

ELECTRO-HARMONIX

Pitch Fork+

Harmonies and more from this dual pitch-shifting tool

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Phil Barker

The Pitch Fork+ provides two identical but independent pitch-shifting engines in a single pedal, both offering pitch up or down over a +/- three octave range and detuning of +/- 99 cents. There are separate volume knobs for each pitch shifter and for the dry sound, so there are plenty of options for totally pitch-shifted sounds or blends.

Besides the main output you'll also find an AUX output that has various signal routing options, including stereo pitch shifting and keeping dry and effected sounds separate, while a second (User) footswitch can be assigned to different functions such as toggling channels on and off, selecting presets, crossfades and more. Should you want more switching capability, there's a connection for a triple footswitcher.

There is a lot of creative sonic potential available from this pedal and plenty of places to store your creativity in its 100 presets; the 10 presets that have been programmed at the factory offer a good overview. The mildest effect in the pedal is detuning – just a few cents each side can

give you some useful alternatives to using a chorus pedal or similar.

Tracking and tuning stability are good, so it's possible to turn off the dry sound and use an octave down, turning your guitar into a workable bass. You could also conjure up a baritone guitar or other dropped tunings, or turn the pitch up for an instant capo effect, albeit with altered tonality, especially noticeable as a metallic timbre on the pitched up settings.

With dry sound back in play you can dial in a faux 12-string sound, and even opt for an 18-string! There are, of course, loads of exquisitely beautiful harmonies on tap, as well as totally discordant stuff for the noiseniks who'll be sure to embrace the X-Mod mode, which offers cross modulation for creating ring mod and frequency modulation. The bypass footswitch can be set for latching or momentary action where it can be used for *glissando* effects if desired. But if you really want to get into the performance aspect then you can plug in an expression pedal for instant octave rises and other Whammy-style action.



VERDICT

A diminutive pitch-shifting powerhouse with a tasty combination of features to suit many needs. **G**

PROS Two pitch shifters; solid tracking; wide frequency range; practical footswitching options; expression pedal capability

CONS At this price, it would be churlish to complain about the usual warbly artefacts on extreme shifts

ALSO TRY...



MERIS

Hedra £319

Two voices not enough? Take a look at the Hedra from Meris, which offers three voices. Described as a rhythmic pitch shifter, it comes with tap tempo synchronised delay for esoteric effects.



BOSS

PS-6 Harmonist £129

This Boss compact pedal has the ability to create up to three-part harmonies and other pitch shifts, including detuning and the option of controlling the pitch via an expression pedal.



EARTHQUAKER DEVICES

Rainbow Machine V2 £225

This is the leftfield choice, built around a DSP pitch-warping engine that's designed to be slightly imperfect and described by its makers as "totally not for purists and/or tone hounds".

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Pitch-shift pedal

FEATURES: True bypass,
2x pitch-shift engines with
a +/-3 octave range

CONTROLS: Dry, Shift 1,
Shift 2, Value, 8x buttons
(Aux, Shift 1, Shift 2, Exp,
User, X-Mod, Preset, Latch),
User footswitch,
Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard
input, standard outputs
(main, Aux) Ext, Exp

POWER: Supplied 9V DC
200mA adaptor – pedal
requires 120mA

DIMENSIONS: 104 (w) x
119 (d) x 55mm (h)

8/10

