

THORPYFX

The Deep Oggin

Thorpy's home-grown fully analogue chorus and vibrato pedal

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Olly Curtis

The second Thorpy pedal designed in collaboration with former Lovetone boffin, Dan Coggins, is named after naval slang for the sea, no doubt in honour of the waves of modulation it is designed to deliver. It's a fully analogue chorus/vibrato pedal with plenty of parameters to adjust without being overcomplicated, and it has two outputs, so if you want to stray from the standard pedalboard mono in/mono out scenario you can send the wet and dry signals to separate amps.

Besides the Rate and Depth knobs that you'd find on any chorus or vibrato pedal, the Deep Oggin also has a Blend control that runs from fully dry to fully wet – key to dialling in the effect. Chorus relies on a blend of dry and modulated sounds whereas vibrato in its purest form is modulated signal with no dry sound present as found with the Blend knob turned up full. All points backward from that fully clockwise position yield a wide range of modulation variations, hitting classic vintage chorus tones at around 50/50 wet/dry, right through to subtle shadings just audible behind the dry sound for added interest. If you have the luxury of

two amps, or are using the pedal for direct recording, the tried-and-trusted method of dry signal on one side and modulated on the other – like the way the signal goes to the speakers in a Roland JC-120 – opens up a real sense of spaciousness and movement in the sound.

SOUNDS

Tonally, there's plenty of variation on the warmth/brightness theme set by the Treble knob. We matched the tone of our vintage Boss CE-2 pedal fairly well somewhere in the first half of the knob's travel, but fully clockwise it offers more of a modern sparkle. Usefully, too, the output volume starts out fairly close to unity gain, so there's a lot of travel left to add a boost when you kick the effect in – nothing excessive but plenty to ensure you'll be heard in the band mix.

VERDICT

Stylish and well put-together with quality components, this is a versatile modulation pedal with a parameter range that goes beyond that of vintage pedals to immerse you in an ocean of musical variations on the chorus/rotary speaker/vibrato theme. **G**



PROS Excellent build quality; classic analogue sound; Blend knob delivers options between dry, chorus and vibrato; dry and wet outputs

CONS Some might find the footswitch position odd, but it's there for a good reason – to stay out of the way of the circuitry

ALSO TRY...



BOSS
CE-2W £202

The classic 70s and 80s Roland/Boss chorus is recreated here in a Waza Craft series pedal. It has three modes: you can choose the chorus sounds of the CE-1 and CE-2 pedals, or the vibrato of the CE-1. Take a look at the VB-2W (£202) if you want a specialist vibrato pedal.



WALRUS AUDIO
Julia £192

Like the Oggin, this pedal features a Blend knob that runs from dry through chorus to vibrato. There's also a Lag knob that determines the centre delay time that the LFO modulates from, plus you also get a choice of sine or triangle LFO waveforms. Mono only.



CHASE BLISS
Warped Vinyl HiFi £349

An option if you can afford to splash the cash... While this pedal was originally conceived to simulate the effect of a warped vinyl record, it's an analogue vibrato/chorus with digital control of loads of parameters. It has two footswitches, one of which is for tap tempo/hold.



Tech Spec

ORIGIN: UK

TYPE: Chorus pedal

FEATURES:

Buffered bypass

CONTROLS: Depth, Rate, Treble, Volume,

Blend, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard outputs (Dry and Wet)

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied)

DIMENSIONS: 100 (w) x 125 (d) x 53mm (h)

Guitarist CHOICE

9/10