

ELECTRO-HARMONIX DELUXE MEMORY MAN (\$338)

It's difficult to tell where to start with this one. Above everything else, the Memory Man points out the musical significance of how notes decay. This is an extraordinarily "musical" pedal, for lack of

ECHO-OFF '06



a better term. As the notes decay, the Memory Man introduces additional warmth with every repeat. And it's precisely the correct amount of warmth in the same way that certain quantities of ingredients contribute to a tasty recipe. In addition to a terrific echo, the Memory Man has a remarkable chorus and vibrato. There's absolutely none of the "fishtank" sound that plagues many chorus units, and the depth and breadth of the chorus can be easily and precisely controlled with the same Feedback and Delay knobs used for the echo. The vibrato function

is equally warm.

The chassis looks just like those made decades ago, and it sounds very much the same (but quieter). There's a lot of space between the knobs, which are large enough to adjust with the side of a shoe. For extra audio excitement, hit a note/chord, grab the Feedback or Delay knob, and twist. Cool, weird sounds abound!

This is a superlative pedal, at a reasonable price. Don't get the wallwart mixed up with the one for your E-H Holy Grail or other nine-volt power supply; the Memory Man requires a special 24-volt unit.

Cool: Retro looks, retro sound, quiet, rugged and extremely warm. Versatile, with the additional chorus and vibrato functions. True-bypass.

Cooler If: It wasn't so big it required its own pedalboard. However, since it's three great pedals in one, size is forgivable.

So, is there a winner here? That depends on who you are, what and how you play, and what you want an echo unit to do. With its vintage styling, vintage tone, true-bypass switch, additional chorus and tremolo functions and big, round notes, **the Electro-Harmonix is a clear first choice.**