

Screen ■
Screen selections are logical and kept to a minimum to stop you from getting lost

Controls ■
The Stop/Start button and jog wheel ensure fast and accurate navigation of features



Jacksocket ■
The input is via a standard jack socket, so there's no special lead required

Tascam GT-R1 £289

Portable, high-quality recording for guitarists and bassists alike

Recording your ideas has never been easier. The digital age has dispensed with the inconvenience of tape machines and mixing desks, but if the complexity of programmes like Pro Tools, Cubase and even Garage Band are still a bit too much like hard work then the GT-R1 could be the answer. It merges the world of portable recorders with some of Tascam's guitar training features, so you can use it to get your ideas down without having to go near the dreaded computer.

Switching on, you're greeted by the onscreen menu system and navigating your way around is made surprisingly easy by the jog wheel. We got started by recording some ideas and (with a quick adjustment of the recording levels using the input control on the side) found the process extremely simple. The built-in stereo condenser mic picks up your ideas with great detail and the overdub function serves as a brilliant idea-notepad.

By importing a WAV or MP3 file via USB from your computer

(yes, you'll need one for this part), you can play along with and manipulate the audio with the built-in practice tools.

The Part Cancel function can remove parts from the stereo field, letting you play over the top, while further editing can be done with the Playback Options. These allow you to change the key of the track without changing the tempo or vice versa, and while the general sound quality of these functions is good, there is noticeable fluttering at extreme settings. As with the Part Cancel function, you might find that the results vary depending on the characteristics of the audio you throw at it.

The GT-R1 also comes loaded with a selection of popular amp models and effects that can be applied either to the input signal or backing track. They might not be gig-worthy, but they're a welcome add-on for getting a range of sounds while practising.

Conclusion: If you get great moments of musical inspiration but have trouble remembering them, and need a portable

practice rig while on the go, the GT-R1 could solve your problems. The quality of the recording is perfect for capturing ideas or band practices, and the flexibility offered by the training functions makes it a very useful practice tool. The price tag, however, renders it less competitive when compared to some of Tascam's dedicated practice or recording tools. The GT-R1 does both jobs and treads water, but if you're unsure whether you'll need all of the functionality, you'll pay for the convenience.

Roger Newell

At a glance

Tascam GT-R1

TYPE: Portable recorder
FEATURES: Mic, rhythm tracks, multi effects, amp simulation, looping, canceller,
INPUTS: Mic, line, guitar, power
OUTPUTS: Headphone/Line Out
POWER: Battery or PSU (optional)
DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD] 130 x 70 x 25mm
CONTACT: Tascam 0845 130 2511
WEB: www.tascam.com

SUMMARY

For: Quality unit, simple to operate

Against: Good quality adds to cost

☆☆☆☆☆

TG says... Ideal for practice and multi-track recording

The GT-R1 is a mobile recording and guitar training solution



"THE QUALITY OF RECORDING IS PERFECT FOR CAPTURING IDEAS AND THE TRAINING FUNCTIONS ARE A USEFUL PRACTICE TOOL"