

## FIRST PLAY



### ELECTRO-HARMONIX POG3 \$599

**WHAT IS IT?** A polyphonic octave generator for a variety of pitch-shifted effects





# Pitch Perfect

Updated and enhanced, this latest version of the POG expands its pitch-shifting and tone-shaping possibilities

Words Trevor Curwen Photography Phil Barker

1. Each red LED glows brighter as its slider is pushed up. The light will blink if a slider is moved after a preset has been loaded, to indicate the value no longer matches that of the preset
2. Use the footswitches to scroll through and load presets. Press and hold for a faster scroll or press the first two together to deactivate the current preset and go back to Live mode (physical knob positions)
3. The Focus button toggles between the original POG algorithm and a Pitch Fork-style algorithm for the +1 and +2 octave voices. This allows Whammy-style pitch bends and freeze effects via an expression pedal
4. The Navcoder knob is situated at the top-right corner of the unit and navigates menus, parameters and presets, and adjusts settings. It has three actions: rotation, centre-press and four-way directional pad

**E**lectro-Harmonix seemed to hit the ground running in 2005 when it released the first version of its Polyphonic Octave Generator, which offered several octave voices with solid tracking. Since then, there have been plenty of different POG versions and several related spin-offs including two HOG pedals and the '9' series that emulate the sounds of various keyboard instruments. And now we have the ultimate expression (to date) of it in the POG3.

The new pedal has a much more upmarket feel than its predecessor, sporting three footswitches and red LEDs on each slider. But it offers more than just a facelift as there's an extra slider to add in a +5th voice, 100 onboard presets, and an enhanced effects section with individual dry effect routing and expression control over almost every parameter. The POG3 generates extra voices one and two octaves up, and one and two voices down (plus that new 5th voice). Each has its own dedicated slider so they can be blended with or without the dry sound, which also has its own (Dry) slider.

A variety of treatments can be applied to the generated voices – and optionally to the dry sound – via three more sliders and three knobs. The treatments are to set the Attack time for a fade-in, to adjust a Filter for tonal options or synth flavours, and to apply Detune for a spacious chorus/doubling effect. You also get individual pan knobs for each voice slider if you use the stereo outputs.

There's great tracking here and instant access to the practical use of straight octaves, such as getting bass sounds from a standard guitar and faux 12-string (or even 18-string!) sounds. Beyond those are realistic organ sounds and plenty more that's traditionally the province of a keyboard player.

10 factory presets will get you started, but operation is straightforward, making it easy to conjure up ethereal and otherworldly sounds that are crying out to be fed into ambient reverb/delay. For real-time performance options, you can add an expression pedal for Whammy-style pitch bends, and control of the filter for wah, synth sweeps and more.

## Verdict

If you like what a POG does, you'll love this! Taking things to a new level, this is sonic wizardry at its finest for those looking to get creative with sound. **G**



## ELECTRO-HARMONIX POG3 POLYPHONIC OCTAVE GENERATOR

**PRICE:** £599

**ORIGIN:** USA

**TYPE:** Polyphonic Octave Generator pedal

**FEATURES:** Buffered bypass, 100 presets, mono or stereo output, 6 separate voices, 6 expression modes, direct output for input signal, comprehensive MIDI capability

**CONTROLS:** Navcoder, Master Volume, Input Gain, 6x Pan knobs, Dry, -2, -1, +5th, +1, +2, Attack, Filter, Detune, Q, Env, Spread, 3x Dry buttons, Left button, Right button, Direct button, Exp button, Focus button, Preset down footswitch, Preset up footswitch, Bypass footswitch

**CONNECTIONS:** Standard input, standard outputs (L & R), standard Direct Out, EXP/CV In, MIDI In, MIDI Out, USB

**POWER:** 9V DC adaptor (supplied) 300mA

**DIMENSIONS:** 180 (w) x 148 (d) x 67mm (h)

Electro-Harmonix  
[www.ehx.com](http://www.ehx.com)



## THE RIVALS

If you like the idea of the POG but can't stretch to a POG3, EHX has some less expensive options: the POG2 (£319) is still available; check out the small-format Micro POG (£189), Nano POG (£179) and Pico POG (£197); and the Soul POG (£315) combines the effect with overdrive. EHX also has various other pedals that do pitch shifting, including the Pitch Fork+ (£177). If the idea of dropping more than £500 on a pedal doesn't phase you, there's always Eventide's H9 Max (£529) with 45 different algorithms providing a host of classy effects, including plenty of pitch shifting.



**PROS** A comprehensive reimaging of the POG; solid tracking; easy hands-on operation; presets; red LEDs; added 5th voice; external control options; direct output

**CONS** EHX pedals are generally quite affordable, but you'll need deep pockets for this one