



94



MOOER GE300

£749

Can Mooer compete with the Helix and GT-1000 floorboards?

Mooer made its name as a purveyor of small, budget clones of famous circuits, and was responsible for nano-sized pedals becoming a space-saving staple. More recently, the Chinese company has looked to push its image and products upmarket, taking on ambitious projects like the Ocean Machine collaboration with Devin Townsend. Now, it's back

for the manual besides for some very niche tweaking, and the large colour screen and row of parameter knobs allowed us to set up new patches and edit existing ones with ease. Moving blocks is easy, a matter of clicking the selector knob and adjusting left or right, and the quick-select strip is a nice touch when editing a longer chain.

In terms of sounds, there's a decent cross-section of classic

patches. The overdrives and distortions hold up pretty well, and there's enough spare headroom on the unit to push a tube amp into breakup using a boost or overdrive. Much has been made of the fact that the GE300 also comes with a monosynth, and we can report that this certainly delivers, with multiple oscillators and bags of customisation on offer.

In the final estimation, then, the GE300 is a big step up. It looks the part, it's bombproof, and true to Mooer form, it's smaller than its main competitors and more affordable, too. Whether or not it proves a success is likely to be more about whether guitarists can shed the image of Mooer as a budget brand, but the GE300 makes a particularly compelling case to take the company very seriously.

Alex Lynham

THE OVERDRIVES AND DISTORTIONS HOLD UP WELL

with the GE300, which has the Line 6 and Boss floorboards squarely in its sights.

With the current generation of modelling floorboards, the big difference between Boss and Line 6 is user interface – both companies are more than able to design great effect algorithms. Where the Line 6 products have the edge is in a more intuitive user interface, and it's here that the Mooer must compete if it wants to be a viable alternative. Happily, we didn't need to reach

amps, from Fender tones, to Marshall, to modern US-style, which are actually pretty impressive. Similarly, through headphones we couldn't find much to complain about with the built-in cab IRs, and the ability to load external ones means any weak presets are easily changed.

As you'd expect, there are also plenty of great effects, although here it does feel like Boss and Line 6 have the edge, both in terms of range and quality of

1 EXPRESSION

There's an integrated expression pedal, and, like on many other floorboards, on the rear there's an expansion port allowing for a second to be connected

2 FOOTSWITCHES

The instant patch change row – marked A, B, C, D – felt like it should be set to blocks by default, or on the second row, rather than closest to the player

3 FOOT SAVERS

A nice touch is that the unit ships with enough mushroom-shaped foot saving switch adaptors to allow barefoot players to use the GE300 without discomfort

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Multi-effects and modelling pedal

CONTROLS: 10 footswitches, 5 parameter knobs, quick select block switches, XLR output, headphone output, master output, main select knob, 5 parameter controls, rocker footswitch

SOCKETS: Aux in, exp2 in, guitar/line in, stereo out, stereo send, stereo return, headphones, MIDI in, stereo XLR outs, USB, MIDI out/thru

MODELS AND EFFECTS: 108 amp models, 43 cab models, 20 IR user slots, 164 effects, 15 effects blocks

POWER: DC 9V (supplied)

CONTACT: Strings & Things
moeraudio.co.uk

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