



**AGE**

THIS LED lights up red when you engage the Age function via a press on the volume knob – it simulates the sonic qualities of an ageing EP-3

**FOOTSWITCH**

TWO bypass modes are on offer: true bypass, which cuts the delay stone-dead, or a buffered trails bypass where repeats continue and fade naturally

TAP TEMPO

IF you plug the MXR Tap Tempo footswitch (£39) in here, you get increased delay time of up to four seconds, with instant foot control

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Delay pedal
CONTROLS: Sustain, volume, delay, age, internal mono/stereo switch, bypass footswitch
SOCKETS: Standard TRS input and TRS output (stereo operation possible by using splitter cables), tap tempo pedal input
BYPASS: True relay or trails bypass
POWER: 9V DC adaptor (supplied), 240mA
CONTACT: Westside Distribution
 0844 326 2000
www.jimdunlop.com

DUNLOP ECHOPLEX DELAY

£189

A tape echo sim that revives a classic name

In the pre-digital delay days, the Echoplex found its way into the rigs of such legends as Jimmy Page, Brian May and Andy Summers to name a few. Launched in 1961, the Echoplex had two valve-based incarnations before the solid-state EP-3 appeared in 1970.

Unlike the multi-head designs typical of Copicats and Roland Space Echoes, the Echoplex featured just a single replay head alongside a record/erase head that could slide along a fixed axis – the distance between the two heads set your preferred delay time. The typical Echoplex sound had consecutive repeats with a natural decay, but guitarists also liked the EP-3's FET preamp, which could boost an amp and add a pleasing colour to the sound. Production of tape-based Echoplexes ended in 1991, but the Echoplex name was bought later by Jim Dunlop and has recently been revived for its preamp-aping Echoplex Preamp

and now, the Delay, designed to replicate the actual tape echo.

Like many delay pedals, the Echoplex has knobs to control delay time, feedback and volume, but it also has an Age parameter, brought in and out by a press on the volume knob, which is designed to emulate sonic artefacts, reflecting

The Echoplex's authentic vibes are hugely addictive

the idiosyncrasies of tape echoes. Turning up the Age (by pressing and hold the volume knob) dials in increasing modulation to simulate the 'wow and flutter' typical of tape transport mechanisms, but also changes the tonal qualities of the repeats from a clean yet vintage timbre through edgier and grittier to repeats that are quite fat and distorted, saturated tape-style.

Where the standard mode does a pretty good impression of a tape echo in good working order with new tape, the various degrees of Age offer up plenty of options to replicate a machine that may have issues and tape that's well-worn. If you're looking for esoteric delay types, this might not be the one for

you, but with delay times from doubling up to 750ms (increased to a whopping four seconds with Dunlop's sold-separately Tap Tempo footswitch), plus character and blending from the Age parameter, there really is scope for all flavours of vintage repeats.

If it really has to be tape, you could search eBay for a vintage Echoplex or plump for Fulltone's

modern take, but Dunlop's offering gives you a delay experience that's similar to an original without any of the maintenance issues – plus it will fit on your pedalboard. The pricing may seem about right compared with the competition from Strymon, but getting the full vintage EP-3 sound by pairing the Preamp and Delay will set you back over £300, which seems a lot, given Catalinbread's Belle Epoch makes a similar claim in a single pedal at around half the price. However, the Echoplex's authentic vibes are hugely addictive, and once you've played with it, you may struggle to play without...

Trevor Curwen

SUMMARY	FEATURES			
	SOUND QUALITY			
	VALUE FOR MONEY			
	BUILD QUALITY			
	USABILITY			
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★		