

DIGITECH

HarmonyMan

This amazing pitch shifter pedal from DigiTech adds spot-on harmonies. All you need to do is strum...



Words: Tim Slater

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SRP £249.00

All prices incl VAT

CONTACT:

Sound Technology

T: 01462 480000

W: www.digitech.com

WHAT IS IT?

An intelligent pitch shifter pedal.

WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

The HarmonyMan tracks chords and generates dead-accurate harmonies without the player needing to understand the essential rudiments of musical theory. All you need is a bit of patience and you'll be rewarded with great sounding one and two part harmonies.

The DigiTech HarmonyMan is a pitch shifting pedal that is purpose built for generating complex multiple guitar harmonies. American FX giants DigiTech have become something of a market leader in harmonizer technology during the past few years, mostly thanks to their amazing Vocalist Live series pedals that interface with a strummed rhythm guitar to generate stunning vocal harmonies. By utilizing exactly the same technology the HarmonyMan pedal negates the need for even a rudimentary knowledge of music theory and harmony (although this skill is

always useful if you want to become a fully rounded musician, of course), DigiTech has given guitarists the tools to play dead-accurate multiple harmony parts straight off the bat.

The HarmonyMan analyzes a chord progression played through it by the guitarist and works out sympathetic harmony parts that the guitarist can then trigger at will by activating the Harmony footswitch. The chord recognition technology contained within the pedal is real cutting edge stuff and uses a proprietary system that is exclusive to DigiTech, called MusiQ. The MusiQ function, which is selected

by a push button on the control panel, tracks the chords as they are played into the HarmonyMan and instantly calculates the appropriate harmony parts. Scaled-based harmony parts can also be keyed in manually with the MusiQ disengaged, with the relevant key displayed to help the player monitor the harmony status. The HarmonyMan generates up to two separate harmony parts and pitch shifting modes, which are selected by a pair of independent rotary selectors. Both voices are monitored by individual status windows on the control panel and the HarmonyMan offers two different types of intelligent harmony modes (triad-centered and scale-based), plus you also get chromatic intervals (these are fixed and don't automatically compliment chord changes) and a useful range of detuned modes. The impressive range of tuning and harmony variations includes third and fifth harmonies above or below the

This pedal is an awesome tool that tracks beautifully and sounds incredibly natural...



▶ original pitch, plus single and two octaves above and below, unison (for ADT type effects), 12 semi-tone pitch shifts up and down, plus four detune options.

While the MusIQ takes the guess

typically battleship-like build-quality. Unlike so many of today's effects units, which are Chinese-made, the HarmonyMan is still manufactured in America. It's probably just

complex and involve a standard jack input which is linked to a pair of effects loop send and returns. That let the HarmonyMan interface with an external distortion pedal. The HarmonyMan is a very sophisticated

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work out of working out harmonies by doing it automatically, harmony parts can also be assigned manually by strumming a chord while holding down the Memory Select footswitch. The HarmonyMan stores up to a maximum of four different harmony settings and having recently played some gigs with the HarmonyMan pedal on my pedalboard, the practical element of being able to store different harmony parts or a mixture of harmony parts and a chorus patch for different songs speaks for itself. However, be aware that the Memory Select switch scrolls through the stored patches in a set order, so it is probably useful to know in advance the order of songs that you intend to use with the Harmonizer, or else if you miss one or get them in the wrong order you have to scroll through the whole sequence to find the right patch. It's no biggie but in the heat of battle it's easy to make a mistake so it's best to be prepared.

The left hand footswitch switches the harmony on and off and with the effects disengaged the HarmonyMan operates in true bypass. Holding the on/off pedal down for a fraction longer activates the onboard tuner function, with the target note displayed in the Voice 1 window and a row of LEDs monitors whether the note is sharp or flat.

In the Red

The HarmonyMan reflects DigiTech's

sense the pride that has gone into the making of this thing; it just feels so solid and 'right'.

The large twin pedal design is fractionally larger than two compact pedals joined together but it is nevertheless quite a tall unit that has

and sensitive piece of equipment that requires a clean input signal from your guitar in order for the harmonizer to track properly and the distortion send and returns let you hook up your favourite dirt box and add some grind to the harmonies

sidechain loop also feeds a clean (unaffected) signal back out to the rhythm player's amp, so there is no need for the accompanist to worry about compromising their tone. We tried this during a live gig and it while it involves a bit of care to make sure that you don't foul each other's feet with trailing leads it is nevertheless entirely possible for two guitar players to use the HarmonyMan simultaneously. The potential for this is obviously huge but even if you opt to use it alone, this harmonizer pedal is an awesome tool that tracks beautifully and sounds incredibly natural. You can't fault the sounds from the HarmonyMan in any way, really; the chorus sounds lush and fruity and the way that the harmonies track is incredible. Using the second voice to add an extra harmony part whilst building up a solo sound amazing and if you play in a covers band and have to cover multiple guitar parts by yourself, you simply have to get one of these. Period. It has the potential to elevate the sound of your band and your playing to an incredible degree while leaving even casual listeners in awe. Bear in mind that despite the sophistication there is still an element of confusion while familiarizing yourself with the functions but it does most of the work for you and simply requires a normal period of familiarisation. It is still a lot of money for what is



a real physical presence about it. Attached to your pedalboard there's no way that you'll miss it! The rear panel contains a total of seven heavy-duty steel jack sockets including stereo outputs (the left jack functioning as a mono only output). The inputs are more

when required. The connections also include optional input and output jacks for the sidechain, which lets a rhythm guitarist feed their separate signal into the HarmonyMan so that the pedal can track the rhythm chords and generate accurate harmonies for the lead guitarist. The

essentially a device that you will probably only use two or three times during the course of a set but if you are a real perfectionist when it comes to accurately reproducing harmony parts from much-loved classic tracks, the outlay is probably well justified. **PM**

You definitely sense the pride that has gone into the HarmonyMan; it just feels so solid and "right" ...