

DOUBLE WHAMMY

Molten MIDI 2 programmable Whammy controller



* BY CHRIS GILL

THE DIGITECH WHAMMY pedal is one of the coolest stomp boxes ever, but a company called Molten Voltage has figured out a way to make it even cooler. The Molten MIDI 2 is a programmable MIDI controller for the latest version of the Whammy pedal (unofficially known as the Whammy IV) that produces a variety of pitch-shift arpeggio and step-sequence effects that a Whammy pedal can't produce on its own.

FEATURES

THE MOLTEN MIDI 2 connects to a DigiTech Whammy pedal with a single MIDI cable. It outputs MIDI clock, and users can create presets on a computer using a USB interface and programming software from Molten Voltage's web site. Two footswitches are located on the top surface: one is used to select presets or control tap tempo, and the other lets you start and stop the effect or step through individual pitch shift settings in a sequence. The knob located above the Start/Stop/Step footswitch also performs dual functions—either tempo or quick preset selection. The pedal is powered by an included nine-volt adapter and does not operate on batteries.

Five types of effects are available: Loop Portamento, Loop No Portamento, Step Portamento, Step No Portamento and "Different." Loop effects automatically play a sequence of up to 16 different notes, while Step

SPECS

LIST PRICE \$109.00
MANUFACTURER Molten Voltage, moltenvoltage.com
CONTROLS Tempo/Select knob
JACKS MIDI
FOOTSWITCHES Program/Tap, Start/Stop/Step
PRESETS 15
OTHER DC power adapter included, Programmer software available free via web site



THE MOLTEN MIDI 2 PRODUCES EFFECTS A WHAMMY PEDAL CAN'T PRODUCE ON ITS OWN.



effects scroll through each pitch-shift setting of a sequence individually when you engage the Step footswitch. Portamento causes pitch to slide up or down between each note, while No Portamento keeps pitch steady between steps. Selecting "Different" makes the MIDI 2 step through the Whammy pedal's settings each time the Step switch is pressed.

PERFORMANCE

ALTHOUGH THE MOLTEN MIDI 2 pedal has no numerical display, it uses the Whammy pedal's own LEDs to let you know which preset is selected. Using the effect in live performance takes a little forethought, but once you get the hang of it you can select and change presets in seconds. The synth-like sequencer effects greatly increase a Whammy pedal's versatility and provide unique 16-step patterns that even sophisticated pitch shifters like the Eventide Pitch Factor and DigiTech TimeBender can't duplicate. The sliding portamento effects are especially cool and worth the pedal's price on their own.

THE BOTTOM LINE

THE MOLTEN MIDI 2 is a versatile Whammy pedal "modification" that gives it new life and provides hours of creative inspiration. **SC**

+PRO	-CON
INEXPENSIVE • UNIQUE SYNTH-LIKE EFFECTS • PROGRAMMABLE	CHANGING PRESETS ONSTAGE CAN BE TRICKY

NEW EQ

WHAT'S NEW & COOL

MORLEY

MINI VOLUME AND MINI WAH

The Morley Mini Volume and Mini Wah are 6 3/4 inches long, 4 1/2 inches wide and only 2 3/4 inches high, making them perfect for already crowded pedal boards. Each features electro-optical circuitry, so there are no pots to wear out, as on typical wah and volume pedals. The Mini Wah has a wah on/off switch and wah level control and is designed for classic and vintage wah tones. The Morley Mini Volume is studio quiet and set for a smooth audio taper. Each pedal features a durable cold-rolled steel housing, LED indicators and an easy-access battery door.

STREET PRICES: Mini Volume, \$69.99; Mini Wah, \$79.99
 Morley, morleypedals.com



MARTIN GUITAR

SP LIFESPAN ACOUSTIC GUITAR STRINGS

The new Martin SP Lifespan acoustic guitar strings are treated with Cleartone proprietary technology that bring the longest possible string life without sacrificing tone or natural feel. Martin SP strings are designed to repel the oils and dirt that can deaden strings. SP Lifespan acoustic guitar strings come in either 92/8 Phosphor Bronze or 80/20 Bronze sets, and are available in custom light, light and medium gauges.

LIST PRICES: 80/20 Bronze, \$28.99; 92/8 Phosphor Bronze, \$30.99
 Martin Guitar, martinstrings.com

