

**DLA**

ADD some delay here with tempo set by the knob, or by tapping the footswitch – the drift knob dials in modulation for a vintage tape echo vibe

SANSAMP

THE SansAmp provides great-sounding amp simulation from clean to driven, with three-band EQ and adjustable reverb designed to reproduce vintage spring ambience

PLEXI

KICK in the Plexi section for Marshall-style overdriven rock tones – the footswitchable Hot mode offers up to 21dB of preamp gain, too

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Multi-effects/amp simulation pedal

CONTROLS: DLA: Level, repeats, drift, time; SansAmp: Level, reverb, high, mid, low, drive; Plexi: Level, tone, drive, hot

SOCKETS: Input, output, power

BYPASS: Buffered (analogue dry-through)

POWER: 12V power supply (included)

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TECH 21 FLY RIG 5 £299

A complete rig in pedalboard form

ON occasion, we all begrudge having to tote a heavy amp, speakers and pedals to a gig or practice, and travelling with just a guitar case has its advantages, especially if you have space and weight restrictions in your chosen mode of transport or you have to dodge the late-night drunks on the number 10 bus.

We all build our own sound around a carefully chosen combination of guitar, pedals and amp, and given the opportunity, it's that combination we'd be travelling with and using for every gig. However, there may be times when it's not possible: there are venues that don't have enough space to accommodate large rigs, gigs where all the bands are expected to use the same – potentially terrible – backline, support gigs where the headliner can't or won't give you enough room to set up adequately... Are you getting the picture? Tech 21

understands our needs, and it's come up with what might be the ideal solution.

The Fly Rig 5 puts a complete sonic arsenal in a five-footswitch pedalboard that covers a complete signal chain – comprising amp simulation, distortion, boost, reverb and delay with tap tempo –

The Fly Rig 5 puts a complete sonic arsenal in a pedalboard

and slips into your guitar case or gigbag. It's light, measures a mere 300x70mm, and is powered by an included 12-volt adaptor that auto-switches for worldwide voltages. You can either run straight into a PA for a complete amp and effects signal, or plug into an unfamiliar amp and employ sounds that you can trust. At the heart of the Fly Rig 5 is Tech 21's

classic SansAmp amp simulator, in this case set up with a clean tone not unlike a Fender, but with additional tonal options, simulated spring reverb and a drive knob, which means it can function as a dirty amp or work perfectly well as a switchable overdrive if you don't need amp simulation. In front, you

get the Plexi section, based on Tech 21's Hot-Rod Plexi and offering not just chunky Marshall-style distortion but also a switchable boost (up to 21dB) that can be used independently for boosting the Plexi, SansAmp or your own amp. Finally, the DLA section offers a tasty simulated tape echo, with tap tempo and adjustable modulation, which covers most

basic ambience needs. Robustly put together and easy to operate, the SansAmp has a practical set of classy sounds onboard. You might not be able to exactly reproduce the sound of your own rig, but with plenty of variation to be dialled in, it's capable of providing the essential core sound for any gig and makes a great get-out-of-jail option if your equipment goes down or you have to travel light. You can also use it as a standard pedalboard in front of your amp, without any patch cable and power supply problems. All in all, few gadgets are as useful to the gigging guitarist as this.

Trevor Curwen

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★