

# JAM PEDALS

## Delay Llama Xtreme

By Dave Hunter



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In simpler times, delay pedals lived in a world split by the analog-digital divide. On one side, there was the warm, dark, vintage-y flavor of analog. On the other, the clean, sometimes complex, multi-functional potential of digital. These days, however, digital control blurs the delineations between these worlds, and pedals like the Delay Llama Xtreme, reviewed here, make the most of the reduced barriers between sweet analog tone and digital's capacity for effect manipulation.

Extrapolating from the delectably rich analog foundation of the original Delay Llama, the Delay Llama Xtreme adds a boatload of functionality—including tap tempo with three subdivisions, and effects including vibrato, tape age, random delay times, and pitch shift (which even delivers a 5-mode sequencer). There's also an increase in maximum delay capability from 600 ms to 800 ms, user-created presets, a hold-oscillation function, and more.

### Triple Trio

The analog heart beating inside the Xtreme's 5.8" x 4.8" x 1.5" enclosure is made up of three 3205 BBD chips. And the core of the Delay Llama Xtreme's functions remains the three conventional and familiar knobs the original Delay Llama uses for delay time, repeats, and level. But below these controls lurks a trio of mini-toggle switches. "TRLS" (or "trails") retains the delay trails when the pedal is switched off and activates buffered bypass. You can switch to true bypass in the lower position, which, of course, also lops off delay trails when the pedal is disengaged. "KD" or "kill dry" mutes the dry signal as it passes through the circuit, delivering processed signal exclusively only at the pedal's output. The tap-divisions switch creates quarter-note, eighth-note, and dotted-eighth divisions of your tap-tempo selection.

The three non-latching footswitches along the bottom of the pedal serve varied roles. The



leftmost is a simple bypass. The center switch enables selection of the presets. It also enables selections from the four extreme modes—vibrato, tape-age, random, and pitch-shift—when used with the "alt" push-button just to the right of the footswitch. The rightmost footswitch is for controlling the tap tempo, but also engages the self-oscillation function when you press and hold.

An abundance of connectivity options further underscores the versatility of the Delay Llama Xtreme. Standard in and out jacks allow mono connection only. But while the lack of stereo output will be limiting to a small percentage of players, the three additional side-panel jacks enable expression pedal control of delay time, remote preset selection, and remote tap tempo, which open up many other expressive possibilities. Internal trimmers, meanwhile, enable alterations to the maximum repeats and the maximum decay of trails.

### Repeat Performance

Given the plethora of functions available, it would be near impossible to explore every possibility in a review of this length. (Thankfully, the excellent owner's manual is thorough and concise.) But by pairing the Delay Llama with a selection of guitars and amps as well as a Fractal