

# SEYMOUR DUNCAN PEDALS

There's more to Seymour Duncan than pickups; feast your eyes on four stompers that add a twist to tried-and-tested formulas

**BACK** in 2002, Seymour Duncan branched out from its comfort zone dominating the world of after-market pickups, and dipped its toe into the much bigger ocean of stompboxes. Its first attempt was the Pickup Booster – a clever little box that beefed up single coils to make them sound like vintage humbuckers, and added a boost to humbuckers in order to maintain clarity and fidelity from your signal chain – it was an immediate hit. That was 14 years ago, and since then the Pickup Booster has received a makeover, while becoming part of a whole extended family of effects. We got hold of four stompers from the range: the Catalina Chorus, Vise Grip compressor, Palladium Gain Stage and 805 Overdrive, each of which takes a staple effect and adds some extra functionality, too.



**SEYMOUR DUNCAN 805 OVERDRIVE** £179

**Dream Screamer?**

**IT'S AN** overdrive. Its model number starts with an eight. It's... almost green? No prizes for guessing what have here. Still, if the most famous overdrive of all time has a 'flaw', it could be argued that it's the lack of EQ to even out that mid hump. The 805 remedies this with three mini-pots for bass, middle and treble, and it sounds immense. The stack-in-a-box sound is all punch and harmonics, but with the added bonus of proper tone shaping if you want it. We like!

**SEYMOUR DUNCAN CATALINA CHORUS**

£299

**Modulation innovation**

**CHORUS HAS** a bad rep, but it's not all power ballad cheese – analogue chorus can give a deep, rich mod effect. The Catalina is fuelled by bucket brigade circuitry, just like the classic Boss CE-1, but it does it with a twist. By engaging the Expression footswitch and selecting a threshold level, the pedal will react to how hard or soft you hit the strings. These dynamics add a creative edge to one of the most Marmite effects on the block, but it comes at a price...



**SEYMOUR DUNCAN PALLADIUM GAIN STAGE** £394

Your extra channel

**SINGLE-CHANNEL AMPS** are all over the place at the moment, but that does mean relying on pedals to bring different sounds in or out, and they aren't always that well stocked. Think of the Palladium as adding an entire preamp section, plus an additional boost to your amp. You get beautiful valve-esque drive with a lot of gain on tap, a comprehensive EQ section with sweepable mids, plus amp-style resonance and presence controls. It's a fully formed channel in its own right, and it sounds absolutely incredible.

**SEYMOUR DUNCAN VISE GRIP COMPRESSOR** £209

Squeeze-y does it

**STUDIO BODS** love compressors, but for guitarists they're often overlooked. Use it wrong and it can destroy your sound, but use it correctly, and you'll reap the benefits of sustain for days, punchier picking and substantial boosts. We like the Vise Grip, because where other pedals can squash your sound out of shape, the Vise Grip's blend control and frequency switch allow you to mix your dry signal (or just the dry highs or mids) with the compressed sound. If you want the benefits of compression without the dynamic-killing side affects, this is the squeeze box for you.

The Palladium is a fully formed channel in its own right, and it sounds absolutely incredible



**AT A GLANCE**

**TYPE:** Overdrive, compressor, preamp and chorus pedals

**BYPASS:** True bypass

**POWER:** Battery or PSU (Vise Grip, 805) PSU only (Palladium, Catalina Chorus)

**CONTACT:** Rosetti 01376 550033

[www.seymourduncan.com](http://www.seymourduncan.com)

805 OVERDRIVE	
FEATURES	★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>

CATALINA CHORUS	
FEATURES	★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>

PALLADIUM GAIN STAGE	
FEATURES	★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>

VISE GRIP COMPRESSOR	
FEATURES	★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>