

Zoom B1 bass effects pedal £54.95

The bargain-priced Zoom G1 has already impressed us: now comes the bass version by Roger Newell



An ideal starting point for bass effects

ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE time bass players are content to just plug into their backline and play effects-free, there are times when a little extra colour is needed and a multi-effects pedal in your gig bag is a good move.

The lightweight Zoom B1 unit is

ideally suited, and is very reasonably priced. Built within a tough plastic shell, it offers a fantastic choice of bass effects and doubles as an in-line tuner. A jack socket is also provided for adding a swell pedal should you need one. The Zoom B1 runs perfectly well on internal batteries but it can also be wired to the mains by means of an AC Adaptor. This is not included in the price but suitable units are easily available at your local music shop and will cost between five and 10 pounds.

SOUNDS: It comes loaded with all the popular sounds: distortion, chorus, delay, auto-wah and octaver, plus a whole plethora of new ones. All are very easily accessed and, although you can switch through many variations of each effect, you are also given the opportunity to modify and store your own sounds then easily recall them. This ability to tweak each effect to

ZOOM B1	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Tough construction; compact size; top quality sounds

■ **WE DISLIKED** Light weight means it slides on the floor too easily; a little fiddly

achieve the best results for your style is always highly desirable. We don't have space to go into the full arsenal but we'd say there are plenty of classic colours here... and an awful lot more!

Verdict

The best low-budget bass effects unit? There's little doubt about that – and it's ideal for that occasional colour or mayhem when it takes your fancy.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO ZOOM B1 **PRICE:** £54.95 **TYPE:** BASS MULTI-EFFECTS UNIT **TEL:** EXCLUSIVE 01462 481148 **WEB:** WWW.ZOOM.CO.JP

Danelectro 12-string £399

An extremely cute electric 12-string from one of the coolest manufacturers ever... by Simon Bradley



A great way to enter the wonderful world of 12-strings

THANKS TO A CERTAIN

Liverpudlian quartet, a particular type of 12-string electric will always evoke memories of the British Invasion and, if the bank just won't stretch to a Ricky 330-12 or Gretsch Country Classic 12, this new jangle monster must be one to

try pretty darn sharpish.

Danelectro guitars will always make you smile – we rekindled our love affair with a trio of Longhorns back in issue 276 – and although we are fans of the singlecut '56 Pro, the shorthorned vibe of this new 12-string is palpable.

Demonstrating the classic Dano construction of masonite (hardboard) top and back plates affixed to a laminated wooden framework, the shorter 25-inch scale and compact body does make this a snug guitar. The 21-fret rosewood 'board is unavoidably wide – 45mm at the metal nut – yet the bolt-on maple neck is extremely comfortable, making for a good playing experience.

SOUNDS: A pair of Alnico-driven lipstick single-coils are controlled by volume and tone pots plus a three-way toggle, and provide just the right amount of jangle for your jingle. Remember that the central selection puts the two pickups in series, thus

DANELECTRO 12-STRING	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** One of the best electric 12s we've seen

■ **WE DISLIKED** All things considered, nothing

hiking the output that, depending on your amp setting, can simply add warmth without drive.

Verdict

This is a very cool and reasonably-priced 12-string with a substantial dollop of history behind it to boot. If a Ricky is too out of reach, you could do a great deal worse than this. Every guitarist should allow themselves the chance to own an electric 12-string as you'll be inspired; the musical possibilities are endless...

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO DANELECTRO 12-STRING **PRICE:** £399 **TYPE:** HOLLOWBODY 12-STRING ELECTRIC **TEL:** JHS 0113 286 5381

MXR EVH117 Flanger £215

It's Eddie Van Halen unchained with the second of his signature MXR stomptboxes by Simon Bradley

FLANGERS CAN OFTEN BE THE most unsubtle of effects and, if you're not careful, they can smother your carefully crafted tone with all manner of jets, swirls and wooshes. Trust Edward Van Halen to use such a device to give a further injection of pace into a number of the band's classic riffs.

Most notably it's the intro riff to the track Unchained (from 1981's Fair Warning) that benefits and, in a stroke of impressive forethought, MXR have included that setting as a preset. The pedal operates in the usual manner but, if you have the small EVH button

depressed when you turn the pedal on, you have just the right setting to play that iconic riff.

MXR's EVH Phase 90 is resplendent in the trademark red, white and black stripes, and the livery here is from an even earlier period: the original black and white paint job from Ed's Frankenstein Boogie Bodies guitar. What's more, certain parts of the front panel glow in the dark.

Power comes from a pair of standard nine-volt batteries and, as you'd expect, the pedal is built like a tank.

SOUNDS: As a generic flanger the modulation is warm and organic with plenty of headroom within all four controls. As with all flangers, it's best used sparingly for maximum effect.

Verdict

Regardless of the undeniable quality across the board here, that £215 price

Hit the ground
runnin' with the
EVH Flanger



tag is very difficult to swallow – a BOSS BF-3, for example, is just £89. We can't deny how much fun the EVH117 is to play around with, though, and if Ed's your man it's unlikely that anything else will do.

MXR EVH117 FLANGER	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sounds	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★☆☆
■ WE LIKED The authentic tone; that Unchained preset	
■ WE DISLIKED The high price	

Guitarist RATING



KEY INFO MXR EVH117 FLANGER **PRICE:** £215 **TYPE:** MULTI-FX PROCESSOR **TEL:** JHS 0113 286 5381 **WEB:** WWW.JHS.CO.UK/MXR

Line 6 Variax Acoustic 300 Nylon £524

A new Variax but the usual brilliant mix of technology, performance and tone... by Simon Bradley

LINE 6'S MODELLING

technology really does work and all that's required is a leap of faith, a step we can nevertheless understand that many may be unwilling to consider.

We'd suggest that this new nylon-strung Variax offers the last best chance for you to finally become a convert as using a traditional gut-string either live or in the studio can prove a real bind. Here, the slimline mahogany and solid spruce body offers a choice of either a trebly flamenco or warmer standard classical body model, plus all points in between thanks to a handy mix control.

You can add reverb, compression and alter the virtual mic placement via a trio

of sliders and then store all settings into one of 10 user locations: there's even an on-board tuner.

The 19-fret neck is a joy, our example was set up with a perfect string tension and height and the only downside we could think of is that the solid body disallows any sort of percussive accompaniments to your flamenco masterpieces.

SOUNDS: Where to start? In a nutshell, you can obtain the gamut of classical, Spanish and flamenco sounds you have in your head in just minutes. We used an AER Acousticube III for our sound tests, but be aware that, without a full range cab, the sound won't be so excessively sparkling, merely excellent. This would be something else through a full PA though...

Verdict

If you dabble in home recording, you should get one of these guitars without



further ado – and that goes for professional outfits too. Live or to hard disc, it's unlikely the Variax Nylon will ever let you down, which is praise enough: just fantastic.

The nylon Variax upholds the high standards of the brand

LINE 6 VARIAX 300 NYLON	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Playability	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
■ WE LIKED Amazing classical tones; a great neck	
■ WE DISLIKED Doesn't react well to traditional flamenco hand-slapping	

Guitarist RATING



KEY INFO LINE 6 VARIAX ACOUSTIC 300 NYLON **PRICE:** £524 **TYPE:** MODELLING NYLON-STRING **TEL:** LINE 6 01327 302700