONTACT: Sound Technology
 01462 480000 www.digitech.com

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