

# Takslyd Slide \$24.95

Always losing your slide? No worries, the Takslyd sticks to your guitar! by Dave Burrluck



Is your slide always going walkabout? The Takslyd may be the solution for you

**GARY TUCKETT'S**  
Takslyd is a D-section shaped glass slide that, with a strip of Velcro, can be fixed to the back of your guitar's headstock. The idea is stupidly

simple: you just put your finger in the slide, pull it away from the headstock, play your solo, then pop it back and carry on slide-less. Daft, or "the best invention since the string-winder"?

**IN USE:** Available in small, medium and large diameters the Takslyd is clear glass with, in small size, a wall thickness of 4.25mm, a length of 70mm and internal diameter of 23.5mm (although at its narrowest point across the D-shaped section it measures 19.5mm). For those who use their little finger it's a little big, but certainly manageable. Applying the Velcro to your guitar shouldn't present any problems for instruments with modern 'plastic' finishes, although you might not want to stick Velcro on your vintage nitro-finished guitar (oil finishes may present an adhesion problem too). But once adhered the Velcro holds the light glass slide on the back of your headstock and

TAKSLYD	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ <b>WE LIKED</b> Neat idea; nice slide</p> <p>■ <b>WE DISLIKED</b> Won't fit all headstocks; glass only; limited sizes; you have to order online</p>	

you just pull it of when you need. No more, "where's my slide?"

### Verdict

A neat idea and a good slide, although it won't fit all guitars (Fenders are perfect!) and you only have the choice of glass, not brass or stainless steel. There could be storage issues with a hard case too, but on the back of a Tele in a gig-bag, the Takslyd is simply brill.

**Guitarist RATING** ★★★★★

**KEY INFO** TAKSLYD **PRICE:** \$24.95 (EXC SHIPPING) **TYPE:** STICK-ON GLASS SLIDE **WEB:** WWW.TAKSLYD.COM

# Ice Pix Stix, FIX and Scratch Pad £3.50-£25

A selection of innovative ideas to super-chill your guitar by Simon Bradley

### HAVING PICKS WITHIN EASY

reach during a gig usually depends on either an ill-fitting scratchplate or gaffa tape but, thanks to micro-suction technology, each Stix pick (\$3.50 for six) can be stuck on to your guitar without any danger of sticky residue. Each of the seven gauges has a small suction pad that ensures that the pick stays just where you want it: it also aids grip within the hand. Genius.

Let there be light: the Fretboard Illuminator, FIX

Along the same lines is the Scratch Pad; a black faux-velvet multi-layered

pad intended to protect the rear of your axe from belt and zipper damage. Again, it uses a patented micro-pore copolymer on one side that allows for firm adhesion without covering the guitar in that irritating residue. You can remove it easily and, although a tad steep at \$25, it works like a charm.

Probably the least relevant yet undoubtedly the most fun is the Fretboard Illuminator FX or FIX (£7.95). Thanks to a simple and unobtrusive mounting that can be easily

ICE PIX GEAR	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ <b>WE LIKED</b> The innovative designs and concepts as a whole</p> <p>■ <b>WE DISLIKED</b> Aside from the usual 'caveat emptor' considerations, nothing</p>	

fitted just behind the nut, the FIX comprises a small battery-driven bulb that sheds light on to your fretboard in times of darkness. It genuinely works, is a real talking point, and is available in four colours including multi-changing.

### Verdict

We can heartily recommend the picks and scratch pad as being excellent and very useful ideas. The less subtle FIX may put a few people off but, at that price, everyone should at least get one to play around with.

