

ISP Technologies Decimator £79

When you love filthy gain but hate horrid hum, it's time to call the noise police by Benji Bartlett

If it's noise reduction you're after, the Decimator does what it says on the top

One of the more annoying drawbacks of high gain overdrive, furious fuzz and dastardly distortions is the unwanted noise you get between notes. Sure you can mute the strings and roll off your volume, but if the pedal is merrily humming away to itself when you command complete silence – that just ain't gonna do it. Especially if staccato metal riffage is your lifeblood. It's no surprise that metalhead Danny Spitz from Anthrax has adopted the Decimator to be an

integral component in his pedal set-up. Mr Metal Stop-Start himself described the Decimator as, "flawless auto-gating. Simply a miracle product." We thought we'd try the Decimator at the end of a chain of our trio of gainy goodies from Danelectro (reviewed on page 136 of this issue) to give it a fair test.

IN USE: It's an odd situation to describe a noise reduction effect like the Decimator because it's the complete absence of sound during operation that we're looking for. We threw buckets of gain into the front end of this shiny

silencer and it swiftly squished the noise into a manageable, controllable state. The most impressive aspect of the ISP's blanketing ability is its sensitivity to your playing attack and overall musicality. The gate opens immediately when you start playing and shuts instantaneously when you stop, without the harsh cut-off or clipping experienced with lesser units. The Decimator really is here to help.

Verdict

Because the Decimator does the job of bringing down the noise so well it's easy to overlook some of its other cool features. This baby is finished in gleaming chrome, for starters, and is built to withstand nuclear blasts, let alone a pair of sweaty trainers. At £79 the Decimator won't destroy your pocket but it could be just the thing to annihilate the noise of unruly pedals.

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

ISP DECIMATOR	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ WE LIKED Does exactly what it promises, musically, cleanly and with style</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED Why don't ISP make any other chrome pedals?</p>	

KEY INFO ISP DECIMATOR NOISE REDUCTION **PRICE:** £79 **TYPE:** NOISE SUPPRESSOR PEDAL **TEL:** HIGHLY STRUNG 01235 762000

Godlyke Power-All power supply £39.99

Juice for your noisemakers doesn't come much more convenient than this by Benji Bartlett

★★★★★
Guitarist GOLD

The Godlyke chaps have definitely done their homework with this product. The Power-All, as its name would suggest, is capable of providing power for up to 20 effects pedals (depending on the current draw of individual units).

Using advanced circuitry, the Power-All steps down high line voltages to nine-volts DC

and automatically supplies the required amount of current up to 1.7 amps. The wall-wart is supplied with a variety of useful adaptors comprising of 2 x 3.5mm phone plugs (ideal for old Crybaby Wahs etc), 2 x nine-volt battery clips (for pedals without power in sockets), 2 x reverse polarity (for BOSS pedals etc), 1 x Line 6-type and finally 1 x extender cable for larger, irregular-shaped pedals.

IN USE: The main advantage of the Power-All over some of the other power supplies available is that it comes with all the bits and pieces you need to get properly connected. Because it's a wall-

wart, you save valuable pedalboard space and with such a healthy current you'll be able to juice up all your favourite power-sucking digital pedals with ease. The colour-coded connectors make the job of initial set up a breeze, and with spares easily available from Rocky Road or Godlyke.com you can tailor the Power-All to your particular needs with minimum fuss.

Verdict

The only direct competition for the Power-All is the One Spot from Visual Sound. Although it's notionally cheaper at £24.95 you only get the basic unit, and by the time you've bought all the necessary adaptors at £2.95 each and the daisy chain at £7.95, you're up to £47.95, so it works out more expensive than the Power-All. Either system will do the job perfectly well but we preferred the one-stop-power-shop approach of the Godlyke, especially as it will suit the majority of players' needs in one easy purchase.

