

The Sea Machine is a chorus pedal with as many modulation possibilities as there are fish in the ocean. That's a lot of fish. And a lot of modulation. From subtle, shimmery chorus sounds, to wobbly, seasick, warbly pitch-bent detuning that rocks the boat, the Sea Machine is the audio bait that'll help you reel in the big one.

The Sea Machine ain't no one-trick seahorse. A variable waveshape LFO (adjustable via the Shape control) modulates your chorus tone from a smooth triangle shape, to a rough and choppy square wave, and an extended delay line allows you to dive deeper into uncharted modulated waters than ever before. Other LFO controls include Rate, which sets the speed of the LFO, and Depth, which sets how strongly the LFO modulates the delay time.

The delay line has controls for Dimension, Animate, and Depth. The Dimension control adds a slightly detuned slapback at low levels, reverb-like ambience at mid-levels, and a trippy echo-resonance that leads to self-oscillation when cranked. The Animate control is the real pearl in the Sea Machine's oyster, if you will. This controls how far the pitch swings. At lower settings, you'll hear slight detuning for a subtle double-tracked thickening effect, á la traditional chorus pedals. As you increase the Animate control, the pitch swings further and further away from the root note for an effect that lies somewhere between chorus and vibrato, before landing at full tilt on sonar-like oscillations that sound more like a giant monster-movie beast awaking from its undersea slumber than any effects pedal we've ever heard. Finally, the Intensity control rounds out the delay line, adjusting the blend between the modulated and dry signals.

With this mix of standard and unique controls, everything from subtle warble, classic Leslie, seasick pitch bends, strangled alien sounds, stunted arpeggiations and many more far out sounds are available. Or you could just use it as a chorus. That works, too. Oh, and if you're a bass player who fancies themselves a fan of the classic 80s post-punk bass sound, the Sea Machine is pretty much just like (tone) heaven.

We've designed the Sea Machine to work well following fuzz / overdrive / distortion pedals without getting muddy, lowering in output, or breaking up, because we like running distortion pedals into things. Also, when engaged, the Sea Machine's transparent buffer leaves the all-analog dry signal unaltered and crystal clear.

The Sea Machine is true-bypass, uses silent relay-based switching, and is built one at a time in the belly of the great white whale along the shores of the Ohio & Erie Canal in Akron, Ohio, USA.

Controls

Rate: This sets the speed of the LFO. The miniature LED will blink to the tempo, even in bypass mode.

Shape: Goes from triangle wave to square wave as you turn clockwise.

Depth: Adjusts how strongly the LFO modulates the delay time.

Dimension: Adds a slight slap-back at low levels, reverb-like ambiance at mid levels and an echo-resonance that will lead to self-oscillation at max.

Animate: How far the pitch shifted signal swings, lower levels equals a tighter and more focused shift à la traditional chorus. As you increase the control a more wild and animated pitch shift begins to emerge.

Intensity: Adjusts how much modulated signal is blended in with the dry signal. Unity for this control is right around 12 o'clock, everything above that is boosting the modulated signal.

Start Up

To start with a basic chorus sound, keep the dimension, shape and animate fully counter-clockwise (off), set the Depth and Rate around noon and adjust intensity to taste. Slowly add in the dimension to give it more atmosphere, bring in the animate to make it more wild, turn up the shape to destroy it. For best results, place after dirt pedals and before any signal boosters.

Power

The Sea Machine should be powered by a standard 9-volt DC power supply with a 2.1mm negative center barrel. We always recommend pedal-specific, transformer-isolated wall-wart power supplies or multiple isolated-output supplies. Pedals will make extra noise if there is ripple or unclean power. Switching-type power supplies, daisy chains and non-pedal specific power supplies do not filter dirty power as well and let through unwanted noise. Do not run at higher voltages!

Current Draw: 50mA

Input impedance: 10M

Output impedance: 1K

Switching

This device is true bypass and uses electronic relay based switching. Audio will not pass without power.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Send an email to info@earthquakerdevices.com and we'll help you out.

This device is guaranteed for life (or at least the life of EarthQuaker Devices).

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