TC Electronic Hall Of Fame reverb £109

TC Electronic's TonePrint series can now get new sounds straight from a smart phone. We check that out with the new Hall Of Fame reverb *by Trevor Curwen*

When TC Electronic launched the first of its TonePrint series of pedals last year, the company was getting back to basics and getting all 'now' at the same time. The basics bit was these were compact, pedalboard-friendly, battery-powered stompboxes – a departure from the more complex Nova series. The 'now' bit was that the pedals could be constantly re-jigged by loading them with new sounds called TonePrints. Each pedal, besides the requisite knobs for tweaking, has a small number of selectable sound variations, one of the variations being TonePrint. Each of the sound variations

represents a different configuration of a host of internal parameters and the TonePrint facility allows you to load a new configuration of those parameters, designed either by TC itself, or by a range of popular guitar and bass players. TonePrints are freely available from TC Electronic and can be loaded into the pedal either via a USB computer connection or a free TonePrint app, beamed wirelessly from a smart phone (see over).

The Hall Of Fame is the reverb pedal in the TonePrint range. It has the same form factor as its sibling delay, vibrato, chorus and flanger pedals that we looked at in issue

338 before the actual TonePrint loading facility was active. It can run from a 9V battery or a standard adaptor. Battery access is by removing the pedal baseplate via a large chromed screw that moves easily, once loosened with a coin or screw. A pair of dipswitches inside the pedal can select between the default true bypass switching and buffered bypass and set a 'dry kill' mode so you just get

The Rivals

Line 6's **Verbzilla** (£119) is closely comparable in price to the HOF. It has 11 reverb types, including two types of spring, one modelled on a 1963 Fender spring reverb unit, plus Hall, Room, Chamber Tiled Room, Plate, Cave, Echo, Ducking Reverb and reverb with a harmonised decay. Featuring an ever-so-slightly larger footprint than the HOF, the **BOSS** compact pedal range offers the **RV-5** (£139), which features six selectable reverb types – Hall, Room, Plate, Spring, Modulated and Gated. **HardWire**'s **RV-7** (£149) features reverbs from Lexicon. It offers the same six types as the BOSS, plus a reverse reverb.

The TonePrint facility allows you to load new sounds designed either by TC itself, or by a range of popular guitar and bass players, into the pedal

the effect with no dry sound when the pedal is used in an amp's FX loop.

Operable in stereo as well as in a standard mono guitar pedal array, the Hall Of Fame features controls to set the amount of reverb and how long it takes to decay, plus there's a very useful tone knob to make the effect darker or brighter. A two-way switch sets whether your reverb has a short or long pre-delay – long giving a little more breathing space for your notes before the reverb kicks in. A large rotary switch chooses between 10 different reverb types or the TonePrint. The 10 settings give you all the reverb types you could reasonably want as a guitar player apart

Loading artist TonePrints is simple

from, if you're into off-the-wall sonics, a reverse reverb.

Sounds

A spring simulation is often essential for those without one built into their amp, and the HOF's spring recreates the flavour very well. Elsewhere, the simulations of various real environments add a realistic sense of space while the ambient setting can usefully add a bit of the sort of 'air' you might get by moving a microphone a little further out from a speaker cab. Some will like the modulated delay, others may think there is too much of a chorus effect applied. But that may be where the TonePrints will earn their keep, as there are several different modulated options such as a chorused church and a couple that combine plate reverb with flanging. The default TonePrint setting that comes with the pedal is a dynamic spring reverb that turns the reverb up and down depending on how loud you play, but TC Electronic has plenty more available. The current set of artist TonePrints includes ones from Paul Gilbert, Troy Van Leeuwen, Soren Andersen, Brett Scallions and Harry McVeigh of White Lies. Okay, these might not all be household-name players, but

they've come up with some cool sounds – we especially like Troy Van Leeuwen's Vibrato Spring and Paul Gilbert's Otis Fieldsgood TonePrint, which adds a nice ambience to sustained notes.

