

J ROCKETT ARCHER £149

Let's shoo the elephant from the room right away. The Archer overdrive is very clearly inspired by Klon's fabled Centaur, created by Bill Finnegan back in 1994. Even its name is an open nod to that lineage, alluding to the Centaur-shaped constellation Sagittarius, which is also known as The Archer. No, neither did we. No matter, designer Chris Van Tassel has done a stunning job of evoking the now-discontinued Centaur's sound and tonal character: as you'd expect, it's somewhere between a boost and conventional drive with plenty of clarity and headroom, and he's reproduced it here in a small-footprint package.

Recent times have seen quite a few Klon clones, if you will, break cover – including EHX's inexpensive Soul Food – but the detail, warmth and fast transient response of the much-hyped original Centaur is particularly well rendered here and for a reasonable outlay. It's the kind of pedal many will use as an always-on boost as often as they will a full-bore drive. It gives a gentle mid-push, but doesn't completely mask the natural voice of your guitar. It's also worth checking out J Rockett's excellent Chicken Soup drive.

www.rockettpedals.com

