

DLS Effects Versa Vibe Review



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When I received the Versa Vibe by DLS Effects, I thought, "oh here we go, another one of many Univibe™ pedals". I unpacked the unit and was presently surprised that the Versa Vibe had controls I've never seen on any Univibe™ pedal.

Hum, ok they had my interest. There were new controls like Waveform, Wet/Dry and Bass Throb pots, in addition to the normal Rate, Depth and Volume pots. Two toggle switches easily set the effect for Modern or Vintage sound, with Chorus or Vibrato.

The instructions came with some easy settings to get started with. I set mine up to Modern & Chorus with the Waveform pot at minimum and the Wet/Dry at 3 o'clock. Then I plugged this pedal in. Wow! I instantly knew this was not your run of the mill vibe pedal! The words that came to mind were warm, lush, and exciting.

I had never seen a Bass Throb control on a vibe pedal and had to venture into this unfounded territory. I rolled the Bass Throb pot back and forth. Hallelujah, finally a Univibe™ pedal that doesn't bass swamp my sound unless I want it to.

Then I rotated the Waveform pot. Counter clockwise exhibited classic smooth vibes. As I rotated the Waveform clockwise, the vibes got more pronounced until it was almost Tremolo sounding near full.

Now I experimented with the Depth pot. The vibes got deeper going clockwise until I got that great double pulsed Hendrix sound past 3 o'clock. I thought, "this sound will do Jimi's "Machine Gun" or "Star Spangled Banner" proud for sure!"

The Wet/Dry pot made the vibes more liquid rotated toward Wet, and fatter & cleaner with a hint of pitch bend when rotated toward Dry.

Next I tried the Vintage setting. When I clicked the toggle to Vintage, the sound became even thicker, deeper and more liquid sounding. Per the diagram, I dialed in the Trower sound and was not disappointed.

I got that classic sound with no problem, with complete control over the bass throbs and vibe intensity. David Gilmour sounds were easy to get as well.

Turning the Rate up fast with the Depth near full made the Versa Vibe a pulsating bliss! The pulsating bass and throb sound mimicked a pulsating synthesizer. This made me want to play at the rhythm of the pulses and stoked my creative side.

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On to the Vibrato setting. The sound was still warm and rich, but with classic pitch bend vibrato. The pitch bend was more pronounced and deeper with the Wet/Dry pot rotated counter clockwise.

With the Wet/Dry pot toward Wet, the pitch bend added a hint of chorus blended in. This was a nice new twist to a classic Vibrato sound. Setting the toggle back to Modern made the sound brighter as advertised.

This pedal has plenty of head room due to an internal charge pump that increases the voltage to the all analog circuits. An expression pedal input allows control of the vibe Rate via foot.

The On/Off switch is true bypass for no tone suck worries. There are internal pots if you want to adjust the gain or brightness, although there was absolutely no need to change these according to my ear.

The Versa Vibe comes with a 9vdc transformer, plus can be powered using most pedal board supplies with any polarity jack. The Versa Vibe looks to be very road worthy using heavy gauge steel, with steel switches and jacks. The size is excellent for pedal boards, measuring only 5"L x 4"W x 2.5"H.

In summary, I would give the DLS Effects Versa Vibe a 9.6 out of 10. The only negative is that I had to turn the Depth up higher when the Rates were set very fast. Other than that, this pedal is a Univibe™ wonder.

I could tell how much I liked this pedal because I did not want to turn it off! I also went to the DLS Effects web site I saw some great reviews from musicians and artists like Alex Lifeson that confirm my findings.

Note: "Univibe™" is a registered trademark of the Dunlop Mfg.