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

GODLYKE POWER SUPPLY TEST RESULTS	
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Compatibility	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ WE LIKED Powers your pedals with maximum compatibility and minimum grief</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED Nothing</p>	

KEY INFO GODLYKE PEDALBOARD POWER SUPPLY **PRICE:** £39.99 **TYPE:** 9V POWER ADAPTOR **TEL:** ROCKY ROAD: 01494 535333

GraphTech Floyd Rose saddles **£59.95**

When you wiggle your whammy wider than the west you need String Saver saddles by Benji Bartlett

If you've never come across Graph Tech saddles before, their secret lies in the material used to cast the saddle block. The jet-black composite contains Teflon that is released as a thin film wherever the string makes contact with the body. In terms of sustain and tone, the material has similar properties to steel, with plenty of bite and top end and bags of sustain. We've been waiting for the Floyd Rose versions for some time now. The construction is more involved than it is with the Strat and Tele saddles because it incorporates the string clamp and that is reflected in the price.

GRAPH TECH SADDLES	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Easy installation; superb performance; great tone

■ **WE DISLIKED** Instructions about the numbering would've been nice

IN USE: Fitting the saddles involves little more than a straight swap-over, remembering to take note of the numbers on the underside of each saddle. The saddles vary ever so slightly in height and must be arranged with the tallest pair in the middle for the D and G strings, the lowest pair for the E strings and the mid height pair for the A and B strings. You can approximate intonation placement by noting where the original saddles were but it's a good idea to properly re-check and adjust intonation after installation. Once installed, the saddles offer a marked improvement in tuning stability and a feeling of complete confidence. They also look completely unobtrusive.

Verdict

When you weigh up just how much grief and string changing these beauties are gonna save you, £60 starts to look reasonable. It is a skilled job to fit them



and one that's made easier by using 'The Key' Floyd Rose intonation tool from www.accessories.com. With genuine replacement Floyd saddles at £12-£15, the Graph Techs make a sensible permanent addition to your rock guitar. If you're a serious whammy bar abuser you need to check these out.

Won't somebody think of the strings!? Graph Tech has

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

KEY INFO GRAPH TECH FLOYD ROSE SADDLES **PRICE:** £59.95 **TYPE:** FLOYD ROSE SADDLE UPGRADES **TEL:** ARIA UK LTD 0208 572 0033

Elixir Anti-Rust plated steel strings from **£11.40**

Do you play hard and sweat like a pig? Fear not filthy fret botherer, Elixir is here! by Benji Bartlett

If you've ever had a quick go on your mate's guitar and then wished you hadn't as your fingers were sliced to pieces by the rust encrusted lengths of barbed wire that were once strings, then you need to know about Elixir. If, on the other hand, you're the mate in question, then you really, really need to know about Elixir!

Using the very latest Gore Tex polymer Nanoweb coating for the wound strings, and introducing a special alloy Anti Rust coating for the plain strings, Elixir has raised the bar in the 'coated string' market by ensuring that their – up until now – unprotected treble strings also benefit from a life-prolonging treatment. The Elixir

ELIXIR STRINGS	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Great sound and feel; impressive longevity

■ **WE DISLIKED** Many players will balk (albeit misguidedly) at the initial outlay

promise is a string that outlasts ordinary sets three to one, and that feels and sounds just like a regular string? Can these Anti-Rust Nanowebbs deliver? We put some through their paces to find out.

IN USE: The Gore coating of the first generation Elixirs tended to fluff up after a while, and make the strings feel furry under your right hand fingers. Thankfully this isn't the case with these newbies. There's a noticeably slicker feel, rather like being the first out on the ice of a skating rink, only it's there every time you play. The coating reduces finger noise wonderfully without adversely affecting feel. We've severely abused a set on an Ibanez RG guitar regularly for over a month and not only are they still rocking, but they're still retaining their tuning and feeling great – even after two heavy-duty gigs.

Verdict

If you look at these new Elixirs purely from the price perspective then of course they make fine fiscal sense.

You're paying out the same money as two sets of regular strings for a set that'll last as long as three. We can't fault the feel, tone or playability this time round. Without the fluffy coating feeling going on and a slick – but not waxy under the digits – experience, the new Elixirs quite simply rock. They have obviously drunk deeply from the tankard of tone and had more than a wee snifter from the goblet of longevity. We rate 'em.

★★★★★
Guitarist CHOICE



Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

KEY INFO ELIXIR ANTI-RUST PLATED STRINGS **PRICE:** (APPROX) £12 **TYPE:** NANOWEB GORE-COATED STRINGS **TEL** STRINGS & THINGS 01273 440442