

Eventide Modfactor | £279

The latest addition to the Eventides 'factor' series of stomp boxes. *Dan 'Jd73' Goldman* gets all mody...



ON THE DVD

WHAT IS IT?

The newest Eventide stompboxes, this time focusing on modulation based effects

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Authentic, high quality and analogue-like sound.
- 2 Versatile both in terms of sonics and features
- 3 Tough build, great display, lots of hands-on tweakability and external control possibility

Back in *FM198*, I had the pleasure of reviewing the debut model in Eventide's 'factor' stompbox range – the Timefactor delay pedal. The delays on board were some of the best I'd ever heard in a digital stompbox and came directly from the brains of Eventide's best loved studio rack units that have graced many a hit record. The Modfactor builds on this same heritage but this time focuses on modulation and sound mangling, rather than delay-based effects. With this in mind, I was very excited to put the Modfactor through it's paces.

The Modfactor's overall look and feel is very similar to the Timefactor and is built into the same high-quality metal box, with a very similar control

layout. There are 11 rotary controls on the front panel that have different functions depending on the type of effect selected. Along the top (from left-to-right) there is an intensity dial, a type dial (which controls the types of effect available within the effect selected), a depth, a speed and a shape control and finally an 'Xnob' that changes function depending on which effect is selected.

Out of control

On the bottom row of rotaries is a D-mod and an S-mod control. These control the amount of modulation applied to the depth and speed parameters. Finally, there is a mod rate and a mod source control and it's worth noting the 'Catchup' parameter,

that ensures smooth transitions between sounds with wildly different parameter values.

The three footswitch controls provide easy access to the heart of the pedal. The 'active' footswitch activates or bypasses (true bypass is available) the selected effect, while the slow/fast switch toggles between the lowest/highest LFO speeds within each effect and in the rotary simulation functions as the Leslies slow/fast/brake. In addition, the tap tempo footswitch sets the BPM of the selected effect. This tempo can also be synced to MIDI so that the effects modulate in time with any other MIDI equipment.

Hello operator

There are two main operating modes within the Modfactor that are footswitch controlled. First off 'play mode' where the footswitches directly control effect parameters (for example LFO/rotary speed) and a 'bank mode' that enables quick stepping through sounds within the 20 user banks. Each bank can hold two separate preset effects and the active and slow/fast switches allow direct access to these presets in this mode. It's very slick in operation and worked flawlessly when I took the Modfactor out on a gig.

It's worth mentioning at this point how great the display is. It can be read easily from a distance and you always





know where you are, even in the most hectic of stage/studio situations. Also, when you turn a dial, its parameter value flashes up in the display – there is always a useful graphical, alphabetical or numerical representation of the parameters and modulation amount.

Effect select

Now onto the most important part of the unit – the effects! The high quality of the Timefactor's effects left me with high expectations for the Modfactor but rest assured, it most certainly delivers and doesn't disappoint. Overall quality is incredible at this price point and the effects sound much more expensive and professional than they should, with an analogue-like sound. It's hard to believe that these effects are digital, but then Eventide seem to have the know-how!

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The choruses, phasers and flangers can shimmer subtly, or wobble your speakers to no end but are always delightfully musical and controllable. The Q-wah can operate as a dynamically controlled autowah or a normal wah-wah pedal (you can connect an expression pedal at the rear for foot-controlled wah-wah – see more about connectivity in the box above). It sounds juicy, squelchy and authentic. The modfilter effect contains several filters that can be used to warp and mangle sounds through the stereo spectrum and it's great for choppy, glitchy and stuttery sounds and comes into its own when synced to external MIDI. This is one of my favourite effects in the Modfactor along with the Undulator, which

Connecting and Controlling the Modfactor

The Modfactor has a lot to offer in terms of connectivity. First off, it handles MIDI over USB and through standard DIN sockets. The USB can also be used for any future software updates.

Audio-wise, there are two mono/stereo inputs and two mono/stereo outputs. The Modfactor can accept guitar, line, or amp level sources with the flick of a switch. Another nice touch is that the front panel controls can also be used to control other MIDI gear and assigned to MIDI CC numbers as required. Of course, all the parameters within the Modfactor can also be controlled over MIDI from a DAW as well.

The expression pedal allows connection of an external pedal, for hands-free control of up to 8 parameters at once (which helps if both hands are on your guitar or keyboard most of the time). To top things off, the Aux switch sockets allow connection of momentary footswitches that can be assigned to several different functions, for even quicker system navigation. This is a useful addition to an already very user-friendly pedal.

combines delays, detuning and FM tremolo modulation. The Undulator is particularly great for twisted modulated chorus like effects and really needs to be heard to appreciate the sonic magic

To conclude, there is little to find fault with in the Modfactor, except perhaps for the fact that it can't be battery powered. It's every bit as great as their previous attempt, the

Timefactor pedal, both in terms of build quality and sonics and I can't see anyone regretting purchasing one. It's versatile for both the studio

and the stage and offers a level of control not often seen in stompboxes at this price. The only problem is, once you've tried one, you'll want the buy the whole range! **FM**

it can offer. Finally, the Ringmod effect can process your sounds into complete oblivion and is great for clanging, bell-like metallic madness!

Nodfactor

Those after accurate authentic rotary cabinet simulations will find the Modfactor a pleasure to use sonically and functionally – it does a great job of emulating the real thing. As with all the other effects, you can really tweak the parameters to perfection, to obtain the desired sound/result.

The tremolo also works well in mono and in stereo and can be used as an autopanner with different waveshapes. I found it could emulate the stereo panning of my Rhodes Suitcase 73 with ease and finesse.

FutureMusic VERDICT

BUILD [Progress bar: 10/10]

VALUE [Progress bar: 8/10]

EASE OF USE [Progress bar: 7/10]

VERSATILITY [Progress bar: 9/10]

RESULTS [Progress bar: 10/10]

A worthy and versatile addition to the Eventide stompbox range. It doesn't disappoint!

SPECS

- Memory:** 25 effects
- Modulators:** Two independent modulators, each with 7 waveshapes, envelope or ASDR
- Display-large dot matrix
- Peak level LED
- Encoders:** 10 parameter dials and one effects select/save dial
- Footswitches:** 3 (function depends on mode selected)
- Inputs:** Mono or stereo jack
- Outputs:** Mono or stereo jack
- Guitar/line/amp level switching
- True/relay bypass
- Expression pedal connector:** mono jack
- Aux switch connector:** stereo jack (for momentary switch)
- USB
- MIDI In (Out/thru combined)
- Effect types:** (10) chorus, phaser, Q-wah, flanger, modfilter, rotary, tremoloPan, Vibrato, Undulator, Ringmod
- Dimensions:** 195 x 120 x 55mm
- Weight:** 1kg

ALTERNATIVES



TC Electronic Nova Modulator

£179

Offering two effects at once and plenty of hands-on control for your money.

tcelectronic.com



Line 6 MM4 modulation modeller

£195

This pedal models classic stompboxes by Boss, MXR, Mutron and more.

line6.com



Boss GT10

£329

This bad boy offers reverbs, amp models, modulation and phrase sampling.

bossus.com