Verdict

Adding a reverb pedal to your set-up can open up a range of ambient vistas to explore, and the Hall Of Fame has loads going for it. Not least that it's dead easy to operate, and will take up less space on your pedalboard than any other comparable unit that we can think of. The jam in the doughnut, though, is the TonePrint facility, which means that you will have a constant source of interesting new reverb sounds. **G**

The Bottom Line

We like: TonePrint function; compact size; 9V DC operation; adjustable pre-delay
We dislike: No reverse reverb sound
Guitarist says: A pedalboard-friendly reverb pedal that can be constantly refreshed with different versions of the effect

TC Electronic Hall Of Fame Reverb

PRICE: £109
TYPE: Reverb pedal
ORIGIN: Thailand
CONNECTIONS: Standard jack inputs x 2 and outputs x 2, USB (Mini-B)
FEATURES: True bypass/buffered bypass, 'dry kill' option, ability to load TonePrints
CONTROLS: Decay, tone, FX level, pre-delay short/long switch, reverb type rotary switch
REVERB TYPES: Room, Hall, Spring, Plate, Church, Modulated, Lo-Fi, Tiled Room, Ambience, Gate, TonePrint
FOOTSWITCHES: Bypass
POWER: 9V DC power from battery or adaptor (not supplied)
SUPPLIED EXTRAS: USB cable
DIMENSIONS: 72 x 122 x 50 mm
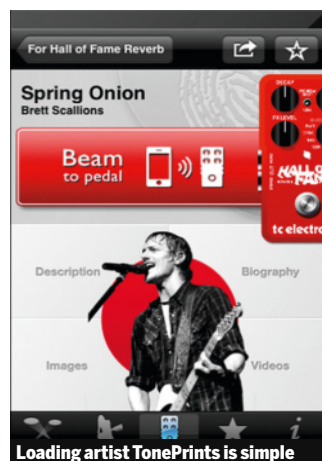**RANGE OPTIONS**: Shaker vibrato, Vortex flanger and Corona chorus (all £109), Flashback delay (£125)
TONEPRINT APP REQUIREMENTS: Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad – requires iOS 4.0 or later. Android 2.1 and up
TC Electronic
0800 917 8926
www.tcelectronic.com

Note the two-way switch to select short or long 'pre-delay' for the reverb types

Test results

Build quality	★★★★⯪
Playability	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆

| **GUITARIST RATING**	★★★★⯪

TonePrints: Theory And Practice

TC Electronic's thinking behind the TonePrint facility is that with most stompboxes there is a core sound that you are unable to change if you tire of it. With TonePrints it is providing an alternative to this: the ability to refresh any stompbox in the range at any time with alternative sounds. A TonePrint is basically a custom 'tuning' of the pedal that can be stored onboard in the TonePrint memory slot until you decide to replace it with a different sound.

TonePrints are developed both by TC themselves and artists involved with the company, using specially developed tuning software that allows every aspect to be tweaked. These are such things as parameter settings, what range the pots have, what the min-mid-max values should be, etc, resulting in a pedal that is tweaked to perfection for a specific job or an artist's own sonic requirements.

At TC's website there are TonePrint pages with artist biogs and interviews plus videos. You can browse TonePrints by pedal or by artist and then download any you want to your computer – you can store a bunch of them together in a folder. TonePrints can then be transferred to your pedal via a supplied USB cable. It takes a couple of seconds and an onscreen dialogue box offers you the chance to A/B test the new TonePrint against the one you are replacing.
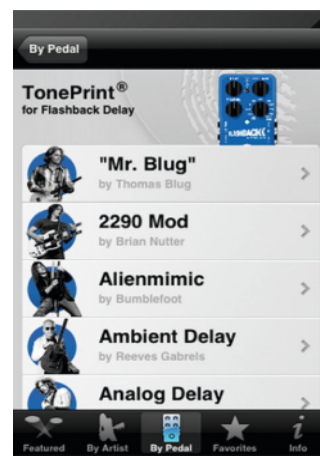
You can also 'beam' a TonePrint directly into your pedal via a smart phone. Apps are available for iOS and Android and you can use these to access the same info on the website. Once you've chosen a TonePrint, you hold your device next to your guitar pickup and beam the TonePrint via its internal speaker as a unique-sounding magnetic impulse that loads into the pedal. This is a remarkably easy process: you can check it's working as the pedal's LED flashes green as your phone or iPad transfers the data.

Overall, there's nothing to dislike about the TonePrint facility. While the sounds may be just variations on one particular effect, and sometimes subtle variations at that, they go beyond what you can achieve by tweaking knobs and they let you revamp your pedals on a regular basis. **G**

We used to use phones to call people, now we beam sounds into pedals