

### 1 TAP TEMPO

THE SP-7's on/off footswitch doubles as a tap control. Use it live to set the pedal's modulation speed to your band's tempo

### 2 CASING

LIKE the rest of the HardWire range, the SP-7 Stereo Phaser is designed to take a good seeing to at gigs and rehearsals



### 3 EFFECTS

THIS stompbox comes with seven phaser modes, from 60s psychedelia to modes controlled by the dynamics of what you're playing

### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Multi-stage stereo phaser pedal  
**EFFECTS:** Two, four, six and 10 stage phase with Envelope and Dynamic phase modes  
**CONTROLS:** Speed, depth, modify, type, dual effect on/off and tap tempo footswitch  
**SOCKETS:** Mono and stereo inputs, mono and stereo outputs  
**POWER:** 9V battery, optional PSU  
**CONTACT:** Sound Technology 01462 480000 hardwirepedals.com

# HARDWIRE SP-7 STEREO PHASER

£147

Here's every phaser sound you could ever possibly need. In one box



**WHEN** guitarists try to describe what a phaser pedal sounds like, they say 'swirling', 'swooshing' and, 'like a flanger but doesn't sound as much like a jet plane taking off'. Well, a phaser is the vital tonal ingredient in Eddie Van Halen's *Eruption*, country outlaw Waylon Jennings' Telecaster twang, and Brian May's huge tone on Queen belters, *We Will Rock You* and *We Are The Champions*. Now you're up to speed.

The new HardWire SP-7 multi-stage stereo phaser pedal has true bypass circuitry, a tap

tempo function and four knobs, three labelled Speed, Depth and Modify, and the fourth being used to select the type of effect. Funnily enough, Speed controls the rate of the phase effect and Depth alters its intensity. The multi-function Modify knob acts as a bias, feedback or sensitivity control depending on which type of phase you select.

Speaking of which, the more stages a phaser has, the greater the number of 'notches' in the frequency spectrum, resulting in a more intense swoosh to the phase sound. So 2 STG replicates a

vintage two-stage phaser – say, an old MXR Phase 45 – while 4 STG is a four-stage number such as the MXR Phase 90. Modern is a more intense four-stage job, Boutique is a six-stage phaser, and 10 STG is a vintage 10-stager. Envelope and Dynamic are triggered by the intensity of your playing.

We reckon the first two settings on the type knob will be the most often visited. That's because 2 STG offers a subtle effect, perfect for 60s obsessives and country players looking to colour clean tones, while 4 STG is the choice for a 70s Van Halen tone. The great thing with the SP-7 is that where Eddie had just one knob to play with, you have speed, depth and feedback controls at your disposal.

Something really cool happens to a phaser when you mix it with overdrive. Lead licks become thick and soupy, false harmonics thrillingly unpredictable. The Dynamic setting is a blast too. Crank the Speed, Depth and Modify knobs and hit a power chord. The phaser doesn't kick in until the chord begins to fade. It's a bit like *Baba O'Riley* by The Who. By the way, 10 STG is great if you

want an over-the-top watery-sounding phaser. The SP-7 has all angles covered.

The tap tempo function allows you to set the modulation speed of the SP-7 with a few stabs of your foot. It's great for live performance, naturally, but you can get freaky with it too. Try accelerating the speed at the climax of a solo. We did. It sounds great.

You're not going to use a phaser all the time, so spending a few sheets shy of £150 might seem like a lot to add some occasional tonal colour to your signal chain. Yet the SP-7 challenges the supremacy of a bee's kneecaps. Few pedals offer such a wide range of cracking vintage and modern phaser tones, with true bypass, delivered in an easy-to-use package. Trust us, this isn't just another phase you'll be going through.

Ed Mitchell



The HardWire SP-7 gives you the keys to the swirly gates

FEATURES	
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★