



LINE 6 M9 £379

The latest in powerful Line 6 effects for space-starved pedalboards



The M9 is the younger sibling of the larger M13 and the latest of Line 6's Stompbox Modeler products. It crams much of the manufacturer's previous pedals' technology into a small, rugged format. Purists might quibble about the ability of 0s and 1s to faithfully model the sound of beloved arcane gear, but Line 6's pedals have become mainstays on many pro pedal boards.

Take a quick look at the M9, however, and it's conceivable that those workhorses might be made redundant by this 'so-obvious-it's genius' exercise in streamlining and density, which contains over 100 effect models, a looper and 24 memory scenes.

Open the box and you're presented with a dinky, super-sturdy steel chassis that would fit nicely into your pedal bag. The chrome foot switches are gig-tough and their internal LEDs correspond with the LCD display, depending on the effect being edited. The three columns of switches each provide A and B effects and can be assigned to any combination of models.

Inevitably with a device this compact, additional functions are accessed by simultaneously pressing adjacent pedals, but they're marked well enough to avoid confusion.

The looper function is accessed by holding the Tap switch. Fun tricks here include the ability to overdub in both half speed and reverse mode, and inserting the looper 'pre' or 'post' in the effects chain, so an already effected loop can receive further processing treatment.

Scene Mode changes the effects' behaviour: in Momentary mode the M9 reacts more like a collection of single stompboxes; while Latch mode is more akin to selecting presets on a multi-effects rack. To our ears, the sounds themselves signal an improvement, with more warmth and depth compared to previous Line 6 incarnations.

Conclusion: A device like this stands or falls by its user interface, which is frequently the first casualty where space is an issue, but this is one of the most intuitive we've seen.

With essentially all of Line 6's standout Stompbox classic algorithms, it's great value too.

Of course, it isn't perfect. You might crave the provision of an insert point, wish there were less menus involved with certain functions, or feel that the implementation of copying effects could have been better. Some of these constraints are addressed in the M13, but for those sick of carting, configuring and maintaining larger rigs without sacrificing on power, the M9 makes a lot of sense.

Nick McCabe

At a glance

Line 6 M9

TYPE: Stompbox modeller
EFFECTS: Over 100 models
PATCHES: 24 scenes
CONTROLS: 6 stomp switches, 6 controllers
SOCKETS: Power, Midi in/out, Expression Pedal 1/2, input L/R, output L/R
POWER: PSU (included)
CONTACT: Line 6 01327 302700
WEB: www.line6.co.uk

SUMMARY

For: Elegant, robust, great sounding workhorse

Against: Inevitable menu-delving on some functions

★★★★★

TG says... A must-have for itinerant sonic explorers

The awesome M9 bags Line 6 a Best Buy Award!



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