

T-Rex Møller, Room-Mate & Bass Juice pedals £149, £239 & £149

A trio of pastel-hued stompboxes from Danish effects guru to add filth and ambience to your signal by [Chris Vinnicombe](#)

Way back in issue 229, *Guitarist* had its first encounter with the deadliest pedals in the guitar jungle, including the fearsome Mudhoney distortion and the frankly drool-inducing Replica delay. However, the T-Rex team are clearly no dinosaurs, having since expanded into amplification – see the review of the Bigtone T25 combo in issue 259 – while their pedal line has gone from strength to strength. This month we've got our paws on a trio of new T-Rex stompboxes: a valve reverb along with guitar and bass overdrives.

Møller Overdrive

The first of our pastel-coloured units is the Møller, an overdrive stompbox with an additional footswitchable 20db boost. While its powder-coated aluminium housing finished in fifties-style 'surf' green is certainly elegant, there are no worries regarding the unit's physical sturdiness. The twin footswitches feel positive and dependable underfoot, while the action



Møller Overdrive: voice switch provides a subtle EQ shift



T-REX MØLLER	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Versatile range of high quality sounds; voice switch

■ **WE DISLIKED** £149 is more than some people will be prepared to pay for an overdrive pedal

Everything from a clean boost to full on roaring overdrive is detailed and dynamic and on tap from the Møller overdrive

SOUNDS: Immediately we were able to get some great drive sounds out of it in front of our Orange AD30. Everything from a clean boost to full on roaring overdrive is detailed and dynamic and on tap at the stomp of a switch, with the kind of tonality that will keep alt-rockers happy as readily as smoky blues soloists. The mix control is interesting as it allows you to dial in either just a sprinkle of grit or full-on saturation, while the Møller's voice switch provides a subtle EQ shift that allows you to find the best match for the pickup complement of that beloved battle-scarred electric. Why is this useful? The pronounced mid-spike of Tube Screamer-style overdrives makes

them extremely effective at pushing Stratocasters into soaring lead territory but can be too much when used with an already mid-heavy Les Paul; a predicament which the Møller's voice switch helps avoid, allowing for smoother guitar changeovers and an avoiding lengthy knob-twiddling in a live scenario.

Room-Mate Reverb

The first thing you notice about the Room-Mate reverb is that there's a window allowing you to see the 12AX7/ECC83 valve inside it. Otherwise, construction is largely identical to its valve-less siblings, with the exception of a series of ventilation holes drilled in the sides of the housing to ensure that the single 12AX7 doesn't overheat. There also isn't a battery option as the unit requires a 12-volt mains adaptor, which is included in the price.

Controls for mix, high cut and level perform in the expected manner, and are augmented with a four-position mode switch that provides a palette of four different reverb types. Position one is classic plate, emulating a vintage plate reverb, while position two is warm hall for a bigger sense of space. Next, bright hall provides more high-end definition, while position four adds vintage-style chorus to the warm hall sound. Around the back, true stereo is available via a pair of quarter-inch jack outputs, although only a mono input limits the pedal's flexibility in a studio

T-REX MØLLER

OVERDRIVE

PRICE: £149

ORIGIN: Denmark

TYPE: Overdrive stompbox with boost
FEATURES: Mix control blends the wet and dry signal, boost switch adds up to 20db

CONTROLS:

Footswitches toggle effect on/off and boost on/off, voice switch, rotary controls for tone, level, gain, mix and boost

CONNECTIONS: 6.4mm jack sockets for instrument in/out

MIDI: No

POWER: Nine-volt mains adaptor or single PP3 battery

OPTIONS: None

ASAP Europe

0207 231 9661

www.asapeurope.com

www.t-rex-engineering.com

T-REX BASS JUICE

BASS OVERDRIVE

As Møller Overdrive except...

TYPE: Bass overdrive stompbox with boost

FEATURES: Boost function adds extra distortion

CONTROLS:

Footswitches toggle effect on/off and boost on/off, rotary controls for tone, level, gain and mix

T-REX ROOM-MATE

REVERB

As Møller except...

PRICE: £239

TYPE: Stereo valve-driven reverb pedal

FEATURES: One ECC83/12AX7 valve, Four preset reverb sounds; classic plate, warm hall, bright hall and chorus with warm reverb

CONTROLS: Footswitch toggles effect on/off, four-position mode selector switch, rotary controls for mix, level and high cut

CONNECTIONS: 6.4mm jack connections for instrument input and L & R out

POWER: 12-volt mains adaptor (supplied)

of the pots with their chunky black knobs feels reassuringly solid. Around the back, a simple plastic battery access hatch requires a screwdriver blade or similar tool to prise open and makes a welcome change to the usual arrangement with this type of pedal housing that involves removing the entire base plate.

In standard mode, with the pedal switched on but the boost disengaged, tone-shaping is achieved via the pedal's tone, gain, mix and level controls, with the two-position voice switch providing a pair of preset EQ curves. The mix control blends your dry (amp) sound with the wet pedal signal incrementally as you wind the knob clockwise, and is a useful addition that allows you a greater degree of subtlety than just a level control alone. When the boost switch is activated – which can be done independently of the pedal's overdrive circuit – the boost control comes into play, adding up to 20db which will kick the front end of your amp harder and provide more overdrive.

