

Purple Haze
OCTAVIA®

Exclusive Signed Model



ROGER WITH THE ACTUAL OCTAVIA USED BY JIMI HENDRIX ON
THE BAND OF GYPSYS RECORDINGS AND CONCERTS

Exclusive Signed Model
Limited Edition of 100

Purple Haze
OCTAVIA®



Purple Haze **OCTAVIA**®

The History of the World's most Iconic Guitar Effect

I met Jimi Hendrix for the 1st time on Jan 11th 1967 at the Bag O' Nails club in Soho, London. We talked together after the show about new guitar sounds and I mentioned that I had invented a brand new sound 6 months previously that I thought Jimi should hear.

He invited me to see him at a gig on Jan 27th 1967 at Chislehurst Caves just outside London where I brought along the 1st prototype of this new sound which later became known as the Octavia.

From this meeting in the dressing room before the gig where Jimi played the Octavia for the 1st time on a small practice amp began our lifetime relationship and quest for creating new exciting sounds for upcoming recordings.

Jimi loved the brand new sound colour palette the Octavia produced and suggested that we meet up on Feb 3rd at the Ricky Tick Club in Hounslow as after the gig we would go to Olympic Studios to overdub the solos on his latest records to be released *Purple Haze* and *Fire*.

Purple Haze was a mind blowing sonic experience for music lovers and began Jimi's meteoric rise to fame to become the leading new guitarist of 1967.

All this happened within 24 days of our 1st meeting and as they say the rest is history.

Jimi and I shared a common objective of pioneering new sounds and sonic boundaries. The resulting legendary recordings produced bear testament to this.

The approach we used to achieve this is very similar to that of F1 Racing Cars by having continuous evolution from race to race and never resting on past success. Electronically this means no evolution would be repeatedly used on any track of an album during recordings with Jimi thus ensuring a fresh new listening experience.

Purple Haze Octavia

This latest modern enhanced version of the Octavia has been inspired by my friend Albert Romano who was the current owner of the actual “Band of Gypsies” Octavia used on the concerts and recordings.

I was reunited with this pedal in July 2020 in London for a promotional video shoot for Juliens Auction which has just concluded on Dec 2nd in Beverly Hills, CA.

It was hard to believe that 50 years had passed since I had seen and held this pedal before I handed it to Jimi.

Anyway the pedal reached a winning bid of \$70,400.

I had up to this point never been asked to authenticate another of my wedge shaped Octavia as being used by Jimi. The provenance was 100% genuine and I also knew the previous owner Jerry Guida who was given it by Jimi.

Albert suggested that I might produce an exclusive signed limited run of an Octavia in the wedge shaped enclosure which I designed in 1967.

I said that I had never made or reissued any exact copy of my previous designs as I was a firm and committed believer in moving design forward utilising technological progress which can be heard in my subsequent pedal designs and innovative recording studio equipment.

So this new evolution of the Octavia was named the Purple Haze and has all the great features and sound as did the original version used on the record which also used a custom wound ferrite transformer personally wound by me.

Technical features have been added which make it user friendly for today’s recording environment and these will be discussed in detail in the technical section.

I am the inventor of the original Octavia so there would be no point in me not evolving this iconic sound and offering up technical and sonic improvements as was always was the case with my work with Jimi. Thus his spirit and inspiration will be able to continue with a direct link to the past and use of the mantra:



Technical Features and Improvements

Added 2nd Stage Amplifier for Enhanced Operational Modes

The addition of a 2nd amplification Output Stage after the frequency wave shaping of Stage 1 that produces the octave doubling now allows the final output level to be raised to enable direct recording into a DAW. Full headroom is obtained by using 24V DC Power. It features a low output impedance that will successfully interface with all types of inputs in use. It uses the same type of recording studio output amplifier that is found in our top range studio electronics with a no compromise approach to the quality of components being used. This added versatility gives a much wider range of Octavia effect when used in conjunction with the Octave Control Knob. The Output is not completely dependent on the Input Level or the Octave Drive control.

This is the way we used the Octavia in the studio with control of both the input and output level to find the sweet spot to produce the desired tone colour.

Power Requirements

The Purple Haze Octavia can be operated with a wide range of DC Power supply Voltages from 9V through to 24V. It has onboard powerful 3 stage power supply filtering that give Virtual Battery Performance even when using simple power supplies. You can of course use a standard 9V Battery which also goes through the power supply filtering so there is no performance to be gained by expensive Battery Types. Diode protection is provided for polarity mistakes. The battery holder is PC Mounted to provide a simple quick battery change.

The DC Power Socket accepts the standard wiring protocol of 2.1mm barrel right angle connectors and the cable exits through a slot on the side of the case.

The unit has a VOLUME ON/OFF switch that controls the power both for battery or external power modes. This useful feature eliminates unplugging the INPUT lead to disconnect the battery when not in use. You can set your pedal board up and not have to mess with the leads during the gig.

Up to 24V DC Operation

This will enable greater headroom and Octave control as the input stage is now free from input stage gain issues. A continuously variable voltage power supply is recommended for ultimate control and experimentation.

6 Layer Printed Circuit Card and Triple Shielding

All possible circuit connections are placed between 2 power planes on the PC and together with the enclosure provide very effective **Triple Shielding** from the many types of electrical and radio interference that occur in many modern environments. The ferrite transformer is wound on a pot core which also provides superior shielding as compared to the standard unshielded commercial transformer designs that were available 50 years ago. All these design decisions are chosen for ultimate performance and not price driven.

