GIG-FX PRO CHOP

You want to get nuts? Well, if you're looking for insane stereo-tremolo effects, the Gig-FX Pro Chop is just what you've been waiting for. Oh yeah, and if you're a MIDI guy, the Pro Chop has you covered with an onboard MIDI

jack to sync up with a drum machine or sequencer. All of this potential sonic debauchery comes with a price, however, and that price is learning how to use the Pro Chop. This thing is deep, man. (Gig-FX's Chop-per pedal is a simpler,

stripped-down version, sans MIDI and the LCD.) The pedal sports an all-analog signal path with two independent oscillators—one on each side of the large onboard expression pedal. One provides a square wave (the Chop side), and the other produces a triangle wave (the Pan/Trem) side. You can use each side separately or together. There's also an LCD that tells you what's happening BPM-wise.

Even though it's a deep, feature-laden pedal, there is actually quite a bit of instant gratification—even when plugging in and running the Pro Chop in mono. Its raison d'être is definitely more modern tem sounds with ridiculous on/off textures, and the ability to speed up and slow down with the footpedal. There isn't any volume boost on the Pro Chop, but the levels stay loud enough to cut through a mix—even in some of the more extreme settings. However, running the Pro Chop in stereo is where the rubber meets the road. The amount of tones and effects you can get across the stereo spectrum is nothing short of astounding. Faux delays ping-pong back and forth between the amps, or slow, chewy pulses zig-zag in and out. The options boggle the mind. In fact, my mind started to boggle trying to figure the Pro Chop out! The manual isn't the easiest to grok, and I found myself stumbling around trying to repeat some of the amazing swirls I was conjuring to no avail. You can mess more traditional trem out of the Pro Chop if you need to, but that's not what it does best. If you're an experimental texturalist or a dance band guitarist linked to a click track, the Pro Chop will pay dividends big time. But it's also a blast to sit between two amps and get lost in its swirls. Bring your thinking cap, though.