



ROUND-UP: FLANGER PEDALS

Love it or hate it, the flanging effect is here to stay. Let your tone take flight with

one of these gems...



BOSS BF-3 FLANGER
PRICE: £107.28
CONTACT: Roland UK
01792 702701
www.roland.co.uk

Filling the boots of the venerable Boss BF-2 was surely a daunting proposition, but the BF-3 has held its own for a number of years now. This multi-moded flanger sports the same purple chassis as its predecessor but adds a number of interesting features. The usual resonance, depth, rate and manual controls – the latter sets the centre frequency of the flange effect – are all present and are accompanied by a four-way mode knob. This allows access to both standard and ‘ultra’ flanging sounds, as well as a gated flanging effect for some choppy tones or, when the pedal is used in stereo, a flange that pans left and right for a spacious, swirling effect. In all of these modes, you can also set the rate by tapping the footswitch. Meanwhile, the momentary mode allows you to trigger the effect only when the footswitch is held down.

BEST FOR...
Reliable, flexible flanging

A/DA FLANGER REISSUE
PRICE: £219.99 (inc delivery)
CONTACT: Andertons Music
01483 456777
www.adaamps.com

If there were a flanging holy grail, then the A/DA Flanger would be it, and luckily the original has been reissued in all its glory. The pedal's chassis is the same oversized block it was back in the day, and sports threshold, manual, range, speed and enhance controls, as well as a switch that lets you select whether you want to emphasise your signal's even or odd harmonics. Quality components are used throughout, including original Panasonic BBD chips, and the dodgy bypass of the original has been replaced with a true-bypass footswitch. The A/DA Flanger's real speciality is the extremity to which each of its controls can travel – these go well beyond what almost all other effects are capable of, and in combination can provide a huge number of vastly different tones. It's big, it's bulky, but there's nothing else out there quite like it.

BEST FOR...
Vintage-style flanger tones



IBANEZ AF2 AIRPLANE FLANGER
PRICE: £135
CONTACT: Headstock Distribution
0121 508 6666
www.ibanez.com

Designed in collaboration with guitar whizz Paul Gilbert, the Ibanez AF2 is certainly an interesting pedal. Based roughly on the A/DA blueprint, according to Gilbert, this pedal has controls for manual, range and enhance, as well as separate speed controls for the pedal's two channels – ‘Taxi’ and ‘Takeoff’. The first of these is your regular flanger effect with all those lush analogue tones just waiting to be dialled in, while the second maxes everything out for a truly huge and unique wash of sound. This produces a sort of dive-bomb effect when you switch between the two channels – cool for colouring your solos. The tones available are of a high quality, and that kooky purple enclosure will look right at home among even the poshest pedals on your pedalboard. If you like flanged sounds from both the subtle and aggressive ends of the spectrum, then this might well be the pedal for you.

BEST FOR...
Extreme analogue flange

LINE 6 MS10 LIQUA-FLANGE
PRICE: £54
CONTACT: Line 6 UK
01327 302 700
www.line6.com

If you want a pedal with lots of options, digital effects are the only way to go, and Line 6 certainly knows a thing or two about those. Regular speed, feedback, depth and time controls are joined by a model switch for digital- or analogue-style sounds, as well as a modulated ‘Liquid’ option. Meanwhile, there is also the option to select either a negative or positive phase for the delayed signal, producing drastically varying results. Finally, the 11-way wave selector allows you to select a wide variety of different effects, including classic flanging, flangers with envelope filters and low-frequency oscillators, and more. You can even input the tempo by tapping the footswitch lightly. It's not the quietest pedal on the market, but there are a huge number of tones to be had here.

BEST FOR...
A huge variety of flanged sounds



MXR M152 MICRO FLANGER
PRICE: £119
CONTACT: JHS & Co Ltd
0113 2865 381
www.jimdunlop.com

The original MXR M117 was one of the flangers to have back in its heyday. However, the problem with many of the flangers of old, such as the A/DA, is that they're all very big and hence difficult to mount to a pedalboard. Thankfully, MXR has seen fit to shrink its classic M117 Flanger down to a more manageable size. While it might not have the same number of features or sounds as its older brother, it can certainly give you a flavour of those legendary tones, and all in a compact, Phase 90-sized box. With just rate and regen controls, the Micro Flanger is gloriously simple, not to mention the fact that it is true-bypass and sports a completely analogue circuit path, plus some of that MXR mojo to boot. Perfect if a basic flanging sound is all that is required, but you want it to be as authentic as possible.

BEST FOR...
A compact and classic flanger

ELECTRO-HARMONIX DELUXE ELECTRIC MISTRESS
PRICE: Around £90
CONTACT: www.ehx.com

Along with the original A/DA and MXR flangers, the Deluxe Electric Mistress is a true classic of the effects world, and it's not hard to see why. Housed in the large sheet metal enclosure Electro-Harmonix has been using for years, the Deluxe Electric Mistress isn't small, but it is very easy to use. Just three knobs are available, which affect the rate, range and ‘colour’ of the effect. The only other control is the ‘filter matrix’ switch, which defeats the sweep of the flanger and lets you adjust its position manually for some really cool spaceship-like metallic sounds. Its size might be a bit of a nuisance (the more compact Stereo Electric Mistress does supply a similar, if much more simplified effect), but there is a good reason it has ended up on so many recordings over the years. An industry standard.

BEST FOR...
Classic flanging plus filter matrix



DIGITECH X-SERIES TURBO FLANGE
PRICE: £82
CONTACT: Sound Technology
01462 480000
www.digitech.com

Though some might disapprove of digital modelling, Digitech's X-Series has always been about quality, tone and reliability in equal measure, and the Turbo Flange is no exception. Simple speed, depth and regen controls work as you would expect, and are here joined by a mode selector which puts seven different flanging options at your fingertips.

The first three are variations on those classic flanging sounds, with something to suit every situation, be it a gentle sweep or a jet plane whoosh. Other options include the ability to trigger the effect from either the top or the bottom of its sweep, produce a square wave flanging effect or even a never-ending rising or falling flange sound. True stereo outputs are also included, and of course, the usual Digitech quality comes as standard.

BEST FOR...
Inexpensive flanging fun

HARTMAN ANALOG FLANGER
PRICE: \$289.99
CONTACT: www.hartmanelectronicstore.com

Theo Hartman is one of the best pedal builders around at the moment, and his new Analog Flanger has taken the tone-obsessed by storm. Based on the very first Electric Mistress (not the Deluxe version shown here, but the earlier ultra-rare model housed in a Big Muff-style enclosure with green lettering), this pedal offers up a much more natural, organic sound, and Hartman's improvements bring its already stellar tones straight into the modern age. Speed, depth and color controls are joined by a filter/flange switch, and it's all cased in a rather attractive red sparkle box – a very classy affair. True-bypass switching comes as standard, and high-quality components are used throughout. What's more, an internal trim pot allows you to give the pedal the more metallic sound often associated with the later Deluxe Mistress, should you want it. If you're a confirmed tone snob, you owe it to yourself to try this pedal.

BEST FOR...
Top-quality flanging sounds

