



Operations Manual

Spoiled by the various tube driven echo units we have around the shop, we wanted the Montavillian Echo to sound and feel just as BIG! So we went all out on the audiopath on this thing... We took painstaking efforts to make the dry sound and feel better when on than with the pedal bypassed. We decided that the corksniiffer OPA2134 Burr Brown opamp was the best sounding option to achieve this.

It is a "companderless" echo... This is a critically important part of the Montavillian Echo's character. So many companded echos have unattractive repeats, they sorta bubble, chirp, and become messy as the repeats get quieter... The effect ruins the illusion of SPACE and ambience. The Montavillian has no companding therefore the echos trail off almost forever over the horizon. The resulting echos function to provide a sonic soup, a bed of ambience to play over. The illusion of space and size that the Montavillian provides, makes it one of the few stompboxes I have that comes close to my big old tube echos.

Headroom and stacking abilities, often short comings of echos. We've run the Montavillian into all of our amps clean and cranked (Hiwatt, AC30, 5E3, Super Reverb, Blues Jr. etc.) we've also stacked it before our dirt pedals. We've even slammed it with numerous fuzzes and overdrives. The Montavillian handles it all with no effort. Should you need even more headroom the Montavillian can be run at 18V.

Layout Overview

repeats

The "REPEATS" knob feeds signal from the output of the delay line to the input. This control allows for a single repeat all the way to self oscillation.

time

The "TIME" knob allows for a wide range of delay times, ranging from around 60ms all the way up to over 600ms max time.

cut

The "CUT" knob is a really neat control that I haven't seen before on an echo. It's function is to sweep from about 400Hz to about 1500Hz, lowpass filter... When the knee sweeps to the high side it gives a nice little bump in the mids right before the subtle fall off. Tuning this knob allows you to sweep from old school BBD dark filtering to a clear repeat. It gives you the power to adjust your echoes so that they sit in the mix perfectly against your dry signal. This control also functions to EQ the tonality of self-oscillations.

mix

The "MIX" knob is traditional in the way it mixes into your dry path the amount of echo you want. What is not traditional the amount of boost it permits you to add... So many echo pedals out there can barely tune the repeat to unity with the gain. This is not at all the case with the Montavillian Echo! You can make your repeats much louder than the dry signal. This comes in really handy for short repeats for a dramatic doubling effect as well as self oscillation freakouts.



Power Interaction

When playing the Montavillian you'll notice that with the cut level down the repeats will self-oscillate fairly quickly (a little over noon). The Montavillian does this to allow the echo to still self-oscillate even with the cut all the way up, which has a higher threshold in order to do so. You will also notice that this threshold will shift whether you are running the Montavillian at 9v or 18v. At 18v you will have added headroom, which also means a higher threshold before self-oscillation. This change in power will also slightly effect the mix function of the Montavillian. While at 9v, the unity for the mix is around noon, but will be higher when running at 18v.