

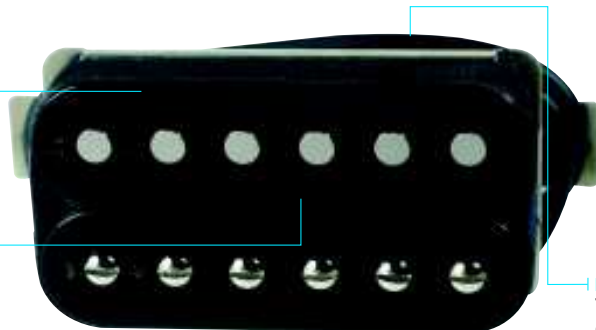
Sidewynder Pickups Death Adder

High-output mayhem from the latest contender

£82

High output
With a resistance of 22kΩ the Death Adder packs a lot of punch

Fitting
The clear installation instructions make fitting the pickup a doddle



Wires
These use the same colour coding as Seymour Duncan, and come pre-stripped and tinned

At a glance

Sidewynder Pickups Death Adder

TYPE: Humbucker
POSITION: Bridge
MAGNET: Alnico V
RESISTANCE: 22kΩ
WIRING: 4 conductor
FINISH: Open or Nickel, Chrome, Gold covers
CONTACT: Sidewynder Pickups 07754 564971
WEB: www.sidewynder.co.uk

Sidewynder Pickups is a newcomer to the market, and it seems to be keeping it simple. There are four models in the range; we're testing its highest output model, the Death Adder humbucker, that is designed for use in the bridge position.

The pickup comes with its own mounting screws and the wiring colours conform to the same coding as Seymour Duncan models. The wires are already stripped and tinned (a simple gesture that speeds



up installation times), the instructions couldn't be clearer, and there are detailed yet logical directions for different wiring configurations (great, if you've never installed a pickup before). Our chosen guitar for test-

mounting has a stock pickup and push-pull pot, so we've opted for the coil tap. On directly (clean, without a mic) recording the same riffs with both the test and stock pickups set at the same height, the Death Adder fights strongly with a noticeably higher output (between 7dB and 8dB), a tighter bass response and more punch towards the mid range than our stock pickup.

Conclusion: Pickups with a higher output resistance can often suffer a loss of high end

frequencies, but the Death Adder showed no signs of this, remaining powerful and clear at all times. Sidewynder recommends the Adder for higher gain styles of music, and we'd have to agree. If that's not your bag then take a look at its Bushmaster or Hognose models.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: High output, frequency response

Against: Not suitable for all styles

★★★★☆

TG says: Skin-shedding power

Dunlop Crybaby Jerry Cantrell Wah

TG dishes the *Dirt* on the Alice In Chains man's wah

£209

Finish
Jerry's signature wah is finished in an oxidised brass casing



Crybaby
The most famous feet in the guitar world have all treaded on a Crybaby

Frequency control
This extends the maximum 'toe down' frequency for more high end

At a glance

Dunlop Crybaby Jerry Cantrell Signature Wah

TYPE: Signature Wah pedal
EFFECTS: Wah
CONTROLS: Frequency control
SOCKETS: In, out, power
CONTACT: John Hornby Skewes 01332 865381
WEB: www.jimdunlop.com

Every pedalboard deserves a decent wah. It's the ubiquitous sound to which countless washing machines have been 'repaired', crimes in the 70s were solved, and Jimi Hendrix chopped down mountains. Alice In Chains' Jerry Cantrell has now joined the ranks of Hendrix, Slash, and Hammett, getting his very own signature Crybaby.

JC's wah comes in an oxidised brass finish, with the lyrics to AIC's *Black Gives Way To Blue*



printed on the base plate, but the most important feature is the control knob on the side. This is used to extend or decrease the maximum toe-down sweep of the pedal, so with the pot

set at max, you'll get more high end. Plugging in with the pot set towards the middle of its range gives a more standard Crybaby sound; if you like the sound a bit darker it can be rolled back.

Some wah pedals can break up, ruining the smoothness of a clean sounds, but this stays focused throughout its sweep. Extending the control all the way up and setting to a distorted tone gets you added snarl, which accents the more 'vocal' sounds the pedal is capable of.

Conclusion: It may be £60 more than a standard Crybaby but the addition of the frequency control means that you can go from a vintage-sounding Crybaby tone to a modern scream at the turn of the dial. We think it's worth the extra cash.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Useful range of wah sounds

Against: £60 more than standard

★★★★☆

TG says: Crybaby, and then some