

# Quicktest



## Line 6 Mobile In and Mobile POD app £64 & Free

A POD in your iPhone or iPad?

CONTACT: Line 6 PHONE: 01327 302700 WEB: www.line6.com

The **Mobile In** is an audio input device for Apple's iPhone 4 and both versions of the iPad. It is designed to partner Line 6's free **Mobile POD** app but will work with GarageBand and any other app that uses CoreAudio input. It connects via the 30-pin connector and has two mini jack sockets – one for stereo line input and the other for guitar via the supplied six-foot standard jack to mini jack cable.

### In Use

Made of robust polycarbonate, the **Mobile In** offers a strong, clear guitar signal with plenty of dynamics without any of the sound quality and feedback problems associated with input devices that connect via the headphone socket. The **Mobile POD** software offers a rig of amp, cabinet and up to eight effects, four in front of the amp and four after. There are 32 amps, 16 cabs and 16 effects to choose from and swapping them around and tweaking

parameters to create your own sounds is easy if none of the 10,000 presets suit you. With our iPad 2 we got a sound loud enough for practice out of the internal speaker, but plug in some headphones and you'll get a range of superbly playable sounds in full stereo detail.

### Verdict

**Mobile In** is a cost-effective way to get quality audio into your device anyway, but combined with **Mobile POD** it's a brilliant portable resource for guitarists. [TC]

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Great sound quality with no feedback problems; **Mobile POD** offers a wide range of tones

**We dislike:** Reverb can only go in effects slot seven in the **Mobile POD** app

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

## Zoom H2N £199

Pocket-sized recorder offers two kinds of stereo and two kinds of surround sound

CONTACT: Zoom UK PHONE: 01462 791100 WEB: www.zoomcorp.co.uk

The latest in Zoom's range of Handy recorders, the **H2N** is unique as far as we're aware, in that it features five microphone capsules behind its grille that can be utilised in four selectable recording modes. It's the first handheld recorder to offer Mid-Side (MS) stereo recording (a mid mic facing at the sound source and a bi-directional side mic to capture sound from left and right), but also has an X/Y stereo mic array for conventional stereo and can record two-channel and four-channel surround sound.

### In Use

Easily held in the hand and with 20 hours of use available from a pair of AA batteries, the **H2N** is eminently portable and a doddle to use – a large screen lets you see exactly what's going on and mic gain can be instantly set by a very accessible knurled knob. Initiating recording from a standing start is very quick, as is file transfer to and from computer via USB – the unit can also function as a music player and has variable speed and pitch phrase-training facilities. Sound-wise, the mics do a great job of making quality recordings in all modes but MS mode is particularly useful if you want to control the width of the stereo field (even after you've done your recording).



### Verdict

The variety of its recording modes sets the **H2N** apart, offering real versatility in handheld portable recording. If surround sound and control over the stereo picture is important to you, you should seek it out. [TC]

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Flexibility of five mic capsules; wide selection of recording quality; included Steinberg Wavelab LE 7 software; phrase training

**We dislike:** Not supplied with a USB cable

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



## Vox 22-Series £479.99

Affordable slice of class from Vox

CONTACT: Korg UK PHONE: 01908 304600 WEB: www.voxamps.com/uk

Vox's modern guitar range, spear-headed by the Virage Series electrics, is a class act – even in this start-up 22 Series, Indonesian-made guise. It resembles a sort of modern SG, and although the mahogany body contouring is less curved than on the high-end models, that's not to say it isn't decent on the front and back, including the heel area. The 638mm (25.1-inch) scale, 22-fret set neck is pretty tidy too, a very playable

rounded 'C' profile that avoids being too skinny. Like the higher end models we get the classy MaxConnect bridge and acoustically we have a lively and quite resonant ring. A nice touch is the extended top horn strap button, which subtly improves the balance of the guitar when it's strapped on.

The dual-XLM 'compact' mini-humbuckers are suspended from the 22-Series' scratchplate and controlled by

a reassuringly chunky, large-tipped three-way toggle selector switch; a smaller mini-toggle switch switches the humbuckers from series to parallel humbucking for its lead and clean voices.

### Sounds

The combination of the long neck and narrow aperture pickups contributes to a bright-edged but lively sounding electric tone. There's plenty of punky attitude, perfect for aggressive slashed chords and wiry leads. The stringier parallel tones work well – especially with effects – as they're edgy and clear, and when paired with a boost pedal, suit a host of contemporary

rock styles. The neck humbucker with a solo boost lead tone is impressive too. A pretty good, no-nonsense classic/modern rock guitar.

### Verdict

A classy axe, well spec'd for the money. It'll get you on the road with rocking tones and a unique look to boot. [DB]

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Good build and design; lively response; crisp and quite versatile sounds

**We dislike:** Non-standard-size pickups

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

## Plutonium PU-236 Chi-Wah-Wah Bass £195

Pocket-sized bass funk machine

CONTACT: Guitar XS PHONE: 01227 832558 WEB: plutonium.wordpress.com

Really good bass effects were once a rarity but, fortunately, this is one area of the market that is constantly getting better. Case in point is the highly desirable Plutonium PU-236 Chi-Wah-Wah, the designated bass version of the popular guitar model. Powered by the mains via an optional transformer lead, or by an onboard battery, this is an extremely robustly built pedal that is pleasingly heavy yet small enough to be transported with ease. It comes with an Allen key for removing the bottom plate for battery replacement and four rubber feet that fit over these screws to help prevent the unit from moving during action. However, in spite of its weight,

anything that requires constant action when in use is far better fixed to a pedalboard.

### Sounds

Three rotary controls offer input level, for optimising the bass signal, contour, to regulate the intensity of the wah effect, and gain, which is used to adjust the overall volume of the effect. Take the foot off and the unit allows the regular bass signal to pass through. The wah sound is deep, full and has fast tracking so will warp your notes just as fast as your foot can operate.

### Verdict

The Chi-Wah-Wah features a spring-loaded footplate so

doesn't rely on the usual rocking action from the foot and in our opinion this makes it a lot more user-friendly. The wah effect offers great depth and sounds dangerously funky in use. [RN]



### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Robust build; compact size; classic and excessive wah sounds

**We dislike:** Although the rubber feet help, this will still move about in use, so it's best fitted to a pedalboard

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★