



**Attack/Duty controls**  
Adjusting these takes you from percussive chops to drawn out stabs

**Pattern**  
The 50 presets give plenty of options, but we'd like to be able to create our own

**Tempo**  
You can set the tempo via the control knob, tap pedal or a MIDI input on the back

## BOSS SL-20 SLICER £199

Want to create some 'cutting edge' guitar sounds? Let's get slicing

We've seen a few pedals lately that go a little further sound-wise than standard effects, and the Boss Slicer is one of them. Best described as a mixture of tremolo, filtering and a loop pedal, the Slicer dices your signal into sections to give a choppy rhythmic effect. There are 50 built-in slice patterns and – as with most time-based effects – you can control the tempo via the tap pedal or tempo knob but you can also connect an expression pedal. And for those who are working to a click from a sequencer or drum machine there's a MIDI input too.

TG feels like a little kid at Christmas as we load the six AA batteries that come with the Slicer. If you're planning on using this pedal live though, a Boss PSA power supply (optional) will be a sound investment.

For a pedal that appears to do a lot, it's actually very simple to control. The slice patterns are selected by using two rotary controls that are laid out into different banks, each containing

10 presets. Hitting a chord gives you a chopped up pattern similar to that of a tremolo pedal, but rather than a straight on/off style sound, each preset gives you a sequence that (combined with the automated wah filtering) takes your guitar into a more experimental territory. Adjusting the Attack and Duty of each slice pattern results in even more percussive synth-style sounds from tight and blippy to longer pulsating swells.

There are separate Effect and Direct controls too, so you can choose to hear the effected sound isolated or layer it with your original signal. Doing this gives a more traditional tone, but adds some depth and movement on top. This is a great way to achieve a bigger sound, and combining it with the built-in looper lends this pedal to those who play unaccompanied.

The Harmonic banks also open up some extra possibilities by adding pitch shifting to the slices. The pedal can operate in Stereo too, with six different output modes to create swirling panned effects. However, you will need a

stereo amp setup to make use of these extra functions.

**Conclusion:** Some pedals colour your sound and others are designed to enhance your creativity – this does a bit of both. While 50 presets is a lot, the ability to create your own Slice patterns would be a welcome feature. Those looking to emulate less organic guitar sounds will love the Slicer; traditionalists might be wary given that it could get aired only for a song or two per set.

Stuart Williams

### At a glance

#### Boss SL-20 Slicer

**TYPE:** Slicer Pedal  
**EFFECTS:** Slicer, looper, filter, pitch shift  
**PATCHES:** 50  
**CONTROLS:** Effect level, direct level, bank, pattern, attack, duty, tempo, pedal mode, output mode  
**SOCKETS:** Input L/R, Output L/R, MIDI in, Exp pedal, power  
**POWER:** 6XAA batteries, optional Boss PSA adaptor  
**CONTACT:** Roland UK  
01792 702701  
**WEB:** www.roland.co.uk

### SUMMARY

**For:** Original sounds, intuitive to use

**Against:** Can we edit the patterns, please?

★★★★☆

**TG says...** One for the electro fans

**"ADJUSTING THE ATTACK AND DUTY RESULTS IN PERCUSSIVE SYNTH-STYLE SOUNDS FROM BLIPPY TO SUSTAINED SWELLS"**



Boss SL-20: home to some Bloc Party-ish rockin' bleeps