

Electro-Harmonix Deluxe Memory Boy £125

Vintage-sounding analogue delay worth repeating



Subdivisions
Choose between crotchet, dotted quaver, crotchet/quaver triplets and semiquaver repeats

Expression pedal
By adding an external pedal, you can control all the main features of the pedal

Effects loop
Create some trippy effects by plugging your favourite pedal in here

At a glance

Electro-Harmonix Deluxe Memory Boy

TYPE: Analogue delay
EFFECTS: delay with modulation
CONTROLS: Blend, gain, rate, depth, feedback, delay
SOCKETS: Input, output, send, return, expression pedal, power
POWER: PSU only (supplied)
CONTACT: info@ehx.com
WEB: www.ehx.com

Electro-Harmonix has unleashed a trio of Memory Man derivatives recently, and the Deluxe Memory Boy offers some flexible updated features. It has the largest spec of the series, followed by the Memory Boy and Memory Toy pedals.

If you find complex specs rather daunting, you'll be glad to hear that EHX has done a great job of making the Memory Boy's more powerful features easy to use. The sub divisions let you dial in Edge-style delays quickly, and



the modulation circuit applies chorusing to your delay sound. You can select triangle-wave for a more retro sound or square wave for a more immediate modern sound. Want more? Hook up an expression pedal for hands-

free control – this is particularly useful for creating huge feedback swells that remain controlled.

By using the effects loop, you can chain in some other pedals to just 'effect' the repeated sounds. TG put a wah pedal in the chain for some filtered delay effects, but experimenting with different pedals here can yield some truly original results.

Conclusion: The Deluxe Memory Boy has all the features you could need from an analogue delay pedal, and then

some. If you just want a straight echo effect with no added frills, you could save yourself some cash and go for the Memory Toy instead. However, the amount of experimentation and control that's on offer from the Deluxe Memory Boy means that you can really get stuck in. We love it.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Great sounds, flexible
Against: Has fierce competition
★★★★★

TG says: Boy, is this good

MXR Custom Comp £169

High-quality compression in a Custom Shop stompbox



Custom Shop
MXR's Custom Shop designs are built with its highest quality components

Controls
The Output and Sensitivity are on the top, but there's an additional Attack control inside

Size
The Custom Comp is housed in a standard MXR-sized case, great for small pedalboards

At a glance

MXR Custom Comp

TYPE: Stompbox compressor
EFFECTS: Compression
CONTROLS: Output, sensitivity, attack (internal)
SOCKETS: In, out, power
POWER: PSU
CONTACT: JHS 01132 865381
WEB: www.jimdunlop.com

Compression. It's the effect that's present on every piece of music you listen to, yet it's often forgotten when it comes to your pedalboard. A decent compressor can add sustain and attack to your notes, even out your dynamics for picking and boost your signal for solos.

MXR's new Custom Comp stompbox is straight outta the Custom Shop cased in MXR's familiar mini-housing. It's true bypass to avoid sucking your



tone when you're not using it, and there are two controls, Output and Sensitivity, as well as an internal Attack control.

As you'd expect, the Output level controls the level, while

Sensitivity sets the ratio or amount of compression you're applying, and the Attack controls how quickly the compressor kicks in. By setting the Output high, with lower Sensitivity levels, you can use the pedal for a subtle levelling of your dynamics or to give a boost. Turning up the Sensitivity starts to squash your sound more.

Although the Custom Comp is fairly unintrusive, you'll definitely be aware of its presence if you're liberal with your settings.

Conclusion: If you're playing a lot of high-gain sounds then you probably won't notice the Custom Comp's subtle low noise transparency, making £169 a pretty hefty outlay for just one pedal. Clean players after sharp sounds, however, will lap it up.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Low noise, quality compression
Against: The attack control is inside
★★★★☆

TG says: It's solid, but not superb