Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Ricey** » 08 Feb 2014, 20:45

What is the best reasonably priced rotating speaker emulator? I know that most people seem to think the H&K Tube Rotosphere is the most realistic, but it is far too expensive (and too big). Similiarly, the Strymon Lex is supposed to also be great, but far too expensive (and digital). I have heard good things about the Tech 21 Rotochoir, BBE Soul Vibe and Dunlop Rotovibe but would like opinions about these or any others that I may have missed. The new Pigtronix Rototron looks interesting as well, but a bit more expensive than the Tech 21, BBE or Dunlop. I would prefer analog, but I do use some digital effects (DD-3, Hardwire RV-7) in my regular chain, so I would not rule out digital units. The one digital unit that I am familiar with (Hardwire TR-7) seems to be a bit exaggerated or over the top for my taste. I already have a Boss CE-2, PH-1r and BF-2 as well as EVH Phase 90 and EVH Flanger. Would a rotary speaker simulator be redundant?

Ricey

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Pepe** » 08 Feb 2014, 22:25

It won't be redundant at all! My organ doesn't sound the same if I use a phaser instead of a rotary simulator. These are worlds apart. I'm *extremely* happy with the BOSS RT-20. Give it a try!

Pepe

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Mully** » 08 Feb 2014, 23:24

get a cheap Farfisa Organ.... they have a cool rotating Styrofoam-Sound-projector that rotates in front of the speaker.....
rip it out of the organ and place it in front of your guitar speaker.... voilá

like this:

Mully

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Boogieman** » 09 Feb 2014, 05:59

Many years ago, I had a brown Korg G4 Leslie simulator that I quite liked. Not sure if they are easy to find in the used market, though.

Boogieman

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Mully** » 09 Feb 2014, 12:27

those cheap plastic Korg thingies are quite pricey on the second hand market though.....

Mully

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Pepe** » 09 Feb 2014, 13:54

Yes, the G4 is in the 130-200€ price range.

Pepe

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Ricey** » 11 Feb 2014, 19:02

That's a pretty cool idea Mully!

Ricey

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **DarrinPA** » 13 Feb 2014, 08:11

> *Ricey wrote:*
> *Would a rotary speaker simulator be redundant?*

As others have already stated, no it's not. I felt the same way, I always wanted something more than just chorus, phase, flange, ect because those sounds are good but they never stirred my soul. Once I got a rotary sim, I found my sound. I have cheap Behringer RM600 and it's good, much better than any Youtube vid lead me to believe. I know it's not going to be as good as the pedals you've listed but the "leslie sound" is great even if it's from a cheap pedal.

I was given an old Leslie unit which I intend to modify for use with a guitar, buy I couldn't see myself ever lugging it to show. Those things are so heavey. I can't wait to get it working so I can see how pitiful my behringer sounds compared to the real thing.

DarrinPA

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Ricey** » 13 Feb 2014, 19:41

A real Leslie...LUCKY!

Ricey

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **zombiwoof** » 13 Feb 2014, 19:49

The Leslie company has had a Leslie sim pedal out for a while, not cheap but it has all the bells and whistles (emulates 4 different models of Leslies, including the Fender Vibratone, lots of settings, has ramping settings, etc.).
Not cheap at around $400, but I hear they have a smaller guitar-oriented version coming out soon.
Pigtronix has a new one called the Rototron, which also has a lot of features, not sure what it costs but it looks interesting.
The Ventilator is the hot one lately, but it also is expensive.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Dirk** » 13 Feb 2014, 20:27

Pigtronix rototron demo:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwL7QctowM4

Dirk

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **DarrinPA** » 14 Feb 2014, 01:43

I can't tell if the pedal sounds bad or if it's just his playing. I'm sure he's a good guitarist but the chords he is using aren't the best for this type of pedal.

DarrinPA

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **zombiwoof** » 14 Feb 2014, 19:18

The problem is that a pedal like this has so many settings, the guy is just quickly changing a few variables and hitting some chords for the most part. I'd like to hear it tweaked so that it approximates the Leslie sound that Clapton and George Harrison got on the "Let it Be" solo, or "In the Presence of the Lord", or "Nantucket Sleighride" by Mountain. The right distorted guitar sound is also necessary to get those sounds, so it would take a while messing with the settings to really tell how the Rototron sounds. If it can get those sounds, and maybe the Fender Vibratone sound (like SRV), I think I'd like it.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Mully** » 21 Feb 2014, 08:09

I'm thinking about getting this DIY "kit"

http://kleinanzeigen.ebay.de/anzeigen/s ... ref=search
http://kleinanzeigen.ebay.de/anzeigen/s ... ref=search

Mully

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Dirk** » 21 Feb 2014, 17:38

Please elaborate on explaining us simple mortals how that would work?

