



## A paradigm shift

The **Red Panda Raster** is a **gift** that keeps on giving

WITH THE emphasis on pomp and flash place on most goods we consume these days, whether off of store shelves or on our televisions and/or internet, the appearance of a rugged appliance that is a bit utilitarian in form, but simply other-worldly in function sweeps through my glitz-weary consciousness like a breath of fresh air. That's not to say that the products that spring from the mind of Curt Malouin and the team at Red Panda Lab are not attractive, but much of what makes them so is the sheer range, depth and expressiveness of each offering, and not necessarily the paint job or knob selection.

The latest to emerge from the Lab

is the Raster -- a digital delay with a pitch shifter integrated into the feedback loop. The control set is simple and intuitive. The pedal sports knobs for Shift, FDBK (Feedback), Delay and Blend (all wet to all dry), and has two mini-toggles that go between three independent settings for Feedback (reverse repeats, repeats shifted, first repeat shifted) and Shift (transpose by semitones, detune and phase shifter). There are two footswitches on the Raster -- one is bypass, the other engages the shift effect. The input/output jacks are top-mounted and straddle an input for an expression pedal that can be used to control shift parameters.

Like all Red Panda pedals, there is no battery option for the Raster. It requires a 9V DC center negative power supply.


Operations of the Raster can be summed up with one thought: The longer you spend with it, the more of its capabilities you'll unlock. If you're looking for a great sounding, clean digital delay, it can do that... up to 750ms, but it has so much more to offer. Plugged into the Raster and exploring the Shift function, you can get an octave down with the effect engaged and the Shift knob rolled full left, and an octave up with the knob rolled full right. The knob's on-the-fly response can take you

to some interesting places, as can the addition of an expression pedal. Toggling between the three Shift settings, you'll find ring mod clang and drone on the Pitch Shift setting. With smaller shifts you can achieve a chorus-like delay. You can also work the Raster into self-oscillation for more sci-fi-flavored soundscapes.

One favorite effect was the reverse delay achieved by setting the Feedback toggle to reverse with the Shift disabled and setting for longer delays. Short delays settings offer a choppy tremolo effect.

At \$249, the Raster is as affordable (or more in some cases) than the comparable feature-rich digital delays currently on the market. If you find yourself on the prowl for delay and pitch effects, you'd be well served checking out this very cool pedal before dropping what would very likely be more money on two separate effects.

The Raster invites the player to explore its layers. A few discovery sessions with the pedal and you will gain a fast respect of all it has to offer -- from clean delay to organ tones... and the waves of digital mayhem in between -- and without the feeling of falling down the rabbit hole.

Wonders abound inside this unassuming white box. The Raster is an inspiration. 



PHOTOS: JOSH SEATON



#### RED PANDA LAB RASTER

Controls: Shift, FDBK, Delay and Blend knobs, three-way mini-toggles for Feedback and Shift  
Dimensions: W: 3.25" x D: 4.35" x H: 2.5"  
Weight: 11.5 oz.  
Price: \$249

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(Black Label Society, Crowbar)

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