

DUESENBERG MULTIBENDER

PRICE: £135 CONTACT: DIXIE'S MUSIC, 01484 425920, WWW.GOELDO.DE

The first thing that attracted us to this palm lever system from Duesenberg was how simple it is to set up. Unlike some other string-bending systems such as the White/Parsons B-Bender, the Multibender fits on to Fender Strats with vintage-style six-screw vibratos without any routing or permanent modification of the guitar.

The same six screws hold it in place, and a metal block, which clamps onto the body underneath, adds extra security and helps transfer those good vibrations. It might be worth measuring your Strat though – the Multibender is designed for a 56mm spacing between the outer screw holes, and some Mexican Fenders and Squires have a 52mm spacing. Fitting the thing is a piece of cake, and once you've got the strings on, you simply need to set the start and end points of the levers' travel so that they change

the pitch of each string by just the right amount.

We set one lever to move the third string up a semitone (from G to G#) and the other to move the second string up a whole tone (from B to C#). This puts some cool pedal-steel style licks at your disposal from within standard tuning, but there's scope to be far more creative if you wish. Bending is smooth and controllable, and the strings return perfectly to the correct pitch (provided the strings aren't sticking at the nut or string tree, that is).

All in all, this a great gadget and, for something this well-made, not to mention unique, the price is good. It's a nice big chunk of metal too, with six adjustable saddles made from chrome-plated brass, and the sustain and tone of our test bench Stratocaster definitely improved with the Multibender fitted.

GBRATING




Pedal steel sounds on a Strat, with no modification? Ace!