

ALEXANDER PEDALS RADICAL DELAY II PLUS

REVIEW BY **SAM HILL**
STREET PRICE **\$199.99**



Alexander's pedals are bold sonic devices built for sonic explorers looking to cover new tonal ground, and such is the case with the Radical Delay II Plus. Improving on the original design, this version features tap tempo with subdivisions and the ability to use an external tap switch, expression pedal, or both. Alexander makes a companion tap tempo switch, should you feel the need to match the pedal's unique design aesthetic. The RD II Plus is streamlined for your convenience, with Time,

Repeat, Mix, and Tweak knobs controlling the many different sounds available within. When you enter the pedal's tap tempo mode—either by holding down the bypass switch or using an external tap switch—the Time knob selects the tap tempo subdivision. Set it to the left for eighth notes, the middle for dotted eighths, and the right for quarter notes. This pedal does not self-oscillate, so you can max out the repeats without fear of blowing up your speaker—useful for creating a bed of strange delay on which your music can float. The Mix knob

gives you everything from subtle shades of delay to fully wet when all the way clockwise. However, the real fun comes from the Tweak knob, which adjusts different parameters for each delay mode.

The RD II Plus has three modes: Mod, Glitch, and Bend. Mod, as the name suggests, is a digital delay with varying degrees of modulation. With the Tweak knob fully counterclockwise, the modulation type is a fast vibrato. When turned fully clockwise, you get a slower chorus, and at noon, there is no

modulation. In Glitch mode, there is no effect with the Tweak knob fully counterclockwise, and as you turn it up, strange artifacts and warbles start to enter the signal. With Tweak set fully clockwise, the delayed signal is nearly unrecognizable, and it sounds like robots have taken over your tone. In Bend mode, your delayed signal shifts down in pitch when Tweak is set counterclockwise, and up in pitch when clockwise.

Mod mode is as close as you'll get to conventional delay sounds, and the sounds are very good, but you don't buy this pedal for standard delay sounds; you buy this to get weird. Glitch mode sounds awesome for bitcrusher-type sounds, and you can get those without the delay when you turn the time all the way down. My favorite mode, hands down, is Bend. In this mode I was able to dial in creepy, ascending lines that sounded like they belonged in a modern-day Nosferatu soundtrack.

Turning the Time down all the way gives you access to a whole different set of sounds for each mode. In Mod mode, you can get a nice chorus sound, and Glitch and Bend modes can get super weird. This pedal is weird in the best way. In fact, you could even call it radical.

The Radical Delay II Plus is a unique delay pedal that promises to reward the creative guitarist. The warps, wiggles, pitches, and glitches contained within will take your playing to a previously undiscovered dimension. If you only use delay for slapback and thickening classic rock solos, the RD II Plus probably isn't for you. But if you love to push yourself to your creative limits and are seeking inspiration, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more oddly beautiful musical tool. With the Radical Delay II Plus, the only limit is your imagination. Now get out there and make some crazy noises, you space cadet!

WHAT WE LIKE

Weird, wacky, and awesome delay sounds. Lots of creative inspiration. Superb build quality.

CONCERNS

Some of the sounds may not satisfy the delay purist.