**Guitarist RATING** ★★★★★



Stix Picks use a pad of suction material to ensure they don't go far

**KEY INFO** ICE PIX GEAR **PRICE:** £3.50-£25 **TYPE:** STICK-ON ACCESSORIES **TEL:** FCN 01892 603730

# ISP Decimator ProRackG £299

Tired of dirty mains ruining your crafted tone? Then decimate it! by Simon Bradley



## THE PRORACKG IS A NOISE

reduction unit intended to work best with guitar rigs that are used for high-gain shenanigans, and what's clever here is that the unit's dual channel design allows it to both drive your amp's front end and also to quieten the entire signal still further via your amp's effects loop. Simply plug your guitar into channel one, the output into your amp's input, and the in and out for channel two into the effects loop and away you go. Any pedals should be placed between the guitar and input of channel

one to also benefit.

The threshold controls allow you to exactly set the sensitivity of both channels' noise reduction, while the master filter tracking pot shifts this sensitivity still further to ensure that efficient noise reduction is in operation regardless of the actual intensity of the guitar signal: whether you're playing super-clean or ultra-dirty, in other words.

**IN USE:** We used all sorts of guitars with the Krank Revolution we looked at in issue 275, an amp full of high-gain possibilities, and we found that the Decimator did exactly what we'd hoped: destroying any hint of noise without ever snatching notes or sustain away.

It does take a minute or two to set up, but we found we couldn't trip it up whatever we did: wah, Telecaster, fluorescent lights...

## Verdict

Such a unit won't appeal to – or indeed be deemed necessary by – some players out there, but once you've tried a pro noise-reduction unit you'll wonder how you ever did without. Great price, excellent operation, no reason not to try one.

Guitarist RATING



The Decimator is an excellent tool for the high-gain enthusiast



ISP DECIMATOR	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ <b>WE LIKED</b> The no frills approach; excellent practicality</p> <p>■ <b>WE DISLIKED</b> Confusing associated literature – just plug in and twiddle!</p>	

**KEY INFO** ISP DECIMATOR PRORACKG **PRICE:** £299 **TYPE:** NOISE REDUCTION UNIT **TEL:** SOUNDS GREAT 0161 436 4799

# KTS titanium saddles from £39

Need some new saddles? Time to try KTS's ultimate quality titanium sets by Dave Burrluck

**WITH ITS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH** weight-to-strength ratio and resistance to corrosion, titanium is a key material in the aerospace and automotive industries – not to mention its medical applications and use in jewellery and watch manufacturing. This 'white', non-magnetic metal is now readily available for your guitar in the form of a range of saddles. KTS doesn't claim it to be the "best" material but does suggest it'll improve sustain, depth and clarity over commonly used die-cast material – and compared to plated steel it simply won't corrode. KTS manufactures titanium saddles/bridges for various guitar-types: Strats, Teles, Les Pauls...

and even Fender Mustangs!

**IN USE:** We tested a set of titanium saddles on a Fender Highway 1 Strat and an Epiphone Les Paul. Did the earth move? No. But in both instances we heard a subtle tonal improvement – a little more smoothness and depth most obviously – and certainly no harm in the sustain department. There's also what we can only describe as a more focused clarity. Interesting.

## Verdict

Boutique makers like DeTemple, John Suhr and Joe Barden have all sung the praises of KTS's titanium saddles and – although pricier than conventional retro-fit saddles from the likes of Graph Tech – they seem an obvious choice if you're dissatisfied with your tone. "I have installed them on several of Nils Lofgren's and Joe Perry's guitars (as

well as my own), replacing the old rusty and worn parts, and now I know I will be able to make exact adjustments any time with no worries," says Joe Barden. That's high praise indeed.

KTS titanium saddles increase clarity, smoothness and depth

Guitarist RATING



KTS SADDLES	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<p>■ <b>WE LIKED</b> Beautifully made with good, not bright, sound clarity and definition</p> <p>■ <b>WE DISLIKED</b> Not cheap but like a new pickup could help improve your guitar</p>	



**KEY INFO** KTS TITANIUM SADDLES **PRICE:** FOR STRAT (£65) T-O-M (£39 EXC BRIDGE) **TYPE:** SADDLES **WEB:** WWW.WDMUSIC.CO.UK