



### EARTHQUAKER DEVICES ERUPTOR

Controls: Bias knob  
Price: \$145



## Controlled explosion

Don't judge the EQD Erupter by its cover



BY BLAKE WRIGHT

THE IDEA OF the perfect fuzz is likely going to mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people — Silicon versus germanium. Splatty versus creamy. Tearing velcro versus a hornet's nest... that's on fire, and so on. So when EarthQuaker Devices started touting their new single knob Erupter as the 'perfect fuzz' it seemed like a boast it couldn't possibly live up to. Of course, when it comes to EQD, the only person the pedal truly has to please is company top man and circuit chef Jamie Stillman. In fact, the Erupter is Stillman's embodiment of the perfect fuzz.

The idea for the Erupter can actually be traced back several years, when Stillman was on a personal quest for 'the' fuzz tone. He wanted the pedal to be simple, and to play well with others. A

tall order for most fuzzes. He also wanted it to have a big low end without being too mushy and biting top end without being too harsh. After two years of swapping transistors, measuring resistors, adding controls, removing controls and trying capacitors with different values, the sound in Stillman's head emerged. At the core of the Erupter is a silicon Fuzz Face circuit, but the single control — Bias — means it is going to be a different experience than most. Volume and Fuzz have been fixed at max.

The Bias control plus your guitar's volume knob brings the Erupter's full scope into view. Spitting, gated fuzz resides left to noon on the Bias control. Dead center is perfect bias. Right of noon is where the fuzz is more defined. The Erupter also has a buff-

ered front end to feed it the signal it needs for strong highs and tight lows... and allows it to be used anywhere in your signal chain.

Plugged in, I found the broken tones of The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion at around nine o'clock. Noon on the Bias knob gives you some classic Fuzz Face tones with more bottom end support than usual. As the Bias is maxed, controlled mayhem ensues. One thing to know about the Erupter. It is a loud pedal. Much louder than unity, so don't be startled when you first engage it.

Exploration might seem like a menial task on a pedal with one knob, but do some anyway. Between it, your guitar's volume and where it lands in your chain you are going to be confronted by different results. I dunno if the Erupter is perfect, but it is a heck of a lot of fun! 🎸