



MXR M309 JOSHUA AMBIENT ECHO

Ambient soundscapes and practical delays in one box



£269

AT A GLANCE

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Delay pedal

FEATURES: True or Buffered (Trails) bypass, 50ms to 1000ms delay time, tap tempo, stereo output, adjustable low pass filter in the delay feedback

CONTROLS: Delay, Mod, Voice, Regen, Division, Mix, Echo 2 switch, Trails switch, CTR mode switch, Bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard TRS output, CTR input

POWER: Supplied 9V DC adaptor 250mA

DIMENSIONS: 64(w) x 110(d) x 50 mm (h)

The Joshua Ambient Echo serves up a tasty melange of multitap delays, reverb, modulation and octaves. Straightforward to use on the surface, it has extended versatility via easily-accessed secondary parameters.

Default operation is mono in/mono out but you can have stereo output or separate dry and wet outputs. The bypass footswitch doubles as a tap tempo switch and a rotary switch selects a rhythmic value for the repeats from a straight quarter note, dotted eighth note, eighth note, eighth note triplet and a double delay with an eighth note and dotted eighth. Double delay is actually possible for every setting as a dedicated button adds a second repeat – set by default as a quarter

note but adjustable to a range of other values.

What all this gives you is a massive range of different multitap delays and plenty of opportunity to get some The Edge-style rhythms going if that's your thing. On top of that, you've a knob for adding floaty atmospheric modulation and a 'Voice' knob that adds in a mix of upper and lower octaves that can really enrich your trail of repeats and even mix in keyboard pad sounds. Reverb with adjustable decay and wet/dry mix cloaks it all with a real sense of space.

With all this sonic capability, the pedal is crying out for user memories that are not possible in its pedalboard-friendly chassis – maybe something for the future, MXR? You can, however,

add an expression pedal and set up completely different sounds at heel and toe positions.

Spacey textural soundscapes ooze effortlessly from the pedal and it is the perfect tool for rhythmic tempo-synced repeat patterns, but it is equally adept at the sort of bread and butter 50ms to one-second delays that guitarists have been using for years, with repeats that are voiced out of the box to sit sweetly with guitar tone, extra dark/bright EQ adjustment being available if desired.

If a compact delay pedal is on your shopping list and you still haven't found what you're looking for, you seriously need to check the Joshua out.

Trevor Curwen

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★	★
	PERFORMANCE	★	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL	★	★	★	★	★	★

SPACEY TEXTURAL SOUNDS
OOZE EFFORTLESSLY OUT