



Vex Appeal

Z.VEX OOH-WAH, SUPER DUPER 2-IN-1 AND OCTANE 3 EFFECTS PEDALS.

Mention the Ooh-Wah, Super Duper 2-in-1 or Octane 3 in the wrong crowd and people will think you're talking about your adult video collection. But stompbox enthusiasts know these three names can only refer to the latest pedals concocted by mad scientist Zachary Vex for his Z.Vex line of effects stomp boxes.

Based in Minneapolis, Z.Vex makes "designer pedals" worthy of the title. Each of the company's innovative tone machines features true bypass circuitry, hand-built circuit boards and unique, hand-painted motifs. Best of all, Vex's meticulous attention to detail and homegrown building process ensure that no two Z.Vex pedals sound the same—or like anything else on the market, for that matter.

Consider the Ooh-Wah, a cross between a tremolo pedal and an analog synth-filter that can gurgle, burp and sputter like a bass player on Ecstasy. Less extreme but just as ingenious are the Super Duper 2-in-1, a clean boost pedal with a second-channel master volume for hefty overdrive, and the Octane 3, whose internal weaponry consists of germanium diode transistors for searing ring-modulation octave-up fuzz.

With list prices of \$400 for the Ooh-Wah and \$350 a piece for the Super Duper 2-in-1 and Octane 3, Vex's pedals can't exactly be had for a song. But considering what they'll do for your tone, you'll be singing their praises long after your credit card is paid off.

—Paul Riario