



Functionality
You can re-order effects modules quickly with an intuitive drag-and-drop setup

New models
30 new gear models give you a wide range of tones to cover all styles

Mic placement
Greater flexibility with microphone placement gives you more tonal control



IK MULTIMEDIA AMPLITUBE 3

£279

The amp sim looking to restake its claim at the top of the pile

This version of AmpliTube has been a long time coming. IK Multimedia teased us with its excellent 'side projects' in the form of the Metal, Hendrix and Fender editions. However, compared to significant new releases from its rivals like Peavey's ReValver and Native Instruments' Guitar Rig, the main edition of the program, AmpliTube 2, was starting to look long in the tooth.

Version 3 is a substantial upgrade. With 30 new modules (some taken from the Metal and Hendrix editions), as well as increased functionality and flexibility, IK has aimed to make this its most well rounded release to date.

AmpliTube has always provided a good range of classic blues and rock tones courtesy of its Fender and Marshall emulations, but its shortage of 'middle ground' distortion has made getting authentic alternative and indie tones difficult. The new Vox emulation provides biting, jagged tones and the Orange model gives you a

warm distortion that's perfect for strummed open chords.

Its predecessor, AmpliTube: Fender, saw IK taking its tones up a notch and that's still evident with AmpliTube 3. Usually phrases like 'True Dynamic Response' make us run for the hills, but in this case you can really feel the virtual amps responding as you dig in more, like a 'proper' valve amp.

AmpliTube's functionality is improved too, meaning the software matches its rivals for ease of use and control over subtle tonal variations. You can now re-order the effects via drag-and-drop, rather than having to close and re-open each module to move them. Previous versions have only allowed simple on-axis and off-axis adjustments to the microphone placements, but here you're free to place the mic wherever you choose in relation to your virtual speaker. And let's not forget the useful addition to the standalone mode, the easy-to-use four-track recorder that's great for getting song ideas down or recording backing tracks to jam along to.

Conclusion: Amp sims are undoubtedly great value for money: for less than the price of one valve head, you can get an array of tones that most people wouldn't be able to afford with a lifetime of saving. AmpliTube 3 has raised the bar. The additional modules and the inclusion of the new four-track feature make this exceptional value for money. Combined with the well established sound quality and useability, this upgrade places AmpliTube firmly at the top of the amp sim market.

James Uings

At a glance

IK Multimedia AmpliTube 3

TYPE: Amp modelling software
AMPS: 31 amp models
SPEAKER MODELS: 46 speaker models
EFFECTS: 51 stompbox, 17 rack
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: (PC) 2.33GHz, 1GB RAM, Windows XP or later; (Mac) dual 1GHz G4 or later, 1GB of RAM, OS X 10.4 or later
CONTACT: IK Multimedia 01223 234414
WEB: www.ikmultimedia.com

SUMMARY

For: Great tones, excellent value

Against: Sluggish on older computers



TG says... The go-to software for amp simulation



Arranging your effects chain is simple with AmpliTube 3

"AMPLITUBE 3'S ADDITIONAL MODULES AND THE INCLUSION OF THE NEW FOUR-TRACK FEATURE MAKE THIS EXCEPTIONAL VALUE"