



Eventide Space £499

Eventide's reverbs get the stompbox treatment, but is this unit overpriced for a single pedal? **by Trevor Curwen**

Eventide's TimeFactor, ModFactor and PitchFactor, all stompboxes featuring the company's range of studio effects, have delay, modulation and pitch covered, leaving not many other places to go. So, is Space the final frontier? Following the same format as its predecessors, if not their naming, (VerbFactor would have sounded more like a wordplay-based TV gameshow), Space puts a whole bunch of hugely adjustable reverb effects into a single floor unit with a large array of knobs, a trio of onboard footswitches and the socketry to add more.

What you get with Space is 12 effects from the Eventide

H8000FW and Eclipse V4 rackmount processors. Some of them are pure reverb, but others are combinations where it's paired with delays, pitch-shifting, tremolo, modulation and spatial effects. These are stored in 100 editable presets, including many crafted by respected record producers and engineers, and some created by Living Colour's Vernon Reid.

Three footswitches control the action – the left-hand switch always turns the effect on and off, while the other two have different functions, depending on the mode you're using the pedal in. In Play mode, the right-hand switch takes on a tap tempo function, while the centre button is the

HotSwitch. Press this and you can call up a pre-defined parameter shift for whatever program is active – it can be like having two different sounds available at all times. It's easy to set up the HotSwitch values, too – you just press and hold the button and turn the parameter knobs to their required values.

In Preset mode (engaged by holding down the right footswitch), the centre and right buttons respectively scroll up and down through the onboard presets so you can

The Rivals

The **TC Electronic Nova Reverb** (£249) has 16 reverb types in five categories and the ability to call up two different sounds by footswitch, while TC's **Hall Of Fame** (£120), in the TonePrint range, takes up less space and has 10 reverb types, plus a range of options for the downloadable TonePrint sound. **Strymon's Blue Sky** (£279) is a classy unit featuring plate, room and spring settings, with plenty of adjustable parameters. It also offers two different sounds for instant recall by footswitch. **Line 6's ToneCore Verbzilla** (£119) has 11 different kinds of reverb onboard.

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move from one to the next. Overall, it's a pretty flexible set-up for live use and you have the option of adding up to three further footswitches, which can be programmed to perform a number of functions, and an expression pedal for real-time parameter change.

Sounds

The sounds cover all ambient eventualities. The hall, room, plate and spring algorithms offer very high quality straight reverb effects, while DualVerb combines two reverbs in one effect, as does reverse – one of them being backwards for a touch of weirdness.

The rest provide various combinations. ModechoVerb features swept, flanged or chorused reverb tails with echo, MangledVerb brings distortion and detuning to the original effect, while DynaVerb uses compression for dynamic control of the reverb so it can swell up at the end of phrases rather than swamping the whole sound. Shimmer applies pitch-shifting to the reverb tails to leave chords floating ethereally in space. Similarly, TremoloVerb chops up the tail for strange ambience. Finally, Blackhole offers reverb that goes on and on and on...

A trawl through the presets reveals the programmers getting creative with all 12 themes – as you can yourself – and each of the sounds onboard is tweakable to a massive

degree via the array of knobs. While most of these are labelled to reflect the usual parameter adjustments you'd expect of a reverb unit (decay, size, delay and so on), the variable they control depends on which algorithm you're using. These, though, are all graphically illustrated on an A4 sheet as well as in the manual, so you shouldn't get too lost.

Okay, reverb is perhaps one of the less common effects that guitarists crave underfoot, but it's something that can transform your sound with wise use and, from emphasising some surfy twang to creating a huge soundscape that hangs in the air, this is one pedal that can do it all.

Verdict

If you want a stompbox for reverb and other ambient effects, Space is the most comprehensive around. End of story. Of course, you'll be left with a wallet almost £500 lighter and that is one heck of a lot of money to spend on a single pedal for onstage use with guitars. However, if you have a home studio, you'll get tons more out of this in stereo. To put it in context, rather than compare the asking price to other stompboxes, think instead of how much a rackmount reverb processor or the best quality plug-ins cost, and suddenly it doesn't seem that bad a deal, especially when Space sounds so good. **G**



The HotSwitch is easy to use

The Bottom Line

We like: Quality sound; adjustability; capability for comprehensive foot control; software can be upgraded

We dislike: Giving it back!

Guitarist says: The ultimate stompbox for creating atmospheric sounds

Eventide Space

PRICE: £499

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Programmable reverb pedal

EFFECTS: Room, plate, spring, hall, reverse, shimmer, ModEchoVerb, DualVerb, Blackhole, MangledVerb, TremoloVerb, DynaVerb

OTHER FEATURES: Tap tempo and MIDI clock sync

PATCHES: 100 onboard

DISPLAY: Eight-character LED (green)

CONTROLS: Switches for selecting guitar/line level and amp/line level, 11 control knobs, three footswitches

CONNECTIONS: Inputs (1/mono and 2), outputs (1/mono and 2), exp pedal and aux switch – all standard jack sockets; USB, MIDI in, out/thru

DIMENSIONS: 122 (h) x 190 (w) x 54mm (d)

WEIGHT (kg/lb): 1/2.2

POWER: Supplied 9V mains power adaptor

EXT CONTROLLERS: Expression pedal, three extra footswitches via aux socket, MIDI

RANGE OPTIONS: Companion pedals are the TimeFactor (£399), ModFactor (£399) and PitchFactor (£499) stompboxes

Source Distribution

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Test results

Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



A wide range of knobs give you the power to edit various reverb effects