



MOOER

Preamp Live

Mooer's latest packs multiple-preamp power for your 'board

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Phil Barker

Mooer's Micro preamp pedals are digital recreations of the preamp sections of popular valve amplifiers that are designed to be used with a power amp, direct into the effects return of a guitar amp or (with cab simulation engaged) into a PA or recording gear. This new pedal rounds up a bunch of them into one place: 50 preamps are available via the free editing software to load into the 12 onboard slots – three banks of four channels, which are easily accessed from four footswitches.

Connections include a headphone output plus XLR and jack outputs, each with an associated toggle switch offering optional cabinet simulation. The editing software lets you choose from a variety of speaker types with mic'ing options or any Impulse Responses you wish to load, and there are also optional modelled power amps to complement the cabs. A footswitchable send and return loop can be configured serially to place external effects in the signal chain, or as an A/B loop to alternate between a modelled preamp and your amp's own preamp in a four-cable setup. Volume, bass, mid, treble and gain settings



are controlled via front-panel knobs and stored with a channel, as are variable pre and post boosts, which can be toggled on/off in a live situation. Universal Master output level, Presence and FX knobs deliver instant tweaks.

With thinly disguised but good-sounding and feeling contenders from Marshall, Vox and Mesa/Boogie, alongside boutique choices including several metal amps, the Preamp Live ensures you're covered for a wide range of tones. Additionally, you can store a pretty close approximation of your own amp by using the Tone Capture

facility, where you choose the onboard amp that's closest to your own and let the pedal apply EQ to it based on a 'listen' to your amp.

VERDICT

It may be a relatively inexpensive piece of kit considering the facilities onboard, but the Preamp Live has some excellent simulations to offer, successfully channelling the sound and feel of the real thing – and the unit is flexibly set up for live use. You can choose to have several different amps loaded, or put variations of the same amp on different channels, perhaps with clean, crunch and distorted sounds to your liking. This is a compact yet very practical package offering a diverse range of amp sounds – all of which at a pretty decent price. **C**

PROS Loads of amp sounds in one box; instant footswitching between amps; IR loading facility for sonic flexibility; easy software editing

CONS High current requirements (if you intend to use it with your existing pedalboard power supply)

ALSO TRY...



ATOMIC

Ampli-Firebox £279

The smallest of Atomic's amp modellers, the Ampli-Firebox puts amp modelling and IR-based cabs, plus some effects, into a compact stompbox with a footprint no bigger than an EHX Little Big Muff.



LINE 6

HX Stomp £558

The smallest and most cost-effective way into the Helix amp modelling world, not only does the HX Stomp feature amps, cabs and IR loading, but it has more effects than you can shake a pick at.



ORIGIN EFFECTS

RevivalDRIVE Custom £559

This complex analogue drive pedal has no pre-set access to instant sounds (you'll need to adjust the nuanced controls), but it can recreate the sound and behaviour of a classic vintage amp.

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Preamp pedal

FEATURES: IR loading, noise gates, channel and preset change via MIDI, software editing via USB or Bluetooth

CONTROLS: Volume, Bass, Middle, Treble, Gain, Boost, Master, Presence, FX Level, Cab sim switches x2

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, standard send, standard return, XLR out, stereo headphones minijack, USB, MIDI In, MIDI Out

POWER: 9V-12V DC adapter 1A

DIMENSIONS: 230 (w) x 130 (d) x 54mm (h)

**Guitarist
CHOICE**

9/10

