

1 NEW AMPS

THE Peavey 5150 and Soldano SLO-100 both get the virtual treatment here. These amps sound great, and they're both versatile too

2 NEW EFFECTS

WE like the reverbs, and we've been big fans of Native's non-traditional effects in the past. However, we're not sure how often we'll be switching in the Resochord or Filterbank modules

3 CONTROL ROOM PRO

THIS module expands on the standard Control Room by giving you eight individually mic'd speaker cabs per instance. You can layer and blend them, including tweaking mic placement and panning for a wall of sound



NATIVE INSTRUMENTS GUITAR RIG 5 PRO £155

Vintage meets electro in the tech giant's latest offering

AT A GLANCE

AMPS: 17, 27 cabinets

EFFECTS: 64

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows: Windows 7, Intel Core Duo or AMD Athlon 64, 2GB RAM; Mac: OS X 10.6 or 10.7, Intel Core Duo, 2GB RAM

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IT'S been seven years since Native Instruments first introduced Guitar Rig. With most other amp modelling companies seemingly falling over themselves to climb onto mobile devices, Native has continued to keep the old stalwart Guitar Rig firmly on the desktop.

Still, it could be the 'itch' setting in, or just the fact that there are only so many vintage and classic amps left to emulate, but version five of Guitar Rig sees the addition of just two new amp models. Instead, Native has introduced the Control Room Pro cabinet/mic module, six new effect modules and its new Container component for creating macro controls of multiple effects setups.

We'll start with the amps. You get the new Van 51, based on Eddie Van Halen's classic 5150 amp, plus the new Hot Solo Plus, a virtual Soldano SLO-100. As with its hardware ancestor, the Van 51 lends itself well to anything from

classic rock to hardcore. Shove a Screamer boost in front of it and you've got the configuration that's been used by anyone who's anyone in modern metal.

The Hot Solo Plus is just as versatile. Stevie Ray Vaughan played a custom SLO-100 and this emulation definitely reflects

"SRV played a SLO-100 and this definitely reflects his sound"

that sound. Played with the neck pickup of a Strat and some mild overdrive, you'll get a great woody Texas blues sound. However, this amp is also a hard rock monster – just up the gain and mids for fat-sounding powerchords and rich humbucker-fuelled solos.

Control Room Pro builds on the standard Control Room module. Instead of giving you eight mics around one cab, you can now blend eight separate cabs, all mic'd

differently. That's a lot of layering options by any standards.

The effects are a mixed bag. There's the vintage-style Fast Compressor with just three controls for ease of use. You also get two reverbs: the convolution Little Reflektor, and Vintage Verb for spring/plate-style old-school

reverbs. Meanwhile, the Stereo Tune module widens your stereo image and detunes your guitar signal for a fatter sound. It works well for creating wide rhythm parts, but also sounds good when adding space on acoustic guitars.

Then there are some more manipulative effects in the form of the Filterbank and Resochord. The Filterbank gives you eight different frequency bands to sculpt your sound with, while the synth-

sounding Resochord uses filtering to create chords from a single note.

It seems with the latest version of Guitar Rig Native has paid a lot of attention to what it calls 'ambient' sounds. You still get the whole collection of traditional gear that you did before (plus the extra amps and Control Room Pro), but effects such as Resochord and Filterbank join Guitar Rig's Modifiers, Ice Verb and Grain Delay in producing sounds that may not be the sort of thing you reach for all the time. We'd like to see a pick 'n' mix style purchasing option from Native Instruments à la IK Multimedia's Custom Shop store. Until then, you'll be more than happy with what you get.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY	FEATURES								
	SOUND QUALITY								
	VALUE FOR MONEY								
	USEABILITY								
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★