

Rocked & Rated



Fender's Fuse software opens up extra editing functionality, and also lets you expand the G-DEC's presets by connecting to the Fuse online community



Backing tracks ■
The included backing tracks cover a massive range of guitar-based genres

Presets
The G-DEC 3 comes loaded with 100 high quality preset sounds – you can create your own too

Connectivity
USB and SD card slot allows you to connect to your computer and update presets



Fender G-DEC 3 Thirty

£329

This do-it-all combo could change the way you practise

Not so long ago, practice amps were diminutive boxes you couldn't wait to upgrade. But with digital features like amp modelling, USB connectivity and effects always advancing, a new generation of amps plans to make your sessions a lot more fun. For Fender, it's the G-DEC 3.

This amp is packed with amp models, effects and backing tracks, so as a standalone unit you can practise, jam and loop your way through pretty much any style of guitar music. There's also an SD Card slot for saving tracks and presets, and so on, as well as USB connectivity.

The amp's settings are controlled by an array of buttons and a rotary wheel arranged around a blue screen. Together, they remind us of a car stereo we used to own! The wheel scrolls through presets and editing parameters; the buttons select different modes, start and stop the backing tracks, and control the built-in phrase sampler. There's also a separate Band Level control for the backing track volume, as well as tone and volume controls for your guitar.

The backing tracks range from reggae, latin and funk through to

blues, rock and metal with artist settings from Alkaline Trio, John 5 and Underoath, among others. Each track is accompanied by an authentic sounding preset, which makes quickly trying different styles loads of fun. The amp and effects sounds housed within the G-DEC are based on classic pieces of gear, and while you may not put money on them sounding 100 per cent identical to the originals, they are particularly convincing with a valve-like character.

Editing on the G-DEC's screen is easy enough, but you might find pressing buttons and scrolling with the wheel a little slow when adjusting effects and amp settings. This is where the Fuse software comes in. When you load up with the amp connected to your computer, you're met with a detailed graphic screen that looks a lot like a plug-in, and you can see exactly how each preset is made up. Editing your settings from the computer screen changes the G-DEC's setup in real-time, and you can save your changes in the amp when you're finished. You can also use the Fuse software to download extra presets or upload your own for others to

use. And the USB port acts as an audio interface, which – with the free bundled versions of Amplitude Fender and Ableton Live Lite – means you can start recording straight away.

Conclusion: The G-DEC 3 isn't just an updated version of the previous series with a few extra models. While the presets and backing tracks are genuinely useable without sounding cheesy, the real score is the added connectivity and editing capabilities the Fuse software unlocks. TG lost most of a weekend playing the G-DEC. We think you should do the same.

Stuart Williams

At a glance

Fender G-DEC 3 Thirty
TYPE: Practice amp
OUTPUT: 30 watts
FEATURES: 100 presets, 76 backing tracks, amp/effects models
CONTROLS: Guitar Tone, Band Level, Volume, Start-Stop Button
SOCKETS: Input, phones, USB, SD card
WEIGHT: 12.5kg
DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD] 410 x 425 x 211 mm
CONTACT: Fender GBI 01342 331700
WEB: www.fender.com

SUMMARY

For: Top sounds, endless features

Against: On-amp editing is fiddly

★★★★★

TG says... The future of practice amps

The GDEC 3 gives you a new generation of practice amp features



"EDIT YOUR SETTINGS WITH THE FUSE SOFTWARE AND YOU CAN SAVE YOUR CHANGES IN THE AMP ONCE YOU'RE FINISHED"