

Jim Dunlop JHF1 Jimi Hendrix Fuzz Face £179

The spirit of '69 harnessed in a stompbox? by Chris Vinnicombe



Fuzz Face: it's also been spotted in the skies above Nevada

JIMI'S USE OF the Dallas Arbiter Fuzz Face is well documented, and that pedal is probably second only to the Tube Screamer in terms of the sheer quantity of boutique imitations it has spawned. In developing this new unit, Dunlop examined numerous vintage units. The JHF1 generates dirt via a silicon BC108 transistor – a more stable option than

germanium and consistent with the Fuzz Faces that were being manufactured in late 1969-70. Vintage authenticity means that there is no provision for mains power, nor an LED indicator, and battery access involves removing the pedal's base plate. Inside, the hand-wired brown circuit board looks the part, but it would have been nice to see some sort of clip to stop the nine-volt battery rattling around.

SOUNDS: On plugging in, we cannot resist the temptation to crank both the volume and fuzz controls right up and unleash some mayhem. And what a sound! It's easy to forget just how much fun a thick, raucous fuzz tone like this can be; everything is filthier and more exciting with the pedal engaged. Rolling back the guitar's volume control it's surprisingly easy to clean things up, and experimentation with the level of fuzz dialled in yields appealing crunchy

JIM DUNLOP JHF1	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ WE LIKED Lush range of meaty and organic fuzz tones; attractive vintage stylings</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED Some may find it a little prehistoric, and expensive</p>	

rhythm. We like the JHF1 best with single-coil pickups, just expect there to be a fair bit of extraneous noise.

Verdict

Some players will find the whole experience somewhat bewildering due to the distinctly old-school nature of the unit, but its lack of bells and whistles is extremely liberating. Turn on, turn up and rock out!

Guitarist RATING

