



could then line up your next effect by inputting its location (say, U4/1) the new patch number would then flash in the display until you were ready to use it, when you would merely step on the appropriate pedal to bring it into play. If this sounds complicated, it isn't – it's a logical and very welcome performance-orientated feature. (Many of the presets have rather quaint names like 'Wild Train' or 'Woman Note' which give you a faint idea of what to expect.)

Often a multi-effects unit lets itself down in the programming department, but even here, the 2020 excels; the parameters of each effect are variable and so it is possible to alter the distortion sound from a mild overdrive to a full metal roar with just a tweak of the appropriate control; it's the same process for EQ, modulation and so on. Once you are satisfied with your modification, simply press 'store' and the LEDs begin to flash – press 'store' once again, the flashing increases in speed very dramatically and the patch is inserted into the unit's memory.

Along the way, it is possible to compare your programme with the original,

temporarily suspend the effect and switch back to your guitar's unaffected sound and even reinstate Zoom's user presets if you get fed up with your own and want to remember how good the ones were that you wrote over! These Zoom people have thought of practically everything...

Further fun with the 2020 is to be had by plugging in a couple of continuous controller pedals to the wah and volume inputs on the back. This gives you fully functioning wah-wah and volume pedals to add to the array of effects already on offer.

Conclusion

Zoom have long since established their reputation as purveyors of quality effects and I'm glad to say that the 2020 carries on that tradition. I really can't fault the 2020 – any minor gripes I may have had regarding the headphone output and the positioning of the 'bank' footswitch, were instantly forgotten when I started to play with the thing. But possibly the most amazing feature of the Zoom 2020 is its price – all this for under £250? Surely some mistake!

When I first heard the details about this unit and was invited to guess the price, I thought that £400 would not be unreasonable – but £249.95!

What can I say? A multi-effects unit that works with the minimum of fuss and maximum gig-friendliness – no hidden menus or MIDI muddles to confuse people, plus serious, good quality effects a-plenty. Resist at your peril!

SPEC CHECK

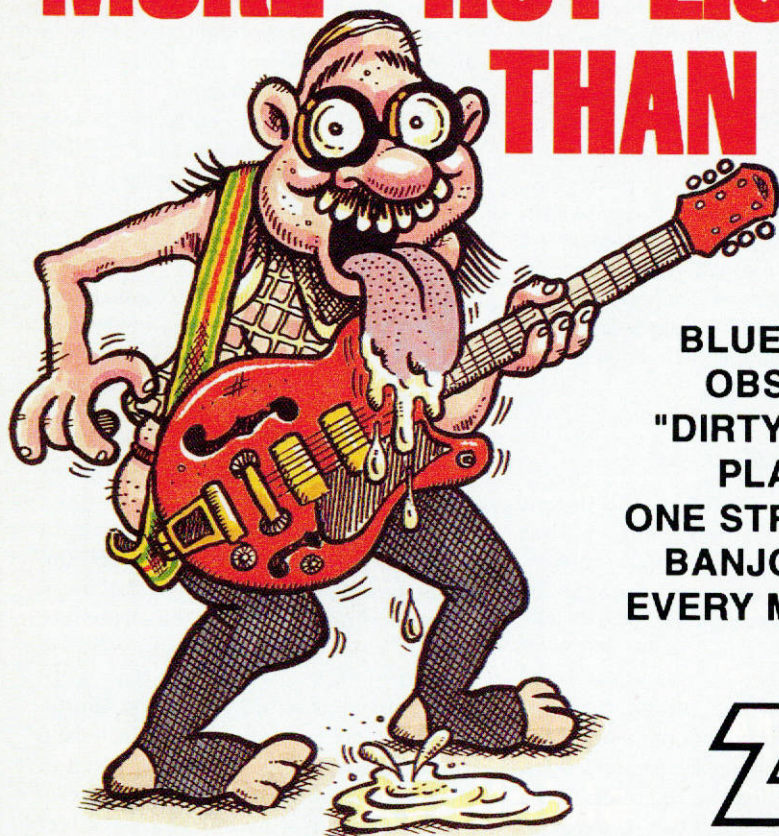
The Zoom Player 2020

Price: £249.95

Functions: multi-effects unit; 19 effects available, up to six simultaneously; 20 presets plus 20 user-programmable locations; stereo outputs, frequency-compensated recording output; one second delay

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