

DigiTech

RP355 Modeling Guitar Processor

DigiTech has always been right on the cutting edge of guitar technology. From the extremely popular Whammy pedal and their Artist Signature series, to everything they've done for multi-effect processors over the years, their contributions to the industry have been significant.

The RP series of multi-effects processors covers a broad range of features and price options beginning with the handy RP55 and peaking with the monstrously capable RP1000. We decided to take a look the RP355, which is a versatile all-in-one box that allows you to record ideas on the fly right into a computer.

FEATURES

The first thing that you'll notice is the substantial weight of the unit. This box is made to stay put, and it's made to be played. The RP355 is loaded. DigiTech has packed over 100 effects and amps, a 20 second Looper, stereo XLR and 1/4" outputs, an expression pedal, a USB port, a drum machine and more, all into a single True Bypass, bulletproof, tank of a pedal multi-effects pedal. The unit also comes with free Cubase recording software.

The RP355 has three footswitches to help you navigate the beefy selection of tones inside. 6 knobs and the aforementioned expression pedal help you tweak them. The knobs have dedicated functions and library assignments: Tone Library, Effects Library, Effects Level, Amp Gain, Amp Level, and Master Level. The expression pedal can control Whammy, Wah, modulation, volume, etc. The Whammy effect is worth the price alone.

The unit is setup in different Modes (Stompbox, Performance, Bypass, and Tune). Stompbox Mode sets the 3 footswitches to control Distortion, Chorus/FX, and Delay; it's like having your best dirt, chorus, and echo pedals right at your feet. Performance Mode toggles through the various presets.

Also worth noting: the RP355 is equipped with Lexicon reverbs. I've always been a fan of

Lexicon reverbs—if you're not familiar, think: big David Gilmour-type reverbs.

SOUND AND EASE OF USE

One of the first things I noticed about the RP355 was the *thick* quality of the distortions. I'm usually not a fan of digital distortions, but these didn't have that 'fake' sound. The amp models varied from standard Fender, Vox, and Marshall clones to more obscure favorites like a '69 Hiwatt, an '88 Soldano, and a '96 Matchless HC-30, among others. I also got a kick out of some of the preset names, like 'Stoner Rock' and 'Brown Sound', which were accurate descriptions, not just clever names.

The effects section didn't disappoint at all. Again, we're greeted with a little of the familiar (Big Muff, Phase 90, Boss OC2), and the unexpected (Maestro Echoplex, EH Small

Stone, Demeter Fuzzulator) to keep your tonal attention for a long time to come.

I'm a self-admitted effect pedal junkie; I'm powerless to my disease. After three cans of Redbull and many late-night hours, I was hooked. The RP355 has all of my favorite pedals, and many I'll never be able to own.

IS IT FOR YOU?

The RP355 is equally at home in the studio or on the stage, with tons of bang for the buck, and tone for days. The included Cubase software, USB port, and drum machine/looper help get ideas out of your head and onto your computer. This is a very practical product for today's modern guitarist.

—Jason Allwood **GE**



IN A NUTSHELL

- Over 100 amps, cabinets, and effects
- Built-in expression pedal for wah, Whammy, volume, and modulation control
- Cubase LE4 software included
- 20 second looper and drum machine
- True bypass

Street \$200
digiotech.com



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