Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 12 Aug 2016, 17:25

Reviews seems pretty favourable - this would be for basement/garage work, mostly looking to quickly hit Eb, and C tunings, and I guess, if we are being honest here, to goof around a full octave down pretending to be a bass.

It's also orange, I like orange.

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Mosher Zone** » 12 Aug 2016, 20:25

I thought it was red.

From reviews & vids i've watched it seems pretty cool but get's muddier the further you go down, rivals are the EH Pitch Fork which is more versatile.

Mosher Zone

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **BearBoy** » 13 Aug 2016, 08:45

I was looking into getting either the Drop or Pitchfork at one point. The Pitchfork is more versatile but if you just want drop tuning then I thought the Drop sounded better and apparently has less latency.

I thought this guy's review was useful:

http://sixstringsamurai.co.nz/2015/03/2 ... -fork-off/

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FG1WJVMYE2o

BearBoy

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 13 Aug 2016, 14:56

Mosher Zone wrote:

> *I thought it was red.*
>
> *From reviews & vids i've watched it seems pretty cool but get's muddier the further you go down, rivals are the EH Pitch Fork which is more versatile.*

Maybe light red then? The joys of being colour blind..

From what I've read, the Pitch Fork is more versatile, but that comes as a trade off in tracking and latency compared to the Drop. Not sure, obviously, how noticeable that would be (I feel like my brain already has a decent amount of latency

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 13 Aug 2016, 15:15

> *BearBoy wrote:*
> *I was looking into getting either the Drop or Pitchfork at one point. The Pitchfork is more versatile but if you just want drop tuning then I thought the Drop sounded better and apparently has less latency.*
>
> *I thought this guy's review was useful:*
>
> *http://sixstringsamurai.co.nz/2015/03/2 ... -fork-off/*
>
> *https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FG1WJVMYE2o*

Those were some quality links - thanks!

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Mosher Zone** » 13 Aug 2016, 18:04

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *Maybe light red then? The joys of being colour blind..*
>
> *From what I've read, the Pitch Fork is more versatile, but that comes as a trade off in tracking and latency compared to the Drop. Not sure, obviously, how noticeable that would be (I feel like my brain already has a decent amount of latency*

Mosher Zone

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 13 Aug 2016, 20:45

Picked up the Drop, will give it a try tonight. The one at the store was missing the included power supply (looked like it went for a walk), so they threw in a Godlyke Power-All 2 amp adapter - compared to the power supply that came with my Digitech Trio, it's slightly better quality, so a win in the end. The pedal draws 250 mA (so more than 2 watts), so it definitely needs its own power supply more or less.

And yes, it's red, not really orange. That's OK though.

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **BearBoy** » 13 Aug 2016, 22:48

Will be interested to know what you think about it

BearBoy

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 19 Aug 2016, 03:07

Got around to using this last night. I'm very impressed - it worked better than I expected, even having seen the Youtube demos. Everything every review says is accurate. Down to about the fourth semitone, the tracking is awesome, and I was unable to perceive any latency. It blows my mind that you can do bends and it tracks properly.

I played around a fair bit with 12 bar blues rhythms, using full chords, and switching between using the pedal to drop to Eb, or simulating it by simply moving everything down a half step with my hands (which is not quite an exact comparison, I guess, but that is being really picky), and it's not really noticeably different - the tone comes through intact. If there's a difference, it's nothing you'd notice (OK, listening with my eyes, maybe it's just a *tiny* bit duller). In the name of science, I threw the pedal on the strobe tuner (TurboTuner) and it's bang on. Tune up in standard, you're in tune dropped.

The 1 octave down mode is interesting - could the pedal let you sub for a bass? No, I don't think so. Could it work for two or three amateur hour guitarists in a garage, who would only know how to handle a bass line by tracking the chord progression's root notes only, and have never really played with a bassist anyways? (am I the only one that simpleton?) Probably yeah. You definitely don't want to play chords in octave down mode; it's muddy and flubby and just weird sounding. I found you probably don't want to use a pick either - there's something in the harmonics the pick attack generates that sounds weird. I was able to just detect the latency in octave down - but it's not terrible. It was fun switching to simple thumb plucking on simple single note lines - I think it would be fun in an informal garage setting for just goofing around, if only to fill out the bottom end with some somewhat indistinct bass.

On a side note, it was interesting to use octave down through my '59 Bassman RI, since it was originally designed for bass - bands must have been quite a bit quieter in '59, because man, playing notes that low at any kind of volume shows how little power the '59 Bassman has (35 watts). I was in the basement, playing on 6, and I doubt I woke anyone upstairs up.

Final note - it sounds funny playing quiet, to hear your unamplified strings playing out of tune with your amp. You definitely want to bring the volume up enough that you aren't listening (or aren't focused on) that, because it's

genuinely odd sounding.

Summary? Does what I wanted, and performs above expectations. Downside? I feel like it could be a bit cheaper, but I say that ignorant of how much goes into making this thing work, maybe it's justified.

I feel lucky, the last three pedals I've bought have generally lived up to my package-tracking expectations when they've arrived!

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Gasgano** » 19 Aug 2016, 21:10

> *sclitheroe wrote:*
> *I feel lucky, the last three pedals I've bought have generally lived up to my package-tracking expectations when they've arrived!*

"Package-tracking expectations". You, Sir, win the Internets today. I nearly pissed myself 😊

Gasgano

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Guga Ramone** » 20 Aug 2016, 02:39

Great review, sclitheroe. Thank you!

BTW, anyone tried it with a bass guitar? In one of my bands, we tune down to D, so I was expecting to plug my standard tuned bass and use the pedal to donwtune and avoid the flubby strings.

This pedal caught my attention when it was released, but it took some time to arrive here in Brazil and yes, it's expensive! I'll keep my eye on the classifieds, as soon as one shows up on a decent price, I'll try to grab it.

Guga Ramone

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Dirk** » 20 Aug 2016, 13:41

You might be better off with a Hipshot detuner, and just rearrange those songs for dropped D tuning, which should be quite managable on bass.

Then at least you know it's in tune, it's cheaper and it will always work.
I've been using them for the past 13 years or so and I highly recommend them.

Dirk

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **sclitheroe** » 20 Aug 2016, 18:29

Digitech specifically advertises it as being for both guitar and bass, so I would assume it works well enough, subject to the same limitations - you want a well tuned and intonated instrument, and you want to feed it a clean signal, and it probably works best on bass dropping up to 4 semitones, same as guitar.

This video might help:
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ2L6PFhXh8

They note in the comments that fret noise in particular is an issue - basically the same thing I observed with pick attack/noise - it can trip it up a bit. It's worth noting that when it trips, it corrects quickly. It sounds like a clam note more than anything.

sclitheroe

Re: Anyone tried the Digitech Drop?

by **Guga Ramone** » 20 Aug 2016, 22:30

Dirk, I'd prefer the pedal because there are other songs I want to play, that are tuned to Eb, drop C, so the pedal would help.

sclitheroe, that video really helped. The tracking might be an issue because light touch isn't for me and I LOVE the little fret buzz I got from my bass. It adds a lot to the overall sound and make the bass stand out a little bit in the sea of distortion our guitarist uses. Maybe these tracking issues won't be noticed when the whole band is going on...

Thanks for all the help, guys!

Guga Ramone