

As seen in



TECH 21 Double Drive 3X



Ever since introducing the SansAmp in 1989, Tech 21 has continued to innovate in the field of guitar effects, direct recording solutions, and amplification. Rather than release tired copy after tired copy of established standard effects, the company thrives on offering something new and unique with their products; the Double Drive 3x pedal is no exception.

FEATURES

Built like a tank, the Double Drive 3x is about twice the size of an average overdrive pedal. The pedal houses three footswitches and six knobs: Drive A, Drive A/B, Bass, Mid, Treble, and Level. The switches are cleverly set on an angle, and the three-way EQ section is active, with unity gain achieved at the 12 o'clock position.

The Double Drive 3x is a three-channel programmable pedal with an all-analog signal path. You can store three different presets and recall them at any time by stepping on the appropriate footswitch. What makes this pedal unique is that you can dial in different voicings by blending or using separately the Drive A and Drive A/B knobs. These refer to Class A and Class A/B amps, respectively, and using either one alone simulates those types of tonal characteristics. However, when they are blended, a cascading gain is achieved, allowing for a near limitless range of tones.

SOUND AND EASE OF USE

The pedal is capable of way more gain than I had originally expected. The drive controls are extremely sensitive, as is the EQ, allowing for precise gain settings. Drive A produced thick, creamy sounds a bit more saturated in mids, whereas Drive A/B hollowed it out a bit more with a crisp trebly bite and full bass. I found favorite settings by blending the two, which resulted in a full-bodied tone that appealed to me at both quiet and loud volumes.

With this kind of versatility, you'll have no trouble finding three favorite tones to fill up the presets. At that point, you'll just have to wait for Tech 21 to double it up to six! —CHAD JOHNSON **GE**

IN A NUTSHELL

- 3 programmable channels
- Drive A, Drive A/B, 3-way active EQ, and Level controls
- Use Drive A or Drive A/B separately or together for cascading gain
- Ships with three factory pre-sets: British Overdrive, California Overdrive, and California Lead
- 9V battery (not included) or optional DC power supply

List Price: \$215
tech21nyc.com



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