The rivals

MØLLER OVERDRIVE
Visual Sound Jekyll & Hyde II £139
ZVex Vexter Series Box Of Rock £TBC
Behringer BO100 £15
The second version of Visual Sound's Jekyll & Hyde pedal was awarded Guitarist Choice in issue 255 and provides TS808-aping overdrive and full-on metal across the range of its two channels. The latest creation from the unique mind of Zachary Vex is the Box Of Rock, a sexy sounding amp-like overdrive stompbox that we can't wait to get our mitts on. Finally, before you pay three figures for an overdrive pedal, check out the humble BO100 from Behringer and leave your preconceptions at the door!

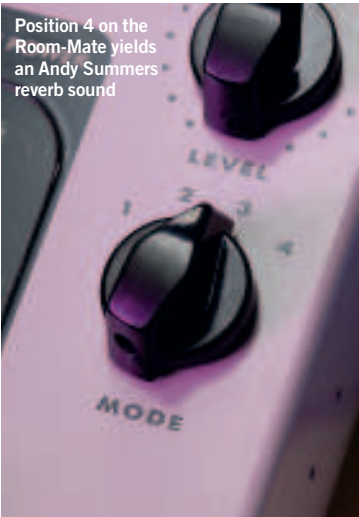
BASS JUICE
Pro Co Juggernaut £159
BOSS ODB-3 Bass Overdrive £69
Behringer BOD-100 £15
Rat pedals have been popular with bass players for years, but now there's a specific version for bass in the shape of the Juggernaut, which includes an effects loop and a dry/wet mix control. The yellow ODB-3 is a popular pedal with bassists at the heavier end of the rock spectrum and delivers some truly frightening filth. Finally, if you want decent bass dirt on the cheap then just £15 pounds will buy you the BOD-100.

ROOM-MATE
Fender '63 Tube Reverb £TBC
Electro-Harmonix Holiest Grail £239
Line 6 ToneCore Verbzilla £112
Specific guitar-orientated valve reverb products are few and far between, but if you can track down a '63 Tube Reverb reissue, it's that classic surf sound in a box. The Verbzilla was awarded a Guitarist Choice in issue 272 for its wide range of versatile sounds. Yes they are digitally modelled rather than tube-driven, but only purists will notice the difference in a full band mix. The Holiest Grail is the third model of E-H's reverb range with eight programmable presets, optional expression pedal and stereo ins and outs.



T-REX BASS JUICE	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
■ WE LIKED Fat, amp-like drive sounds; mix control works superbly	
■ WE DISLIKED Boost can be noisy and hard to control when engaged	

T-REX ROOM-MATE	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
■ WE LIKED Lush reverb sounds that allow you to create the illusion of everything from a small to a cavernous space	
■ WE DISLIKED Lack of stereo inputs may limit studio potential; seems pricey	



Position 4 on the Room-Mate yields an Andy Summers reverb sound

the pedal delivers a warm, fat overdrive sound reminiscent of an old valve bass rig pushed hard, but retaining the integrity of the bottom end. It's very responsive to pick or finger attack and digging in elicits a satisfying growl. Stomping on the boost button, it's initially quite difficult to control and we had some problems eliminating unwanted feedback. Careful balancing of the gain and tone controls should control this, allowing you to get some great fuzztones, and yes, there might just be occasions when you want to crank up all the controls and introduce some untamed noise into the mix. We also hooked the Bass Juice up to a guitar amp and managed to generate some spectacularly trashy sounds.

The manufacturing quality is excellent and we'd expect these units to give you years of trouble-free rocking

→ environment. Running the Room-Mate into either the front end of an amplifier or its effects loop, either of the output sockets provides a mono signal.

SOUNDS: Unusually for a reverb aimed at guitarists, there is no spring reverb emulation, but a voyage through the sounds on offer doesn't find them wanting. Position four's 'chorus with warm reverb' setting is instant Police-era Andy Summers, while experimenting with the other positions produced everything from a convincing rockabilly-style short reverb with a slapback quality to it to huge ambient washes. Some players find stompbox reverb a little unnerving in front of the amplifier, but we had no issues with the Room-Mate's performance either there or in the effects loop.

Bass Juice Bass Overdrive
The final unit in our T-Rex trio is a pedal for bass players looking to add bite to their sound. Standard gain, level and tone controls are again augmented by a mix knob that blends your dry and overdriven signal; allowing you to simulate the kind of clean/dirty bi-amp set-up that many rock bassists utilise. A second footswitch adds a preset gain boost, while the standard of construction is identical to that of the Møller: again, if you want to use a battery rather than a nine-volt adaptor it's only a matter of opening the handy plastic hatch rather than disassembling the entire unit.

SOUNDS: We switched to our trusty old P-bass and Ashdown EVO II combo to give the Bass Juice a workout. With the effect on and the boost disengaged,

Verdict
Chinese manufacture is driving the price of mass-produced guitar effects down to lower and lower levels, so it's no surprise that Danish boutique effects will appear somewhat pricey by comparison. However, the manufacturing quality here is excellent and we'd expect all three of these units to give you years of trouble-free rocking. We did find the Bass Juice a little difficult to control with the boost engaged, but its core tonality is fat and satisfying, while the Møller and Room-Mate have an array of superb sounds and would be great additions to anyone's pedalboard. **A**

T-Rex Møller Overdrive	
Guitarist RATING	★★★★★
T-Rex Room-Mate Reverb	
Guitarist RATING	★★★★★
T-Rex Bass Juice Bass Overdrive	
Guitarist RATING	★★★★★