

## Gig-FX MEGA Wah

BY KENNY RARDIN

At first I was skeptical about this pedal; what else could they do to the wah? There have been so many pedals of this type on the market since the original Vox Clyde McCoy and British Jen Wahs, all with different sweep ranges, intensities, and output levels that it's hard to keep them all straight. With that in mind, I plugged in and began to see what the Gig-FX could do that was different.

The first thing I checked out was the volume pedal function. The curve was great and volume swells were easy. The frequency response was clear and true to the original sound. The pedal is optically controlled, so there are no pots to worry about either. The surprise for me came with the fact that on full the output level seemed to be a bit higher than unity gain, so I could actually push the amp I was using into a bit more overdrive if desired. It's a cool feature, depending on your application.

Now on to the wah. Gig-FX says this pedal contains 6 wahs and a volume. These selections are for the most part selectable on the rotary switches, although I found out something cool and unexpected by hooking it up a bit differently – more on that in a minute.

The first wah sound was very reminis-

cent of the wah pedals we are used to; it can be used for funky sounds and Hendrix-like stuff. The “mega” sound was something quite different. It had a vastly extended sweep, especially on the low side, and could even produce vowel-like sounds with a bit of practice. The auto wah was like the basic envelope filter, only it was a bit more user friendly as far as the sensitivity control. The triggered wah was an automatic wah which could be adjusted by a speed control. I personally would have liked to see a bit more speed available on this control and I think users would agree. The reverse wah was nice and did pretty much what the name implies.

Now for the surprises; normally, you would plug into the input and out of the output, which is how I started, but a little experimentation brought some interesting results. First, if you are a single amp user, you can plug the output jack of the first wah to the input jack of the second and thus hook the two pedals up together. With this setting, sweeps could be made to go in contrasting directions and many very original sounds could be available such as the reverse and normal wah together. In the stereo



mode using two amps, I had wah sweeps opposite each other, and rotating vowel sounds. In short, I came up with quite an array of sounds that were pretty cool.

The pedal is pretty clean and the maker states that it is analog circuitry. It looks well made and an LED is provided for sweep rate. The bypass is not a true bypass in the normal way, but rather it is an electronic bypass with a high enough impedance circuit as to not effect tone when bypassed.

### The Bottom Line

All in all, a great pedal for special effects to spice up a track or add new sounds to a song. I don't think it should be your only wah pedal, as some of us still rely on the sound of the older models and this does not nail those dead on, but for the creative musician, the Gig-FX Mega Wah is highly recommended.

### Rating:

We'll bestow the silver M.



[www.gig-fx.com](http://www.gig-fx.com)

1050 Winter Street, Suite 1000

Waltham, MA 02451-1406

978-263-6432

MSRP \$299.00