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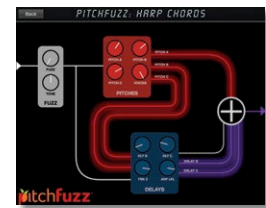
Eventide PitchFuzz for H9

Review By Mike Metlay

For users who haven't read our review (December 2013), Eventide's H9 (\$499) is a stereo-in/stereo-out digital effects pedal whose powerful DSP engine can run any of dozens of algorithms, and which can be easily programmed and controlled from any iOS device via Bluetooth. New algorithms for the H9 are constantly being released, extending the unit's power dramatically.

The latest algorithm for H9 is PitchFuzz, which starts with a fuzz algorithm that's nothing short of brutal—the sort of all-out sonic murder that you'd expect from a germanium transistor-based fuzzbox with a sagging battery. From there, the signal is routed into a 3-voice pitch shifter (up to 2 octaves up or down on each voice), and from there into a dual digital delay with up to 2.5 seconds of delay time. That's a lot of power, but there are some subtle touches that take this algorithm completely over the top.

First, a single elegant control called Pitch Amount controls the blend of pitch-shifted voices. As the control goes from 0 to 1, the first pitch-shifted voice is gradually added to the dry signal until it's at full volume. From 1 to 2, the second voice comes in, and from 2 to 3, the third voice joins the other two.



\$19.99 (free to owners of H9 Max license); www.eventide.com

Second, you can choose between Group Delay, where all pitch-shifted voices are sent to both delays, and Arpeggiated Delay—where the first voice is undelayed, the second voice goes to one delay, and the third voice to another. The end result is arpeggios of pitch-shifted sounds from every note you play. Finally, the Feedback control offers an option for linked and rhythmic delay time patterns as well as independent delays.

With all this power, it's easy to make an unholy mess. But if you ease off on the fuzz, set one or more pitch-shifted voices to a subtle detune, and don't get carried away with the delays, the results can be exquisite, with a rich detuned chorusing mixed with delay for enormously spacious sounds. Gently adding in the Fuzz gives the echoes a compelling immediacy, and you end up with wonderfully integrated effects that replace an entire pedalboard of individual stompboxes. PitchFuzz is a no-brainer for H9 owners, and a great reason to consider getting an H9 for your rig.