



Tuning changes up or down made easily and electronically

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Fishman Fission Bass Powerchord FX £349

Mini bass orchestra at the touch of a button (or two)

CONTACT: JHS PHONE: 01132 865381 WEB: www.fishman.com

This is a seemingly complex bass pedal that, as the name suggests, allows the stacking of notes in a chordal fashion with the introduction of fourth and fifth interval notes produced from the root. There is also the option to add the upper octave and, although it may sound complicated, it's easy and logical to operate so you can enjoy the effect without having to fathom out how to do it.

Chord building (harmony) from a single note has proved to be highly effective on both guitar and vocal systems, but just how useful it will become for bass is rather up to the

imagination of the player. Solidly built and well presented, note tracking is fast and accurate and two jack sockets provide the option of sending a mixed signal of bass and effect or just the effected sound.

Sounds

There's a huge area of sound generated from this modestly proportioned unit and it's so different we feel that its potential has yet to be fully appreciated. While you can introduce a higher octave, there's no facility to bring out the lower one so this is definitely not an octavider in



the regular sense. Add in some overdrive and the sounds just get bigger – this is ideal to fill the gap in a power trio when the lead guitarist takes a solo. With noise gate, tone control and effect level, studio friendliness is guaranteed.

Verdict

A very useful tool indeed, and a new sound for the bass guitar. Add to that Fishman's renowned quality and this is one to check out. [RN]



The Bottom Line

We like: Build quality; expansive chordal ability; unique sounds

We dislike: Won't do an octave below the root

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Harmonic Design Super Chrome \$100

A P-90-style single-coil for your Telecaster... without routing

CONTACT: Harmonic Design PHONE: N/A WEB: www.harmonicdesign.net

As evidenced by the popularity of Fender's Vintage Hot Rod '52 model with its mini humbucker, there are plenty of players who favour the idea of a pickup with a little more wallop in their Telecaster's neck position. Perhaps the obvious choice, while still maintaining the Telecaster's single-coil character would be a P-90-style single-coil. However, like the mini humbucker, a soapbar or dog-ear single-coil would need a bigger body rout than found in a standard Tele and it's quite likely that few would want to make such an unkind cut to a favourite guitar.

No, what would really be great would be if someone

invented a P-90-styled pickup that could slot in as a direct replacement for the existing chrome Tele neck pickup. And that's exactly why Harmonic Design has come up with the Super Chrome: a small P-90 in a chrome Tele cover. Perfect!

Sounds

Installing the Super Chrome in our Telecaster, replacing the stock Fender unit, the difference is immediately apparent in the pickup's higher output. But the tone, still distinctly single-coil with top end clarity, has a richer bass and more midrange warmth without getting at all muddy. Nicely responsive too – a useful



tonal complement to the distinctive Tele bridge twang.

Verdict

If you want a bigger sound from a Tele's neck pickup without getting the tools out, try this. We're glad we did. [TC]

The Bottom Line

We like: No routing needed; P-90 sound from a Tele

We dislike: Nothing

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★