

Source Audio Vertigo Tremolo

- By Ian Garrett [@tonereport](#)
- August 13, 2015

- See more at: <http://tonereport.com/reviews/source-audio-vertigo-tremolo#sthash.AEteYqoT.dpuf>

Over the years, Source Audio has built up a loyal audience among bass players for two simple reasons: The company makes pedals designed especially for the lower octave folks—something a lot of other pedal companies ignore or do so halfhearted—plus the pedals just sound and work great. With the upcoming release of the new One Series pedals, I suspect guitarists everywhere will finally begin to take notice.

On the surface, the One Series pedals appear to be a lot more traditional when compared to the unique previous generation Soundblox pedal designs. The Vertigo tremolo pedal has a sleek one-piece aluminum shell that covers the top, front and back. It features stereo ins and outs, something Source Audio's older pedals did not feature. On top are four controls for Depth, Volume, Speed and Shape—all fairly traditional on a tremolo pedal. The Shape feature deserves mention, as it moves the LFO wave shape from square to sine, opto or saw tooth.

There is also a small switch for three popular types of tremolo to experiment with; Harmonic, Bias and Normal. Those, combined with the Shape control, give an enormous amount of tremolo variety. The back of the pedal has a couple of unique features; a USB port, and an input for use with external Source Audio expression pedals or its Hot Hand 3. I had a tap tempo switch plugged in which was very handy to have, and it worked great.

So far, so good, but things get really interesting when we start playing around with the five-inch retina HD display. Wait, what? That's right, using the free Neuro App and your smartphone (iOS or Android), you can unlock an almost limitless amount of adjustments and presets that are just not possible to include on a normal-sized pedal.



How does it work? Easy: included, there is a cable you plug into your smartphone's headphone jack, and that goes into Input 2. Next, download the app and you're off. Choose the Vertigo (there are currently seven pedals to choose from), and from there, you have three choices: Sound Editor, Browse Sounds, and Hardware options. Hardware lets you choose the type of pedal bypass you want, MIDI channel selection, and you can do a factory reset. Browse Sounds is a very cool feature; it lets you create your own presets, or you can choose different factory presets (and edit them as well). Plus you can publish your own presets, or

choose Web, where you will find other user presets that have been stored and saved for anyone to use—all of this content is free.

The Sound Editor option deserves special mention. A quick word to the wise, when I first saw this screen, all I saw were the repeated controls on top of the pedal: Depth, Speed, Shape and Level, plus the Effect Type—which adds 24 different types of tremolo to the list. What I initially failed to realize (d’oh!): if I scroll down beyond these four controls, there are a ton more options. For example, one can set the minimum and maximum rate of the Speed knob, or the ratio from the second channel. One can set a tap tempo in BPM, there’s a wet-dry mix, plus a multi-band parametric equalizer for adjusting all frequencies of the audio spectrum. Plus, players get to decide how they want to control the routing of stereo and mono configurations. How’s that for customization?

Once you make these adjustments, hit “Send All” and then “Burn” to decide which toggle position your new setting is saved to. If you’re using the Vertigo with the Source Audio Neuro Hub (which can control five One Series pedals), you can save up to 128 presets via MIDI.

All this technology is admittedly very cool and easy to use. But how does the Vertigo sound for being so “digital?” Well, it sounds fantastic. I loved the stereo feature, which controls how much comes from each channel, and the speed with how each note ping pongs from channel to channel. It’s an absolutely mesmerizing effect. Want the tone deeper? It’s all there; tweak the bass settings, or maybe adjust the upper midrange if needed.

You can create almost any tone you want—from warm tube-like Harmonic settings to spaceship tones on the Interstellar Sequencer setting. Even chorus and flanger-like tones can be coaxed from the Vertigo. If you ever get bored with your presets, hit the app and visit other users’ presets. There will undoubtedly be some new tones that will surprise you.

What we like: The Vertigo is one of those rare pieces of gear that does a great job incorporating technology, and sounds terrific at the same time. It’s powerful, yet simple to make nearly an infinite number of adjustments via the Sound Editor and save them for future use. I found it amazing that a “simple” tremolo could have so many different types of tones inside. I don’t consider myself to be a techie of any sort, yet I actually really enjoyed using my iPhone with this pedal. The app and editing software are well-thought out, the end result that makes playing guitar both inspirational, and just plain fun. At this price, it is an incredible buy.

Concerns: Not much—other than I wonder if I’m ever going to be satisfied with other “normal” pedals that don’t have the Neuro app technology.

- See more at: <http://tonereport.com/reviews/source-audio-vertigo-tremolo#sthash.AEteYqoT.dpuf>