



ROUND-UP

MXR & Cry Baby pedals

Three fresh-from-NAMM pedals from the Jim Dunlop stable

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

MXR and Cry Baby are both brands that come under the Jim Dunlop umbrella and are represented here effectively as three MXR pedals. Okay, the Q Zone might be branded as Cry Baby, but it's housed in a classic MXR enclosure with MXR stamped on the baseplate, so that'll do for us. That MXR pedal shape – seen here in the Octavio and the Q Zone – has been around since the early 70s days of the Phase 90 et al and it hasn't changed much. You get the necessary modern

inclusions of a bypass LED and a nine-volt input, but you still have to take the four-screw baseplate off to get at the battery. By contrast, the MXR Custom Shop Timmy makes space-saving concessions to the modern pedalboard as a micro pedal with offset jacks and a nine-volt adaptor connection at the top end. One characteristic that these three pedals share (other than all debuting at January's NAMM Show) is that they are new iterations of older pedals that have been around for some time. Let's take a closer look...



MXR

M267 Octavio Fuzz £139

This is not the only Octavio pedal in Jim Dunlop's roster – there's currently a mini-sized Jimi Hendrix Octavio fuzz with selectable octave – but it is the only one available as a standard two-knob MXR pedal without any artist connection. And while there are no Hendrix graphics as seen in a previous same-sized MXR version, the lineage can be traced back to the Purple pedal used by Jimi to full effect on *Vintage Haze*.

This is silicon fuzz with a gritty edge and that upper octave harmonic bedded into it. If you turn up the fuzz and try playing standard chords it can sound messy, but doublestops come out sounding really powerful and single-note playing can really take advantage of the singing quality of that upper harmonic overtone, especially in the upper reaches of the neck. This is pretty much a pedal you can 'play' and there's plenty there (sitar-like sounds, for example) that will reward experimentation with technique. **G**

VERDICT Classic Octavio noises in standard MXR pedal form – you now have a choice if you opt for Dunlop



JIM DUNLOP

Cry Baby QZ1 Q Zone £159

Back in original three-knob guise after the four-knob CSP030 Custom Shop version, the Q Zone mimics a 'cocked wah' – the sound of a wah pedal held in a fixed position, a favoured technique of many players to give a tonal shift to their sound, typically a resonant treble boost for enhanced harmonic content. The volume knob has plenty extra to drive your amp if you want to incorporate a boost, while the Peak control has the same function as the rocker pot of a wah pedal, setting the centre frequency and essentially mimicking the treadle position. The Q Zone knob sets the bandpass shape (broad or narrow) and effectively dials in the intensity for more throatiness or quack.

Here's an extra dimension to your sound that you wouldn't get with basic EQ, and while it's perhaps not as versatile as having a full wah pedal on your 'board, it takes up much less space and lets you instantly hit that sweet spot every time. **G**

VERDICT A niche pedal maybe, but one that does its job perfectly with no worries about treadle positioning



MXR

Custom Shop CSP027 Timmy £139

The Timmy pedal, feted as a great transparent overdrive, has been around for quite a few years, but this iteration sees it transition from the boutique world to mainstream manufacturer, with original designer Paul Cochrane still involved. The knobs and toggle switch on this mini version are tightly packed together but still easily adjustable. It offers overdrive with three clipping options and, besides standard Volume and Gain knobs, there are two cut-only EQ knobs: Bass is pre-OD, useful for tightening up the bottom-end before it hits the drive section, while the post-OD Treble can tailor the top-end to your amp.

The clipping options are sufficiently different, offering increasing amounts of saturation that can get full-on raunchy, but we particularly like the middle position's symmetrical clipping and high headroom for dialling in a clean boost or a touch of break-up as a very natural extension of our amp's core tone. **G**

VERDICT So much variety in so little pedalboard space makes the tiny Timmy a bit special

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Octave fuzz pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Output, Fuzz, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output,

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 5mA

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 110 (d) x 48mm (h)

8/10

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Fixed wah pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Volume, Q Zone, Peak, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output

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

DIMENSIONS: 64 (w) x 110 (d) x 50mm (h)

8/10

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Overdrive pedal

FEATURES: True bypass

CONTROLS: Gain, Volume, Bass, Treble, Clip switch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 2.2mA

DIMENSIONS: 42 (w) x 90 (d) x 55mm (h)

Guitarist
CHOICE

9/10

