



WHAT IS IT?

A plug-in containing emulations of 12 Fender amplifiers from the past 42 years.

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 A massive variation in tones to suit guitarists and bassists alike
- 2 It includes a great software emulation of the Fender Blender, one of the most sought after vintage distortion pedals
- 3 Straightforward user interface with a really flexible routing system



IK Multimedia Amplitube Fender | €170

Can IK Multimedia convince us to buy their fourth amp emulator? **Stuart Bruce** plugs in his Strat.

SPECS

Amplitube Fender Requirements

PC: Pentium 4/Athlon XP processor, 1 GB of RAM, Windows XP/Vista or later
Mac: 1.5 GHz Intel processor, 1GB of RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.4 or later

With Amplitube 2, IK gave us a great cross section of amplifiers with a broad range of pedals. Subsequent releases have been more specific, Ampeg bass amps and the Hendrix package both deliver fantastic if more specialised emulations. With the Fender package, IK have taken the time to emulate some of the most desirable amps from electric guitars most recognisable marque.

As with all Amplitube products the Fender package can be divided into four basic sections. After the tuner there's a pedal board where you can configure whichever stomp boxes are included. There are six pedals in the Fender package from a reverb to a fuzz wah. Next comes the amp stage where you can select between the different models and that leads on to the loudspeaker and microphone section. Each amp has a default loudspeaker but you can mix

and match between all the models, and then choose your mic and it's position.

Lastly come the rack effects for further tweakage. With the vast amount of control this system gives you it's really easy to find a great sound and get it to sit in with the rest of the track. If you own other Amplitube packages then you can get a free program called X-Gear that lets you mix and match between different packages. It's more processor hungry but incredibly flexible.

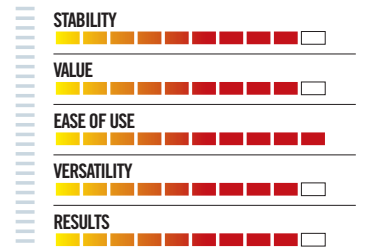
Sound alike

So on to the sounds. When you crank up an older Fender amp there's a compression that arrives as well as some distortion. You can hear this on many recordings and two players who have used it to great effect are Neil Young with his 57 Deluxe and Stevie Ray Vaughn with his modified 64 Vibroverb. Both those amps are here and to my ear they sound pretty true to

the originals. All the bite and the grunt you want and they follow the dynamics of your playing just like the real thing. If you're looking for clean tones then the Twin is the boy for you. Great tremelo effects and lovely for bright country tones. There's a tweed Bassman for a bit of retro riffing and the inclusion of the Bassman 300 should keep our four stringed friends happy. On the pedal front, I particularly loved the Blender, one of the greatest Fuzz boxes ever built and there's a lovely liquid phaser.

All in all, I like this package. My two small gripes are that it's pretty processor heavy and that they didn't give us a Princeton (which is my favourite small amp). Still, with lots of great tones and some truly classic sounds, you should definitely check out the demo version on the IK site, but be prepared to whip out your credit card! **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



An excellent set of amp simulations suitable for all styles of players from Metal to Jazz.