



MULTI-EFFECTS UNITS FOR SEASONED PLAYERS

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Living in the midst of a stompbox golden age as we are, it's easy to forget about multi-effects. The thing is, though, we're also living in a golden age of multi-effects. In many ways, the stompbox renaissance that we're currently reveling in was a reaction against the many sonic and ergonomic failings of the early multi-effect processors. So, while we've all been drooling over the latest boutique, hand-wired Tube Screamer clone, clever engineers have been quietly ushering in a new era of multi-effects, one which builds upon the early successes, while avoiding the failures. These cater to players who prefer an analog feel and tone, and might still be a little gun-shy about scrolling through menus and saving presets.

Many modern multi-effects processors approach a stompbox-like level of friendliness, sometimes ditching screens and menus altogether, with layouts designed around rugged stomp switches, real knobs, basic, useful effects, and simple navigation. Many have also been designed to be easily incorporated into existing pedalboards, using loops and other flexible routing options to work seamlessly with one's favorite stompboxes. This a wonderful development for players that still want to use an old favorite drive or fuzz pedal for dirt, while harnessing the versatility of a multi-effect unit for modulation, reverberation, or pitch-shifting duties. So, without further ado, let's take a look at a handful of the best multi-effects for stompbox-centric guitarists.

TECH 21 FLY RIG 5



Tech 21's Fly Rig 5 succeeds on all fronts by keeping things highly portable, totally rugged, and blockhead-simple. At just under a foot long, it features Tech 21's Hot Rod Plexi, legendary SansAmp analog amp modeler, Boost RVB reverb, and Boost DLA delay pedals all melded into one highly versatile unit. Tech 21 has trimmed the fat in all the right places, providing everything you need and nothing you don't. The drive, distortion, and amp simulation tones are all analog, while the reverb and delay are excellent

digital emulations of classic spring and tape delay tones, run parallel to the original signal, which remains in the analog realm throughout the signal path. Setup is even easier than individual pedals, as there's no need for patch cables or master power supplies, and operating it is as simple as turning a knob and stomping a switch. For traveling guitarists that only need a handful of essential effects, and don't want to deal with the pitfalls of a pedalboard, the Fly Rig 5 is perfect. Throw it in your guitar case and get on the plane!