

Siegmund Micro Tube Spring Reverb

Reviewed by Thomas Guerra for

Vintage Guitar
m a g a z i n e

Since the early 1960's, guitarists have looked to add depth to their sound by adding true spring reverb. Although springless digital units have been around for the past thirty or so years, most guitarists agree that nothing sounds as good as spring reverb.

New from Siegmund Guitars is the Micro Tube Spring Reverb unit designed to be used as a standalone effect in between a guitar and an amp, or in the signal chain of an effects loop. Using a military grade micro tube, this unit is a very easy to use, warm sounding and would be a great addition to any guitarist's setup.

We tested the Micro Tube both in the front end of a 1969 50 watt Marshall using a 1966 Fender Stratocaster and a dot neck reissue ES-335, and through the effects loop of a Colby dtb-50, and both configurations yielded positive results.

Apparent in both configurations is the absence of background noise or hiss that sometimes accompanies outboard reverb units. According to the manufacturer, the Micro Tube's transformerless circuitry contributes to its quiet operation while giving a purer and richer reverb with a wider and lower frequency range.

The unit itself is relatively simple to operation, with a Mix control blending the effect between the pure input signal and the wetness of the reverb. We found that the ideal Mix setting while using the 335 was in the 9:00 position, while the lower output Stratocaster sounded great from 9-10:00.

The Damping control operates as a type of tone stack, regulating the spectrum from bright to mellow. As with the Mix control, Damping is very input sensitive and can be positively used to round out the sound of a brighter guitar, such as our test Stratocaster.

The Reverb pot regulates the overall depth of the reverb sound, changing the "size" of the room, and we preferred this in the 7-8:00 position for everyday playing, although other settings could be used for a special effect.

Other useful features include parallel outputs which can be connected to one or two amps, and a Reverb only output which can be connected to another amp or any device with high impedance input for a Stereo 3D-effect, sounding like the player is off in the distance. Also noteworthy is a jack for an on-off footswitch. The Micro Tube comes standard with a 3-spring reverb tank for medium decay, but is also available in a dual tank version with a vintage style 2-spring tank for longer decay.

The Micro Tube is available with or without rack mounted brackets, and can be enclosed in a variety of custom hardwood cabinets with laser engraved brushed stainless steel panels.

– Tom Guerra