



PITCH-SHIFTER PEDALS

Pitch-shifting means different things to different people. For some, it's a simple chorus effect, while others will point at Jack White's *Seven Nation Army* riff, played an octave down through a DigiTech Whammy, as a perfect example of creative shifting. That same pedal was used to fuel Tom Morello's extreme pitch bends on Rage Against The Machine's *Killing In The Name*, but pitch-shifting can also refer to the more refined harmonising guitar work of players such as Queen icon and badger lover, Brian May.

Whatever your preferred pitch-shifter flavour, from the simple octave work of the TC Electronic Sub 'N' Up to the iconic dive bombing of DigiTech's Whammy Ricochet, the four pedals in this round-up cover all the major food groups. Let's tuck in...

DigiTech Whammy Ricochet

£129

A MODERN CLASSIC GOES FOOTLOOSE...

This is the new compact incarnation of a pedal loved by the likes of Tom Morello, Dimebag and Jack White. Most notably, it lacks the foot-rocking treadle of previous Whammys. You do get seven pitch options including 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, and the ability to bend notes up or down across two octaves, but it sweeps for you in absence of a treadle. Your job is to set the range via the ballistics control, choose whether you want the pitch to rise or fall, then hit the on/off button in latch or momentary mode. No other pitch-shifter dive bombs or soars quite like a Whammy and the Ricochet is a credit to its iconic lineage.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★

Boss PS-6 Harmonist

£125

WHAT, NO KITCHEN SINK?

The PS-6 Harmonist comes over-stuffed, like a pitch-shifting calzone. Inside the metallic blue case is a multi-voice harmoniser, a pitch shifter, an octaver and a chorus. You also get the Super Bend mode which offers wild pitch sweeps in a similar fashion to the Whammy. The only fly in the ointment is that, although you can twist the knobs to shift the pitch, you need an optional external expression pedal to get the best out of these sounds. The PS-6 lacks the vintage-like warmth and simple operation of the Sub 'N' Up, but it has so many goodies included in the price, it's hard to beat.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★



From shimmering chorus to wild divebombing and three-octave sweeps, we step on four of the greatest pitch-shifters currently available...

Electro-Harmonix Pitch Fork

£121

JACK OF ALL TRADES...

It may look like a regular old stompbox, but this polyphonic pitch-shifter/harmony pedal's functionality could embarrass a Swiss Army knife. The onboard three-position mode switch allows you to set the pitch to go up or down... or both. Yeah, the latter dual mode unleashes two simultaneous pitch-shifted signals: for example, two octaves up and one octave down or up a major 2nd and a major 6th. You can actually go up or down three octaves, and while you need an optional expression pedal to manipulate pitch in real time, there's enough going on with the knobs to keep even experimental guitarists occupied.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★

TC Electronic Sub 'N' Up Octaver

£121

OLD AND NEW IN PERFECT HARMONY

TC's new octaver offers three settings. 'Poly' [aka polyphonic] allows you to play chords, not a trick traditional octavers can do, and in this mode, tweaking the 'Up' control reveals some sweet chorus and faux 12-string sounds. Next up, TonePrint is all about uploading artist settings, or your own custom sounds. Our favourite, however, is 'Classic': an old school monophonic octaver that, when mixed with your signal via the 'Dry' control, sounds like Jon Lord is aping your licks on his Hammond organ. A technological marvel that's as intuitive and warm-sounding as a vintage classic.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★

AT A GLANCE

TYPE Pitch-shifter and octaver pedals
POWER REQUIREMENTS DigiTech Whammy Ricochet: 9V DC adaptor only (not supplied); Boss PS-6: Boss PSA-240 9V adaptor (not included) or 9V PP3 battery; EHX Pitch Fork: EHX 9V DC adaptor (included) or 9V PP3 battery; TC Electronic Sub 'N' Up Octaver: 9V DC adaptor (not included) or 9V PP3 battery
CONTACT Sound Technology 01462 480000 www.digitech.com; Roland UK 01792 702701 www.roland.com; Hot Rox UK 0115 987 3163 www.hotroxuk.com; TC Electronic 0800 917 8926 www.tcelectronic.com