

The pedal has four control knobs: level, model and control one and two. There are seven settings on the model control – from *Sunshine of Your Love* to *Reptile* or *Layla*

The Crossroads has two outputs: one for your guitar amplifier, the other for direct input to a mixing desk. You can use both for a stereo sound

£149

DIGITECH CROSSROADS ERIC CLAPTON SIGNATURE



The Crossroads is housed in DigiTech's bulletproof X-Series metal case. The pedal comes with a power supply included but will run on a battery too

A KICK-ASS PEDAL LOADED WITH THE CREAM OF CLAPTON'S TONES. ARMANI SUIT OPTIONAL... WORDS: ED MITCHELL

> Eric Clapton cured my insomnia...

We could argue till the bleedin' cows come home about whether Clapton still cuts the mustard. While many of you regard him as a boring old snooze who should've hung up his designer loafers years ago, others remember a time when he rocked. To them he is 'Old Slowhand,' Britain's greatest blues guitarist. Some crazy old hippies even call him God...

While TG wouldn't go quite that far, the fact remains that Eric played some killer guitar in the 1960s and 1970s with a tone that was to die for. And that's exactly what this new DigiTech Crossroads pedal promises us mere mortals: seven of Eric's greatest guitar sounds in one compact box.

Why should I care?

You don't have to be a Clapton fan to enjoy the sounds on offer here. Some of you will have already figured out that Eric used some kick-ass vintage gear to get his legendary tones. We're talking about a 1964 Gibson SG, a 1964 Gibson ES-335, a mega-bucks Gibson L-5 jazz guitar, a 1939 Martin 000-42 acoustic and 'Brownie,' his 1956 Fender Stratocaster. All that drool-inducing guitar porn and we haven't even mentioned the vintage Marshall and Fender amps that are modelled by this awesome pedal yet...

Acoustic guitar sound?

Imagine this: no matter what make or model of electric guitar you have in your gigbag, whether it be an entry-level Squier or a fancy pants PRS, it can now sound like a vintage Martin 000-42 – one of the greatest acoustic guitars ever made. How cool is that? For many players this accurate acoustic simulation (a killer tool for live work) will make the Crossroads pedal worth its £149 asking price alone.

This pedal has one of the greatest guitar tones of all time – the original recording of Layla by Derek and The Dominoes

What other sounds does it have?

The Martin acoustic sound was taken from Eric's *MTV Unplugged* rendition of *Layla*. And that's the format here, with each of the seven tones on the Crossroads modelled on a particular song from Eric's back catalogue.

Position one is the Cream classic, *Sunshine of Your Love*. This setting nails Eric's legendary 1960s 'woman tone' setup of Gibson SG, Marshall amp and wah pedal. Next up is the live *Crossroads* tone. That's a Gibson ES-335 and a Marshall stack set to stun. Position three is a perfect recreation of the swirling Leslie cabinet sound from *Badge*, the best simulation we've ever heard.

What's next? Only one of the greatest guitar tones of all time – the original 1970 recording of *Layla* by Derek and The Dominoes. Eric used his 1956 Strat, 'Brownie,' through a Fender Champ amp on *Layla*, and once again DigiTech has done its homework and reproduced his tone perfectly.

The three remaining sounds on the Crossroads are taken from Eric's later work. Apart from the Martin acoustic already mentioned, you'll get his country rock sound from 1977's *Lay Down Sally*, and the beautiful Gibson L-5 jazz tone from his 2001 album *Reptile*. That's most of his greatest tones!

What do you mean?

Well, we were surprised to see that DigiTech hasn't included Eric's awesome Bluesbreaker tone – the holy grail of British electric blues guitar. Its inclusion would have made a lot of guitarists very happy and it feels like an opportunity missed. We would have happily

WHO'S IT FOR?

Eric lovers; any guitarist looking for some killer vintage sounds

INFORMATION

ORIGIN: USA
SOUNDS: Tones modelled on, in order on selector switch: *Sunshine of Your Love*; *Crossroads*; *Badge*; *Layla*; *Lay Down Sally*; *Layla* acoustic and *Reptile*
CONTROLS: Level, model selection, twin parameter controls; control one adjusts distortion, overdrive and body amount (for acoustic setting); control two adjusts tone, rotary speaker speed and the reverb level
SOCKETS: Guitar input, power supply input, amplifier output and mixer output
POWER: Power adaptor supplied; also runs on single PP3 battery
CONTACT: Sound Technology 01462 480000
WEB: www.digitech.com

ALTERNATIVELY

You'll need a Gibson SG, Gibson ES-335, a Fender Stratocaster, a Gibson L-5 and a Martin 000-42 acoustic. Don't forget a Marshall stack, a bunch of Fender combos and a hand-made Cornell amplifier. That should do it, we think...

ON THE CD

TRACK 63
 Listen to Jason Sidwell nail Eric's tone, and style, on *Lizard Charlie's Sunshine Blues*.

sacrificed the *Lay Down Sally* setting – not one of Eric's finest moments, in our opinion – for some of his 1960s raw blues power.

I don't want to sound like someone else, not even Clapton!

You don't have to. DigiTech has included some welcome flexibility with the Crossroads. The pedal has four control knobs: level, model and control one and two. Level is just volume by another name and model selects each of the seven onboard tones. Controls one and two, when set at 12 o'clock, give you Eric's tones. Twisting them up or down from that centre position allows you to alter various parameters like overdrive level or amount of reverb. This extra control means non-Clapton fans can enjoy this pedal too.

Is it worth the money then?

Without a doubt. While the absence of the Bluesbreaker sound is disappointing, there's still enough great sounds on the Crossroads to justify the pedal's price tag. The acoustic guitar and rotating speaker simulations alone make it superb value for money.

We also like the fact that you can tailor the sounds on the Crossroads to suit your own taste, making this a must-try pedal for every guitarist. Add to that the rugged build, neat carrying case and included power supply and you've got a real bargain on your hands. In fact, when you consider many of the guitars modelled by this pedal recently sold at a charity auction for more than a million quid collectively, £149 has to make the Crossroads the sale of the century.

FOR: Accurate range of vintage tones; superb value for money; great tonal flexibility
AGAINST: What? No Bluesbreaker setting?!

TG RATING:

