



ROUND-UP

Fender pedals

Fender strengthens its presence in the effects market with more new units

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VIDEO DEMO ► <http://bit.ly/guitaristextra>

Fender has been prolific on the pedal front since launching its first batch of units at 2018's NAMM show. There are now no less than 21 pedals in the range covering all the major genres of effect. The three we're looking at here were introduced earlier this year and are all dual-footswitch pedals that follow the now-standard Fender design of an anodized aluminium chassis with a 'jewel' bypass LED as a nod to Fender amp front panels. All

three run from a nine-volt adaptor with a socket on the rear panel, right where it should be, and feature practical offset input and output jacks to facilitate closer spacing of pedals without plugs butting up against each other when you use pedals in the range side by side. Also present are LED position markers on the usual knobs, though there is a useful on/off switch if you don't need a brightly-lit clue as to where your parameters are set on a darkened stage.



Lost Highway Phaser

£119

Four different phaser sounds are available here courtesy of combining two toggle switches – one that selects between four- and eight-stage phasing, the other choosing between sine and triangle waveforms. On top of that a Dry/Wet Blend knob dials in subtleties in the sound and should be set at around 50 per cent for classic phasing, but will give you pure pitch vibrato at 100 per cent wet.

Like The Pinwheel that follows, this pedal has a Sensitivity function so you can move from slow to fast phasing via playing dynamics, but you also get a Slow/Fast footswitch to select between two identical phasers each with Rate and Depth knobs. We feel the Sens control is more applicable here and capable of being more nuanced.

Its phasing variation is this pedal's strong point, from barely perceptible to a full-on space-gun warble, especially with Feedback turned up to emphasise the rhythmic aspect of the sweep. **G**

VERDICT Two instant phasing sounds in one box at a street price south of £100? A must-try bargain



The Pinwheel

£199

This dedicated rotary speaker pedal offers emulations of three different types: a full-sounding Leslie 122, the leaner Leslie 145, and Fender's own diminutive Vibratone with just the rotating drum rather than drum and horn. A second footswitch switches between fast and slow speaker rotation (or 'parks' it in a stationary position) and a Ramp knob sets the time (acceleration/deceleration) to move from one to the other. You get separate knobs to set your own Fast and Slow speeds and, thus, the contrast between the two, and as a creative alternative to footswitching and some expressive spice when performing you can change speed via playing dynamics with the Sensitivity knob setting a threshold.

The rotary effect is nicely spacious and authentic, even down to a bit of optional rough-textured growl via the Drive knob, reminiscent of the rotating speaker being driven by a valve-powered amp. **G**

VERDICT All the rotary speaker features you'd need in one relatively compact pedal – and it sounds great, too!



MTG Tube Distortion

£159

Fender's take with this pedal is that if you want valve-like distortion why not use a real valve? Consequently, the MTG Tube Distortion, designed with amp guru Bruce Egnater, is equipped with a 6205 preamp valve at its heart. To power the valve, the pedal needs to draw 290mA so you'll need a nine-volt supply that can deliver high current. The three-band EQ has plenty of aggressive top and mid on offer if that's your forte, plus a Tight knob that does a great job of keeping the bottom-end lean and mean.

The range of the drive is medium- to high-gain and at lower gain settings you can use it to add a raunchy extra channel to a clean amp by carefully using the EQ knobs to match your amp's tone. You can then take that naturally up to another level with the well-designed two-knob footswitchable boost. It's no slouch into an already driven amp either, offering plenty extra for leads. **G**

VERDICT A nicely responsive two-level drive pedal with EQ options to focus the sound to suit your rig

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Phaser pedal

FEATURES: True bypass, slow/fast switching, optional 3dB boost

CONTROLS: Rate 1, Depth 1, Rate 2, Depth 2, Blend, Feedback, Sens, 4/8 switch, sine/triangle switch, Boost switch (+3/0), LED kill switch, Slow/Fast footswitch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 80mA

DIMENSIONS: 95 (w) x 125 (d) x 64mm (h)

8/10

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Rotary speaker pedal

FEATURES: Buffered bypass, slow/fast switching, stereo operation, expression pedal control of speed

CONTROLS: Drive, Tone, Fast, Slow, Level, Ramp Sens, Mode switch (1, 2, 3), Voicing switch (Guitar/Keyboard), Dynamics switch, FS Select switch (Exp/FS), LED kill switch, Slow/Fast (Brake) footswitch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard inputs (L/Mono, R), standard outputs (L/Mono, R), Exp/FS

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 310mA

DIMENSIONS: 95 (w) x 125 (d) x 64mm (h)

Guitarist
CHOICE

9/10

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Distortion pedal
FEATURES: True bypass, Boost

CONTROLS: Treble, Middle, Bass, Tight, Level, Gain, Boost Level, Boost, LED kill switch, Boost footswitch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 290mA

DIMENSIONS: 95 (w) x 125 (d) x 64mm (h)

8/10