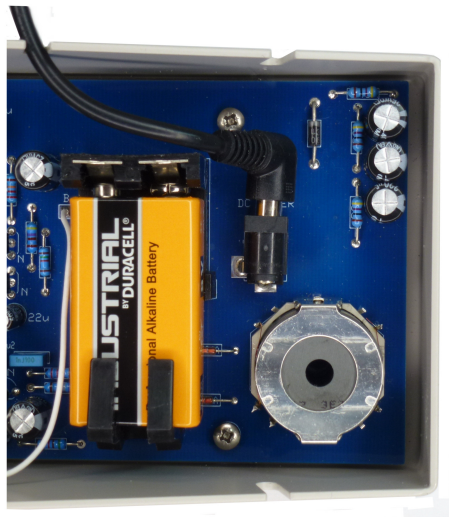
Quick Battery and Power Access

The bottom cover can be removed by loosening the 4 large head slotted screws so that the cover will slide free from the top chassis.

The screws are long enough so you will not have to remove them and loose them.

There is no fiddly battery snap connector just a PC Mounted battery holder that holds the battery firmly in place.

A Right Angle DC Power connector can be used to connect the unit to external power.



Genuine USA Carling Bypass Switch

This is the acknowledged best switch available and is the professional choice for reliability. We only use Genuine USA Carling switches in our pedals for footswitches.

Conductive Plastic Low Noise Potentiometers

Made in UK.

Selected and Dynamically Matched Signal Diodes

Bypass Type

Ultimate True Bypass or Solid Wire Bypass.

LED Status

A Red LED confirms when the Octavia is activated.

Gold Plated Cliff Jack Plug Connectors

Made in UK by Cliff.

Dimensions:

Length 180mm, Width 95mm, Height 80mm

Weight: 890g



The OCTAVIA is probably our most famous and distinctive creation. This guitar effect was designed in early 1967 and featured on "Purple Haze" and "Fire" by Jimi. Its unique tones can also be heard on such tracks as "One Rainy Wish", "Little Miss Lover", "Little Wing", "Machine Gun" etc.

The OCTAVIA produces a sound that is an octave higher than the note you are presently playing. This doubling effect is accomplished through electronic mirror imaging techniques that are program sensitive and also respond to the feed forward inputs of the player. The electronic circuitry is analogue in design and will react faithfully to all the subtleties and harmonic overtones from the guitar. The effect produced is very unique but human in quality.

The added improvements plus the use of a Wide Bandwidth Ferrite Transformer make the Purple Haze Octavia the ultimate modern version of the Original Invention I produced in 1967.

Operational Tips

Electronically the OCTAVIA is an analogue circuit with the properties of a frequency doubler, envelope generator and amplitude modulator with addition frequency shaping filter circuits. The effect produced is subtle to wild depending on the settings used and will respond to the attack of the player. A clean tone from the guitar with say the tone rolled control rolled off will produce "ring modulated" overtones that characterise the solo to "Who knows". The sound is tangibly different if a fuzz unit is in front of the Octavia: an upper octave double is created, clearly demonstrated in the solo to *Purple Haze*. The bright harmonics are more controllable if the neck pickup is selected and the tone control set to roll off the treble. The effect really comes into it's own on the top E and B strings from the 7th fret up. A clean and precise picking style is essential with particular attention to accurate fretting techniques.

Jimi placed the Octavia after a fuzz and wah pedal in most live scenarios so it would react to the combined effects of both the wah and fuzz and be easily controlled on stage. The device order could change in the studio however depending on how the Octavia was being used on a particular track.

It is also important to experiment with how much signal you are driving the Octavia with as this has a great influence on the sound produced. Our latest version with the added 2nd Stage Amplification makes it very convenient to find your tone colour quickly and set up the signal path optimally.

Transformer and Non-Transformer Octavia Types

The Ferrite transformer was used in the original 1st Evolution Octavia or prototype and now in our latest Purple Haze edition. It provides a wider bandwidth and more signal transparency. Today we use Ferrite material for many of our studio designs and have received critical acclaim with regard to detail and transparency. Its performance surpasses conventional commercial steel cored transformers and also is self shielding.

It is the most expensive option and must be custom wound to order and is not an off the shelf part.

So when I was asked in 1967 to make a stage version of the Octavia that would work on a 9V Battery and I chose a commercial audio transformer that would fit the bill and not break the bank.

These iron transformer Octavia versions were made in small numbers and Jimi used one on the Band of Gypsys recordings.

I was also developing a non-transformer version of the Octavia circuit and this was the last major change in 1970 in the development. The non-transformer types which we produce today have roots that go back to then and exhibit a slightly more aggressive tone with an inbuilt gating effect.

In 1980 I designed and carved myself the wood pattern for the iconic rocket shaped enclosure. This was a low profile design and the original types had an optical switch that controlled the FET Switching. There was no space for any type of transformer so the non-transformer version of the Octavia was used. The FET Switching was later changed to a conventional Carling DPDT Switch and this setup is still available today for the Octavia and other model that share the same enclosure.

The Visage model also has roots that goes back to Jimi and the Fuzz variations I developed for him and has 45 variations on this theme.





Certificate of Authenticity

Purple Haze[®]
OCTAVIA

RM
ROGER MAYER

Exclusive Signed Model

VOLUME
ON/OFF



OCTAVE



INPUT



OUTPUT



R.M.
ROGER MAYER

Purple Haze

OCTAVIA[®]

HANDBUILT IN THE UK



Exclusive Signed Model
ROGER MAYER
R.M.



JIMI, NOEL AND MITCH WITH ROGER
THE JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE TOUR
EARLY 1968 IN ARIZONA

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