Dirk

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Mully** » 21 Feb 2014, 18:02

I would simply use the flywheel from the sewing table to make the styrofoam rotor turn via a simple fan belt and put a small speaker on top of the table right behind the spinning styrofoam

Mully

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Dirk** » 22 Feb 2014, 10:38

I see, that might work.

Dirk

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Franzoni** » 04 Mar 2014, 19:51

I picked up a Yamaha Magicstomp on the cheap recently to replace a couple of rack units i had been using including the Dynacord CLS-22 which is a great unit for Leslie type things....the chorus on the magicstomp sounds really good for Leslie IMO and much better than the Line 6 stuff i had been using since the Dynacord gave up the ghost.....plus you have some really cool delays and other effects as well... the phaser is also very nice as is the tremolo.....the fact it's so small and fits on my pedalboard is a big plus and has scaled my rig back considerably...

If i had the wedge to spend and was still in the humour for lugging lots of gear around i'd probably stretch for something like the Motion Sound SRV cab that doubles up as a real rotating speaker cab...it even has built in mic's for hooking it up at gigs....

http://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/SRV212/

Franzoni

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Ricey** » 29 Mar 2014, 20:17

How about a Univibe? Dunlop has a couple of versions out right now-the MXR Univibe and the Dunlop Rotovibe. The demos I have heard sound pretty good! Does anybody know how a Univibe works? I have seen the Univibe described as a "simple 4 stage optical phase shifter". This confuses me because the Univibe has two modes-chorus and vibrato that both involve delayed pitch shifted sounds. I have a Boss PH-1r and a Phase 90 that are both 4-stage phase shifters and neither has any pitch shifting or delayed sounds. They are more af a swirling phase cancellation based sound-definitley not chorus or vibrato. How does the Univibe achieve chorus and vibrato if it is a "simple 4-stage optical phase shifter"? The Univibe sound clips I have heard sound much more Leslie-like than my phase shifters.

Ricey

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Pepe** » 29 Mar 2014, 20:24

If you want to use it with an organ, the UniVibe doesn't nail the Leslie sound. The RT-20 is fantastic! And in a very nice price range. It has a nice UniVibe mode as well (but I don't know how close it is to the original UniVibe).

Pepe

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **fenderjapan** » 04 May 2014, 21:20

For an affordable but nice Rotary sim, the Alesis Nanoverb 2 has a rotary mode. Under $100.

fenderjapan

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Ricey** » 05 May 2014, 16:21

That Nanoverb is a cool little package for only $80!

Ricey

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **zombiwoof** » 05 May 2014, 16:42

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *If you want to use it with an organ, the UniVibe doesn't nail the Leslie sound. The RT-20 is fantastic! And in a very nice price range. It has a nice UniVibe mode as well (but I don't know how close it is to the original UniVibe).*

The original Univibe was an attempt to get the Leslie or rotary speaker sound in a small package, for keyboards. It fell a little short of that goal, but was adopted by guitar players who liked the sound (like Jimi Hendrix, that's the first use of it for guitar that I am aware of). It is, as this post says, not a great Leslie simulator, but it was intended to be back in the early days.

Al

zombiwoof

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **Dirk** » 05 May 2014, 18:11

Besides the point that it doesn't resemble a leslie, it's hard to imagine Hendrix's music *without* the univibe, he totally made it part of his signature sounds, along with the wah, fuzz and octavia.

I've owned the original Nanoverb, but I can't remember if it even had a leslie sim, in fact I can't remember much about it at all, it's been that long since I've sold it...

Dirk

Re: Best Leslie Simulator?

by **fenderjapan** » 10 May 2014, 06:50

> *Ricey wrote:*
> *That Nanoverb is a cool little package for only $80!*

Agreed. I mainly use it when I need reverb in an amp that has an FX loop but no reverb. But the Leslie sim is fun to play with.

fenderjapan