

# BRIDGE OF FLOYD

## Jam Pedals RetroVibe

In a civilized world, every guitarist would have a bit of Robin Trower, Pink Floyd, and Band Of Gypsies shimmer in their musical vocabulary. Fitting, then, that a company headquartered in Greece—cradle of Western civilization—has taken it upon itself to help guitarists reach such lofty heights.

Jam Pedals' RetroVibe produces succulent old-school flavor thanks in part to its new-old-stock (NOS) 2SC828 transistors and carbon-comp resistors—the same used in the 1969 Uni-Vibe. Jam added an internal trim pot so the user can dial-in maximum intensity without sacrificing character.

Inside, four photocells surrounding a pulsating light source offer cork-sniffing Uni-Vibe aficionados the experience of a thick chorus/vibrato effect in all its swirling oceanic beauty. Manipulating the Speed knob slows it down to deep-sea effects and speeds up to a rapid-fire warble as you progress to higher settings.

Price: \$329  
Info: [www.jampedals.com](http://www.jampedals.com)

The only other controls are a Depth knob to manipulate the pulsating intensity of the throb and a toggle that moves from Chorus to Vibrato. The RetroVibe also has an expression pedal input to allow for smoother on-the-fly tweaking of the speed.

Running on a 9-volt adapter and wired true-bypass, the RetroVibe is sturdy, has a cool paint job, and doesn't take up a lot of space. On the Chorus side, with the control knobs set at 12 o'clock, you're immersed in watery realm with all the nuances of hallucinatory Trower and the Floyd's "Breathe." Judicious tweaking offers tone that can be fattened with smidgeons of warble on



the Vibrato side, and fast Leslie-speaker impersonations.

While it'll recall some truly iconic rock sounds, the RetroVibe is more than a one-dimensional impersonator. Dig in and you'll find a gateway to a diverse palette of chorusing and tremolo effects. — **Oscar Jordan**

# ROTARY CLUB

## Billionaire by Danelectro Big Spender

In this day and age, there's a lot of spin going down, but perhaps not enough of the right type. Enter the new Billionaire line of affordable effects from Danelectro, including the Big Spender spinning-speaker simulator. It's spin control in all the best ways.

Leslie speaker cabs are big and bulky, while Univox Uni-Vibes cost big bucks. The Big Spender counters all of that with its small size, simple controls, and alluring price point.

The effect is housed in a sweet and stylish die-cast casing that's light and solid. Its two-tone color scheme harkens to '50s cars—and early rock and roll.

At its simplest, you really only need to bother with the two footswitches. "Effect" turns the box on or offers full bypass; "Ramp" increases the "speed" of the spinning-speaker simulation. Click it once to light up the green LED and evoke luscious slow-speed revolutions; hit it again to accelerate to the red zone. The Speed dial offers further fine control over each range.

Volume dials in output, while Treble

Price: \$79  
Info: [www.billionairetone.com](http://www.billionairetone.com)

boosts the top end for increasingly sparkling and chimey sounds. It's all that simple.

The slower, green-lit speeds gave enough spin simulation to make chords and double-stops sound lush and lustrous. Red tightened the sound nicely, offering Memphis R&B and Motown tones. But speed it up too much while also turning up the effect's volume and you'll get some background oscillation.

You can dial in SRV Texas blues tones, Allman Brothers-like warmth

and mesmerizing rhythm, or sweeping David Gilmour wet sounds that can send you to outer space. The Big Spender responds especially well to slower, more articulated playing of chords and double-stops, adding depth and richness. If you're looking to join the rotary club on a budget, this is great place to start. — **Michael Dregni VG**

