

ROUND-UP

Dunlop pedals

Two 'board-friendly treadle pedals designed alongside Pedaltrain

Words Trevor Curwen **Photography** Olly Curtis

Full-sized treadle pedals such as an original Cry Baby can take up a lot of space on your 'board, but then again some compact versions are sometimes a bit too small. Somewhere between those two extremes sits this new pair from Dunlop, designed in collaboration with Pedaltrain and crafted to fit perfectly with its Metro and other popular ranges

of pedalboards, but also totally suited to anyone who wishes to optimise their underfoot space. At just 20cm (eight inches) in length, these are indeed compact, and while they might still have a similar width to a standard Cry Baby, the implementation of front- rather than side-mounted socketry saves on that crucial left/right space.



CBJ95 Cry Baby Junior Wah £119

This dinky version of the popular wah will save you about 5cm (two inches) in its footprint, but it still feels right as there remains plenty of space to plant your size nines and you really won't miss that extra length. The front end of the treadle moves vertically the same distance as its larger sibling, so the nuances of controlling the sweep are still intact. Switching/bypass is by the tried-and-tested switch under the toe, and a bright white LED at the rear end lets you know when the pedal is active.

Tonally, you get three voicing options courtesy of a three-way switch on the side of the pedal. The H setting offers the sound of a modern Cry Baby such as the GCB95. It has a wide frequency range with more top-end at the toe-down position than the others. The M setting is more in keeping with a vintage wah sound, focusing on the midrange with a less of that aggressive treble bite. The L setting delivers a darker experience with coverage slightly lower down the frequency range, with an expressive vocal quality. The three add a real versatility to what was always going to be a practical package anyway. **G**

VERDICT All the functionality of a well-sorted Cry Baby in a very practical footprint for pedalboards



DVP5 Volume (X) 8 £119

The X8 offers Volume mode control alongside Expression mode parameter tweaks. While there's provision to tighten or loosen things up with an Allen key, the smooth treadle action courtesy of Dunlop's patented Low Friction Band-Drive feels just right and will sit exactly where you leave it. A curved rear end to the chassis and a complementary recess on the treadle delivers a wide range of travel, so there's plenty of scope for subtlety in your volume or parameter changes.

As a volume pedal, it works well for instant muting, rolling things back to clean up a dirty amp or swelling to a violin-like attack for your note. There's a separate jack to connect your tuner, so you keep that clear of the main signal chain, plus you can tune silently with a heel-down treadle position. Expression use requires a TRS cable, and you can set the maximum and minimum values by the usual method of setting the toe value then the heel. However, there's also an internal pot (accessed via the four-screw baseplate) that can set the minimum value. An internal polarity switch lets you reverse the heel/toe action for maximum value at the heel-down position. **G**

VERDICT We're talking serious utility with this diminutive charmer – it's a shoo-in for any 'board!

Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Wah pedal

FEATURES: True hardwire bypass, LED, flat rubber base, plastic hinged battery access panel on the base, 3 voicing options, adjustable torque clutch

CONTROLS: Treadle, Bypass (toe down), 3-position voice switch

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output

POWER: 9V battery or 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) 3 mA

DIMENSIONS: 100 (w) x 202 (d) x 68mm (h)



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Tech Spec

ORIGIN: USA

TYPE: Volume and expression pedal

FEATURES: Flat rubber base, adjustable torque clutch

CONTROLS: Treadle, internal

CONNECTIONS: Standard input, standard output, EXP, tuner

POWER: Passive

DIMENSIONS: 100 (w) x 96 (d) x 64mm (h)

8/10

