

KORG PANDORA STOMP

£144

New stompbox possibilities from this practice tool

THE evolving Pandora series traditionally delivers multi-effects for guitarists in compact pocket tabletop units, but this latest version comes in stompbox form. You may not wish to slip this rock-solid metal pedal in your pocket, but it could easily fill a slot on your pedalboard.

The basic idea is to give you access to fully produced guitar and bass sounds. With 200 factory presets (and 200 user), you're presented with a seven-part signal chain that takes its effects and amp/speaker sims from 158 onboard models. On top of that, you get 100 rhythm patterns, an aux input (with pitch shift) to pipe in music to play along with, while listening through headphones or

via a standard output to your amp or speakers. Hold down the footswitch and you get a fully functioning tuner pedal.

Sound-wise, there's plenty to get your creative juices flowing, with many of the presets based on well-known songs and players. However, if you don't want a full complement of amp and effects at once, easy editing tweaks via the knobs or the included software can deliver a simple amp/cab setup or a single effect to store for recall.

This is genre-spanning at its most practical – you get a practice and recording tool, but also a stompbox that can offer any sonic flavour you desire, and doubles as a pedal tuner. Cracking idea, Korg! **Trevor Curwen**



TYPE: Multi-effects processor/tuner

PRESETS: 200 factory, 200 user

EFFECTS MODELS: 158

(including 26 amps and 23 cabs)

SOCKETS: Input, output, mini-jack aux

input, mini-jack headphone output, USB

POWER: 9V battery, PSU,

USB bus power

CONTACT: Korg UK 01908 304601

www.korg.co.uk

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
	OVERALL RATING	★★★★★			

RODE NT1

£179-£239

A budget recording classic is back... in black

ABOUT a decade ago, we saw a boom at the budget end of the mic market, with everyone and their mother pumping out cheap large-diaphragm condensers aping the look of the classic – and debt-enhancing – Neumann U87. However, Rode was way ahead of this trend with the original NT1, a mic launched in the 90s that became a staple of bedroom studios worldwide. This was replaced by the NT1-A, famously touted as having the lowest self-noise of any affordable LDC, but now, Rode has taken the model name back to the start.

So, what do you get? Well, the boffins at Rode have gone and made it even less noisy, and painted it black, too. However, besides the colour change, Rode has also spent over \$1 million

reworking the internals to give a more vintage sound than its predecessor, while maintaining a transparent and flat response. As well as that, they've made it available as a kit for £239, which includes the SMR shockmount by anti-vibration kings Rycote, plus a pop-shield.

The NT-1 handled everything we threw at it, with a clear, true representation of the sound in the room. It's sensitive enough to pick out the detail in your acoustic playing or vocals, with enough guts to handle being placed in front of a cab. There are loads of cheaper mics out there – £239 is no small investment, but an investment it is. If you're only going to buy one mic to do everything, you can't go wrong with this one.

Stuart Williams



TYPE: Large-diaphragm condenser

POLAR PATTERN: Cardioid

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 20Hz - 20kHz

CONNECTION: XLR

CONTACT: Source Distribution

020 8962 5080 www.rodemic.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USABILITY				
	OVERALL RATING	★★★★★			