

TC Electronic G-Sharp £169

FX giant TC Electronic launches affordable effects for guitarists everywhere by Dave Burrluck



button, delay/
timing and
feedback/depth
rotaries for the effects

section and predelay, decay time and colour filter for the reverb. Foot control is via TC's G-Switch or G-Minor (or MIDI controller), it has both mono/stereo ins and outs, digital in/out and MIDI clock temp sync. It's fully programmable too, into a fulsome 99 onboard memories.

SOUNDS: Lush and detailed generally sums up this unit. In the effects section we get eight superb modulation effects and seven delay types while the reverb covers springs, halls, plates and more. On the downside, while you can combine one effect from the effects menu with one from the reverb you can't, for example, combine chorus with delay. Also, there's no LED readout for delay/modulation time.

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF guitar effects out there and we're seeing higher quality and lower prices on a daily basis. The G-Sharp is exactly that. Utilising TC Electronic's near legendary quality (24-bit processing) in a highly affordable half-depth 1U rack unit, the G-Sharp is, with its lack of menus and push-buttons, aimed at guitarists.

In basic terms it features two effects 'engines': effects and reverb, each with 15 effects accessed via rotary controls. Along with input level we have mix control for both engines, tap push

TC ELECTRONIC G-SHARP TEST RESULTS	
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** High quality sounds; ease of use

■ **WE DISLIKED** Limited effects combination; no delay time readout

Verdict

While perfectly spec'd for live use we suspect this will end up as a studio processor simply because you can't combine the modulation and delay effects. Mind you, the quality sounds on offer are certainly addictive and with a larger rig, hey, we can always use more! Above all, the G-sharp is simply great value for money and a doddle to use.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO TC ELECTRONIC G-SHARP **PRICE:** £169 **TYPE:** GUITAR EFFECTS RACK **TEL:** TC ELECTRONIC 0800 917 8926

Source Audio Hot Hand Wah £219

Bonkers new wah utilises magic ring to bring the funk by Chris Vinnicombe



It may be wacky
but the sound
quality is high

to a floor-mounted expression pedal, then this curious contraption could be the answer. Without the necessary space to elaborate on the science, suffice to say that the Hot Hand works using a two-axis accelerometer that is worn like a ring on the picking hand and connected to a stompbox processor via a generous extension lead with mini-jack connectors. Moving your hand away from the strings while wearing the motion sensor has a similar effect to stepping on the treadle of a wah pedal, but it's not just limited to wah as there are four user presets and six effect types: classic wah, low pass, band pass, multi peak, auto wah and volume swell.

IN USE: Helpfully, an armband (which can double as a Mark Knopfler-style headband!) is supplied to keep the extension lead out of the way of your strings, although a wireless kit is in development and will be available in the coming months. The basic quality of the sounds is very good, and it's possible to elicit more complex rhythmic effects

HOT HAND WAH	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Loads of fun; potential for injecting new life into mundane passages

■ **WE DISLIKED** Some may find it too gimmicky for frequent live use

with your hand than it is with a regular wah pedal. The motion control allows you to tune the sensitivity to a picked, strummed or flailing right-hand attack, allowing for tight funky rhythms, as well as much more dramatic onstage shape-throwing.

Verdict

If your tastes veer towards dramatic Tom Morello or Matt Bellamy-style noisemongery, the Hot Hand could be the ideal addition to your effects armoury.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO SOURCE AUDIO HOT HAND WAH **PRICE:** £219 **TYPE:** GUITAR FILTER EFFECT **TEL:** FIRST LINE 01626 830336

Electro-Harmonix HOG Harmonic Octave Generator £269

New synth goes boldly into uncharted sonic territory by Chris Vinnicombe

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE POG reviewed in issue 259, the HOG is the latest polyphonic octave unit from Electro-Harmonix. Along with 10 potentially simultaneous pitch intervals from -2 octaves sub bass to a canine-bothering +4 octaves, the NYC effects wizards have cranked up the aural craziness with the addition of envelope and filter functions. An expression pedal (not included) also unlocks real-time control over octave bend, step

E-H HOG	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Range of sounds on offer

■ **WE DISLIKED** With additional foot controller and an expression pedal it makes for a big onstage footprint

bend, volume, wah, filter frequency, freeze gliss and freeze volume. Both freeze functions allow you to play over a held – frozen – chord or note; freeze volume allows you to bring the held note in and out at will with the expression pedal, while freeze gliss allows you to use the pedal to create a glissando between the frozen notes and those you are playing. Phew.

SOUNDS: If you're interested in creating psychedelic soundscapes or adding genuine weirdness to a band mix, you'll revel in the HOG's performance. More traditional sounding octave and pseudo-church organ effects are on the menu with virtually glitch-free tracking, but the real fun lies in breaking out an expression pedal and using it in conjunction with the freeze

or filter function, or switching in the envelope to create neo-backwards effects. Be bold and make your audience sit up and take notice!

Verdict

In the nicest possible way, the HOG is just the ticket for making a terrible mess of your guitar sound. When you include the addition of the foot controller (£99) and a third party expression pedal, it's a pretty costly package, but we've honestly never heard anything like it.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

The HOG's sounds will relieve the boar-dom

KEY INFO ELECTRO-HARMONIX HOG **PRICE:** £269 **TYPE:** STOMPBOX GUITAR SYNTH **TEL:** GAK 01273 665400

Pub Prop £12.99

No, not something to lean on while inebriated, but a nifty little guitar life-saver by Chris Vinnicombe

WE'VE ALL DONE IT. YOU

forget to bring a stand to a gig, so make do with leaning your guitar against your amp, only to walk away and hear the unmistakable sound of your prized instrument crashing to the ground. Sometimes you get away with a couple of superficial dings, sometimes the headstock snaps off. Either way, it's not ideal. Enter the Pub Prop: a G-clamp equipped with a clever cradle with spacers to allow you to safely stow an array of instruments such as a banjo, guitar, bass, mandolin or violin. In the case of the latter there's even a cut-out to house a bow.

IN USE: The great thing about the Pub

PUB PROP	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Cheap, compact and effective

■ **WE DISLIKED** Rubber clasp may eventually weaken with time

Prop is that it's compact enough to travel in most instrument cases, and providing you tighten the clamp sufficiently using the thumbscrew, it provides a stable, protective rest for your guitar. The jaws of the clamp extend to around 45mm at their widest, so this should be enough to accommodate all but the meatiest of table edges. Of course, use isn't limited to pubs; it's a great space-saving stand for home studio use, where you can simply attach it to your computer desk.

Verdict

Other than finding a way to incorporate some sort of plectrum or slide holder, it's difficult to see how such a simple and effective design could be improved. Make ours a Guinness.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

Safety first: the Pub Prop is a wise investment

KEY INFO PUB PROP **PRICE:** £12.99 **TYPE:** INSTRUMENT STAND **TEL:** STONES MUSIC 01457 858796