



Check out a video demo at [www.totalguitar.co.uk](http://www.totalguitar.co.uk)

Stompbox screen  
Even though the six stompboxes are fearsome, we'd have liked a couple more



# AMPLITUBE FENDER £169

The cheapest way to get your hands on vintage-sounding Fender tones

**M**any amp-simulation developers focus on one product and periodically release updates to add a few new amp and cab models. Since developing Amplitude 2, IK Multimedia has taken a different approach, releasing separate 'specialist' packages that focus on metal, bass guitar and Jimi Hendrix's most famous tones.

For its latest release, rather than developing a collection of not-so subtly titled lookalikes of classic Fender amps, IK has partnered with the guitar and amp giant to create Amplitude Fender, the first amp-sim software to feature the official Fender stamp of approval.

**The sizzle:** Amplitude Fender is both a standalone unit and a plug-in that works inside a digital audio workstation (DAW) like Cubase or GarageBand. The layout is the same five-screen setup as in the previous versions. First is the super-accurate tuner, then the stompbox screen. These are followed by the amp and cab screens, and finally there's

the rack screen that lets you add effects to the signal after the other units have done their work.

There are 45 emulations of Fender hardware – the most interesting being amps like the '65 Twin Reverb, '59 Bassman, '57 Deluxe, Supersonic and Metalhead. There are also matching cabs to go with every amp and six stompboxes. There's more. You get nine different virtual microphones for various tonal options, the development of which has been overseen by Fender every step of the way to ensure maximum authenticity.

**We say:** As impressive as Amplitude's other efforts have been, there's no doubt this is the best so far. Fender's input has elevated the sound quality to the next level. The clean tones on the Twin are crystal clear and full-bodied, while the super-aggressive blues-rock tones of the Supersonic amp respond well when you dig in SRV-style. The Metalhead model is impressive too; it's great for heavy tones and provides some high-gain options among the overdriven tones that

the more classic Fender range of models provides.

We doubt many people could distinguish between the software and hardware versions of these amps, which is great news if you're on a budget – you can access a range of amps that would cost thousands to buy in their hardware form!

Our only gripe (and it's a small one) is that we'd have liked to have seen a few more than six stompboxes. This package gives you the best-quality amp sounds available on the software market.

James Uings

## At a glance

<b>Amplitude Fender</b>
<b>TYPE:</b> Amp modeller
<b>AMP MODELS:</b> 12
<b>SPEAKER MODELS:</b> 12
<b>EFFECTS:</b> 6 stompboxes, 6 rack FX, 9 mic models
<b>SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:</b> (PC) P4/Athlon XP processor, 1GB RAM, Windows XP or later, (Mac) dual 1GHz G4/1.5GHz Intel processor, 1GB RAM, OS X 10.4 or later
<b>CONTACT:</b> IK Multimedia UK 0800 093 4066
<b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.ikmultimedia.com">www.ikmultimedia.com</a>

## SUMMARY

**For:** Truly unbelievable Fender sounds

**Against:** It's still a big undertaking to use software at a gig

★★★★★

**TG says...** Is it really software?



The Super-Sonic model is great for ripping blues-rock leads

**"WE DOUBT MANY PEOPLE COULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE VERSIONS OF THESE AMPS"**