



BEETRONICS WHOCTAHELL

£219

Put some buzz in your fuzz

Bucking the trend for increasingly small pedals in standard Hammond enclosures, the Beetronics Whoctahell comes in a sumptuous custom enclosure. The form factor is great, and the pedal is stylish and striking – even if it is heavy enough to use as a tank-trap. Beside the standard master volume, the Whoctahell also has dedicated controls for fuzz and octave, with the sub-octave effect kicked in via a dedicated footswitch.

The fuzz is woolly and perhaps more vintage overdrive-like in character until it is maxed out.

With some higher-output pickups, it's possible to get more saturation, but there's never Fuzz Face or Big Muff levels of fuzz on tap. Rather, the pedal seems to err on the side of a more vintage and low-gain voicing.

When people say '8-bit', they generally mean square wave, and a similar crushing effect is here in the lo-fi sub octave. Akin to the topology of noisemakers like the Tim Escobedo TMK, the octave summing is used to both generate an octave artefact and create increasingly glitched-out and poorly tracked notes, especially when the fuzz control is dimed.

The sub octave is switchable between one or two octaves down, though for our money the single octave down is a far more usable option. While the tracking of the sub frequencies is undoubtedly part of the charm of the pedal, when it's at the lower range of what a guitar amp is best equipped to handle in the two-octaves-down mode it tends to come out as more muddy and indistinct than exciting. Set it right, however, and there's some deliciously idiosyncratic sonic honey to be found here.

Alex Lynham

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Fuzz pedal
CONTROLS: Master volume, fuzz volume, octave volume, toggle switch for -1 or -2 oct, octave bypass footswitch
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
BYPASS: True bypass
POWER: 9V power supply only
CONTACT: FACE +323 844 6797 face.be

THERE'S SOME IDIOSYNCRATIC SONIC HONEY TO BE FOUND HERE

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★ ★ ★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★
	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★