

Peavey Revalver Mk III.V £191



Peavey upgrades the software amp and effects rig that lets you tweak the innards of its amps **by Trevor Curwen**

It's been three years since Peavey brought out version III of the Revalver amp and effects software, and here comes its mid-point update, version III.V. Regardless of its name, III.V features many changes from before, so is definitely worth a fresh look.

What's remarkable about Revalver is that you can tinker with virtual amps at component level, changing virtual valves, transformers and the like. Version III.V debuts several new amp and effects models and enhancement of the valve model algorithms to offer more realism. There's improved runtime performance on both the operating system and host level and more besides.

Revalver III.V uses a familiar virtual rack interface, into which you can drag and drop amp and effects modules. You can have two complete amp and effects rigs in the rack – one above the other – with a control module to select either, or you can blend the two.

Sounds

The software comes with a bunch of preset rigs to give you instant sounds. All are solidly usable and easy to put to work quickly either for recording or gigs. Everything can be adjusted easily and you're able to add and take away modules at will, starting with either one of the presets or an empty rack. To go deeper, a simple click on any amp takes you to the Tweak Module GUI, where you can modify valve types, power amps, rectifiers, output transformers and tone stacks.

The range of amps will tick most players' boxes, with the Fender Bassman, Vox AC30, Mesa Rectifier, and Marshall Bluesbreaker and JCM900 represented. But it's perhaps Peavey's own amps (and this includes Budda) – rarely found



The virtual rack is a simple, familiar set-up

in rival programs – that provide the most interest. Among the new models are Peavey's 3120, Masterpiece and Sensation, plus Budda's Superdrive II and V – all of which offer some excellent tones.

The range of effects doesn't veer off into esoteric areas, but covers all the basic meat and potatoes stompbox and studio processing types. New in III.V is the Budda Budwah, the Gate Keeper, a valve-based noise gate, and a modelled version of Peavey's VCL-2 tube compressor, which can really enhance the sound of your rig. For more flexibility, if you use VST plug-ins, there's the VST module, which you can insert into your rig for adding any other effects from your hard drive. The notion of using stuff from outside Revalver is carried over into setting up your speaker simulation and ambience, as you can import impulse responses in WAV format, but there's already loads of variation available anyway.

Sound-wise, there's a lot of realistic detail and you get a

satisfyingly dynamic playing experience. If you're a fan of Peavey amps, this is obviously the software for you, but there's plenty for everyone else too, especially with the deep editing facilities.

Verdict

Revalver III.V is a step up from version III and we think it's worth the upgrade price for current users who want to widen their palette. Those new to amp sims are spoilt for choice. If that's you, then definitely consider Revalver – it's a source of no-nonsense, high-quality, playable sounds for recording. **G**

The Bottom Line

We like: Usable sounds; simple user interface; amps you won't find elsewhere

We dislike: No phrase training in standalone version

Guitarist says: Quality tones in software with plenty of tweakability

The Rivals

Native Instruments Guitar Rig 4 Pro (€179) has slightly fewer amp models than the Revalver III.V but features a wider range of effects. It also has phrase training facilities, as does **IK Multimedia's AmpliTube 3** (€269), which has more than 160 models, including 31 amps. IK also offers AmpliTube 3 Free – a free download for which you can purchase extra amps and effects to create your perfect rig. Lacking any phrase training facility, **Line 6's POD Farm 2.5** (\$49) offers 18 amps and 29 effects, while the Platinum version (\$249) offers 78 amps and 97 effects.

Peavey Revalver Mk III.V

PRICE: £191

TYPE: Software guitar amp simulation and effects system

FORMATS SUPPORTED: Audio Units, VST, stand-alone

COMPUTER SYSTEM

REQUIREMENTS:

Mac: 1GHz CPU; 512Mb RAM;

1024 x 768 screen resolution;

VST/AU host or soundcard

PC: 1GHz CPU; 512Mb RAM;

1,024 x 768 screen resolution;

VST host or ASIO/WDM soundcard

MODULES: See website for details

PRESETS: Factory preset patches in various categories

AUTOMATION: Automated control of parameters via MIDI

RANGE OPTIONS: Revalver HP (cut-down version with six Peavey amps, £49)

OPTIONS: Upgrade prices available from previous Revalver versions (see www.peavey.com). Upgrade from Revalver III is \$99

Peavey

www.peavey-eu.com

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Test results

Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★