

# Using the Roger Mayer Octavia

Tips from players, for players

## **Tom H**

IMHO, there is only one setting for this effect - roll off the drive all the way and then turn it a hair to the left. Set volume to taste. Use your amp's distortion and your neck pickup and you are in Hendrix heaven- I'm talking the "Machine Gun" solo. Set the pedal once and then never touch it again. If you kick up the drive, you will get a very ratty, very noisy distortion and the octave effect will be less pronounced.

## **Joe (U.K.)**

The OCTAVIA sounds best if used with (your) bass pickup and even better with the treble rolled off. Sounds great overdriven or fuzzed up and you can really get those old Jimi tones out of it e.g. "WHO KNOWS", "PURPLE HAZE", "MACHINE GUN".

You can get 2 types of sounds from the OCTAVIA. With the volume control full on and the drive just off of zero you get a kind of ring-modulated tone like on "Purple Haze" and "Who Knows". If you turn the drive up full and set the volume low you get monstrous fuzz and the octave overtone isn't as noticeable. Either way it is a great pedal and adds a whole new dimension to soloing, but don't try to play chords except for power chords, they sound excellent.

## **Brian R**

Very easy to set up. Turn the gain to (a) barely -on position. Turn the volume control almost full up. Turn the tone control down on your guitar and play. Instant Hendrix -Ville. ... (The Octavia) does it the best I ever heard. It's great for those slow soloing lines. Adds a new dimension to your soloing. I use it in front of a TS 808 and a TS 9 Tube Screamer and into a Univibe.

## **Geoff**

Keep the distortion level just slightly on and the output level almost full up - instant SRV / Band of Gypsies tone.

I've used this with 10 different amps - works good with 'em all. It works best with a neck pickup (especially single coil) and the effect is best when you play between the 9th and 14th frets, around the middle of the neck, where the most overtones are produced. The cool thing to do is play root/fifth power chords - man, your dog will leave the room. It's a wicked sound that no (and I mean NO) other pedal can do. Roger's made this thing to be touch sensitive as well...you can get different sounds depending on how hard you pick.

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## **Marshall**

...Here's the beautiful part. If you put it in front of a good distortion pedal, or even if you use it with the amp's natural distortion, it wails. The bass in the distortion overrides the treble and all you hear is sweet upper octave bliss. Sounds just like KWS "Blue on Black" (he uses one). It does a perfect SRV mild octave, Jimi, KWS, and even Satch (listen to Crystal Planet). Amazing with other distortion (effects).

## **Kurt Stier**

I have a rather large pedal board (and) I had to put the Octavia either first or second after my wah. Tom Lanik built a switching pedal to reverse the order of the Octavia and whatever second gain pedal (is that) I use. I found that (the Octavia) would react totally differently with different guitars and especially different amps. Make sure you turn the effect down and the output up, use the neck pickup with the tone rolled way off for better tracking of the note. My Fender Deluxe Reverb likes single coils and not too many pedals in the chain and my boogie utilizes the effect enormously if I run a Wah, Octavia and Classic. The real magic happens when I use the boogie's lead channel. The octave becomes more distinct. Small setting changes will be the best trial method combined with lower effect settings. My '75 Strat likes the (Octavia) effect all the way off. It works (responds) off of your equipment.

## **Bill W**

I use the Octavia as the third device in my effects chain following a Vox chrome top Wah and a RM Axis Fuzz. I have 3 American Standard Strats and use a Fender Hot Rod Deville amp. I set the effect on the Octavia to about a third and I set the volume so that when I switch the Octavia on it doesn't sound like I turned up the volume on the amp.

I have had my Octavia about 5 years and always get a good sound out of it. It sounds best with the neck pickup selected and from the 12th fret on up. The sound can be affected by rolling the treble off on your Guitar and also by where you pick. If you pick close to the bridge you can get some of those cool sounds Hendrix made on "Who Knows". By picking close to the neck pickup I can get that sound that he gets in "Purple Haze". Hendrix sometimes used the Octavia in combination with his Fuzz and Wah to get some of the sounds he made. Hope this helps!

NOTE: Minor typographical, grammar and editing changes were made.

Tom Lanik  
North Star Audio  
1072 Kaumoku Street  
Honolulu HI 96825-1306

E-mail: [chiguy@earthlink.net](mailto:chiguy@earthlink.net)  
[www.rogermayerusa.com](http://www.rogermayerusa.com)  
808 395-0477 Office  
808 395-0142 FAX