

SUBSCRIBE FOR CHANCE TO WIN RANDALL AMP • LTD GUITAR • DIGITECH EFFECTS UNIT • DEAN MARKLEY STRINGS

Australian musician

ISSUE 51 SPRING 2007

FREE
FROM YOUR FAVOURITE
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STORE

VOTE IN OUR
ANNUAL READERS'
POLL
WIN A CD PACK

MOSSY & CHENEY TALK GUITAR!

PLUS

- EXCLUSIVE SOUNDCHECK
ACCESS TO EDITORS
- SMALL MERCIES TOUR DIARY

LIAM FINN • TIM ROGERS • JACK HOWARD
TROY CASSAR-DALEY • GRAND ATLANTIC

• CELTIC FROST • WORLD PARTY'S CHRIS WHITTEN • ERAN JAMES • LATEST GEAR NEWS

CHECK 1,2

PRODUCT: DIGITECH VOCALIST LIVE 2 **REVIEWER:** REZA NASSERI

DISTRIBUTOR: CMI 03 9315 2244

Initially the guys at Digitech were known for their guitar or bass effects processors. They've come up with some nifty stuff over the years too, like the infamous Whammy Pedal, and the advanced GNX everything-ever-imaginable in one unit ... ah ... unit. More recently though, Digitech has simply bombarded the market with a massive array of stomp boxes, artist pedals and expression pedals armed with their latest "WARP" digital-modelling and fast, responsive "Audio DNA 2" processing. So big things were expected from the new Digitech Vocalist Live 2. Instead of simply being impressed, my jaw pretty much fell right off. I can honestly say this is the most unique and exciting musical product I've come across since the conception of the whammy pedal, if not the wah pedal for that matter.

The "Live 2" is unlike any vocal harmoniser I've seen. Not only is it intelligent enough to recognise and generate harmonies over a particular musical key, it actually utilises both guitar and voice to analyse chords and melody resulting in a specific harmony for each chord played. This means pitch perfect backing vocals every single time! The unit also boasts an onboard guitar tuner, vocal compressor, reverb and enhancer, as well as having the ability to create 2 simultaneous harmonies over the original vocal. The best thing about the "Live 2", is that it's so quick and easy to use you'd sell your Nanna for one these.

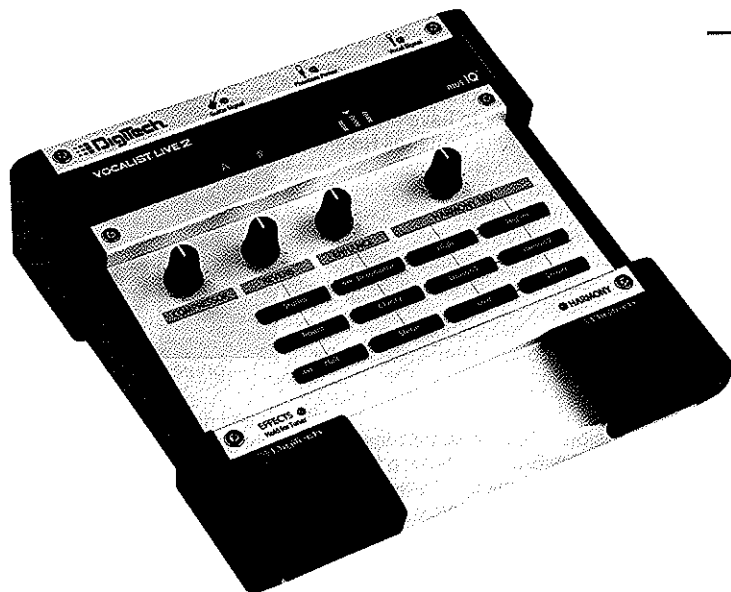
At the core of this product lies Digitech's ground-breaking "musiQ" technology, which analyses the output of either your electric or pre-amplified acoustic guitar as the foundation for the harmony or harmonies in question. You have the option of selecting a Lower 5th, Low 3rd, Unison 1 (pitch corrected tone), Unison 2 (+/- Cents), High 3rd and Higher 5th harmony (or harmonies) to appear as soon as you step on the right switch. Like I said before, the selected interval is created by using both the guitar and voice as a guide, making the most complex harmony lines an instant possibility.

Say for instance you hit a C major chord on your guitar and have selected the "High" (+3rd) harmony key. The interval created is a raised 3rd in the key of C, which is the note "E". If however, you play a C minor chord directly after, the harmony note will change from E to Eb. This is a radical improvement over harmonisers of the past which at best would only provide harmonies in one separate key. This results in a "human" sound, which will simply blow your mind as soon as you hear it.

THE RESULTS ARE PITCH PERFECT VOCALS THAT WOULD MAKE EVEN THE MOST TONE DEAF SINGER SOUND LIKE A PRO.

The fun does not stop here though. This unit can also be used as a pitch corrector by turning the harmony mix all the way up and selecting the "Unison 1" key, due to the fast, accurate tracking built into this wonder. The results are pitch perfect vocals that would make even the most tone deaf singer to sound like a pro.

The onboard effects are fantastic and so easy to use as well. You have the choice of three lush sounding reverbs, an enhancer (which boosts specific frequency range in your voice) and a very effective compressor that could smooth-out the most dynamic vocal performance. The reverb and enhance effects can be switched on or off at any time with the first pedal, and the second pedal allows you to toggle the harmony on or off at any point within the song, making it very handy in a live situation.



SPECS

- 2 part vocal harmony with no programming
- Selectable voicing: unison, 3rd, 5th above or below your lead vocal
- Vocal enhancement effects matrix
- Compressor, reverb and EQ/enhance controls
- On-board guitar tuner
- XLR mic/line input with level adjustment
- \$799 RRP

The back panel features an XLR mic input, line input, guitar input, "guitar thru" (to the amp/ P.A.) stereo output as well as a high quality mono, balanced XLR output. You can even plug your favourite condenser mic into this thing, due to the onboard phantom power.

While I can imagine this unit would be extremely appealing to solo artists, it also serves as an invaluable learning tool to anyone wanting to sing and play guitar at the same time. You could even use it in the studio to achieve pitch perfect vocals and avoid having do 1000 takes, for hours on end until the vocalist ends up a mute.

In summing up I have to mention that I am in no way, shape, or form affiliated with Digitech. With that being said, at this point in time, this is the best vocal harmoniser I've ever heard. The Digitech Vocalist Live 2 is flawless and will undoubtedly shine for years to come.