

MXR M-288 Bass Octave Deluxe £239

Superior octave sounds for double the fun

One of the best bass effects available gets better as this offers two independent voices for maximum variation, blending and delivery. With fast tracking and accuracy this has to be octaving at the top level: a small-sized pedal that can have a huge impact on your sound.

Sounds

By varying the growl and girth it offers some of the most effective bass octave sounds we've ever heard. The mid switch allows straight notes to dominate over the effected one, while dry is the direct blending of the two. Short, well-hit notes produce best results from the bottom string.

Verdict

This offers some classy sounds that can be used to positively inspire some new ideas.

Spec

PRICE: £239
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Dual-voice bass octave generator pedal
FEATURES: Two independent octave voices
CONTROLS: Growl, dry, girth
CONNECTIONS: Input, output
POWER: DC adaptor (not supplied) or nine-volt battery
DIMENSIONS: 112 (l) x 60 (w) x 48mm (h)

Guitarist CHOICE

The Bottom Line

We like: Stunning variation in octave sounds
We dislike: The fluctuating bottom E on ringing notes

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★½



MXR M-181 Bass Blow Torch £209

Intense bass overdrive with killer options

Bass overdrive needs control to work well and this offers plenty. The mid-shift switch offers cool and subtle front-end valve stress through to blisteringly intense distortion. The side-mounted torch switch kicks ass by activating extreme fuzz and varies the effect significantly.

Sounds

With volume, gain and a decent blend control, this will fatten up your sound as much as you want. Front-end distortion, valve warmth and dry-to-wet blending is easy. Additionally, the thru output allows input splitting for even more sonic options.

Verdict

A highly adjustable bass overdrive/fuzz that caters for all playing styles.

Spec

PRICE: £209
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Bass distortion pedal
FEATURES: Mid-shift & torch switches
CONTROLS: Volume, bass, mid-range, treble, blend, gain
CONNECTIONS: Input, output, thru
POWER: DC adaptor (not supplied) or two nine-volt batteries
DIMENSIONS: 93 (l) x 125 (w) x 58mm (h)
John Hornby Skewes
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The Bottom Line

We like: Powerful 18-volt circuit; compact presentation
We dislike: Hard to fault with so much adjustment on hand

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★

MXR bass pedals

Four exciting ways to enhance the sound of your bass with added MXR quality ***by Roger Newell***

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOBY SESSIONS

MXR M-182 El Grande Bass Fuzz £149

No-nonsense fuzz with added tonal ability

For those looking for a straightforward plug-in-and-play fuzz pedal for their bass guitar, it doesn't come any easier than this. The tone and deep switches are useful additions and, being standard electric box size, this is also as compact as it gets.

Sounds

An uncomplicated, smooth, consistent fuzz with that 'jar full of bees' sustain. The tone control adds clearer note definition that's great for lead phrases and the deep switch is great for expanding low-end response while boosting the signal significantly.

Verdict

Compact and effective, this is a handy pedal to have around should you feel the urge to rough things up with style.

Spec

PRICE: £149
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Bass fuzz pedal
FEATURES: Added preset for low-end boost
CONTROLS: Volume, tone, fuzz and deep switch
CONNECTIONS: Input, output
POWER: DC adaptor (not supplied) or nine-volt battery
DIMENSIONS: 112 (l) x 60 (w) x 48mm (h)
RANGE OPTIONS: M188 Bass Auto Q Pedal (£209)

The Bottom Line

We like: Added bottom boost and simple operation
We dislike: Bit pricey compared to guitar version

GUITARIST RATING ★★★½★

MXR M-80 Bass DI+ £249

A direct injection box with a touch of magic

Direct linking with any PA system is never an exact science, so having your own DI box is always an asset. As an extra, this unit also offers highly controlled distortion and super quiet switching between straight DI and effect.

Sounds

There's great adjustment on natural clean sounds, with the colour switch providing a tasteful preset EQ, and there's loads of warmth here too. The additional full-on distortion can be finely tuned for extra enhancement. The trigger control works with the gate switch to minimise noise when using the distortion.

Verdict

A robust and well set-out DI – a useful, albeit expensive tool to carry to gigs, just in case.

Spec

PRICE: £249
ORIGIN: USA
TYPE: Bass DI & distortion pedal
FEATURES: Clean DI or distortion
CONTROLS: Clean volume, bass, mid, treble, distortion volume, blend, trigger and gain. Effect, distortion, colour, gate and phantom/ground switches
CONNECTIONS: Input, output, parallel output, direct XLR output
POWER: DC adaptor (not supplied), nine-volt battery or phantom power
DIMENSIONS: 93 (l) x 125 (w) x 58mm (h)

The Bottom Line

We like: Tough and well-equipped; good EQ preset
We dislike: Convincing techs your DI is better than theirs!

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★