

**1 USB**

**EDIT** your patches and record quality tones with ease on your PC or Mac thanks to some great bundled software. It also includes live monitoring

**2 DISPLAYS**

**THREE** bright and bold displays ensure you never have to squint to find out what effects and amps you're currently using, even on the stage

**3 CONTROLS**

**EACH** effect slot has three independent rotary controls for fine-tuning your tone. These controls are recessed slightly to prevent accidental adjustment

**ZOOM G3** £185

**A box of tricks that promises all of the features with none of the fuss**

**AT A GLANCE**

**TYPE:** Amp/effects modeller

**EFFECTS:** 13 amp models, 94 stompbox effects

**CONTROLS:** 3x main footswitches, 3x rotary controls per effect slot, 3x type/page switches per effect slot, patch select up/down, tap, rhythm start/stop

**SOCKETS:** active/passive selectable input, mono/stereo output, XLR output, footswitch input, USB

**POWER:** 9V DC adaptor, 4x AA battery, USB bus power

**CONTACT:** Zoom Distribution

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**FED** up of trawling through a massive list of presets and options, Zoom has decided to take a different approach with the G3 effects and amp simulator, cramming all manner of technical wizardry into a format any guitarist can use without having to refer to section C, paragraph six of the instruction manual.

The G3 is essentially a collection of three interchangeable stompboxes, each of which can be set to one of 13 amp models or 94 individual effects, though only one amp model can be used in each patch. This means the G3 can be tailored to two very different kinds of user: one who just wants a bunch of quality effects to use with their own rig, and the other that wants to incorporate modelling for home practice and recording. The interface can even be customised to your preference – hold down the first footswitch for a few seconds and the pedal will change modes, letting you change patches with the second and third footswitches

rather than force you to kneel down on the stage, fumbling at tiny buttons in the dark.

Construction is rock solid, too. The metal enclosure is compact but rugged, and the three screens light up brightly with large fonts and graphics. The controls are laid out in a very logical order, and Zoom has packed in a number

## “Zoom has struck a balance between form and function”

of additional features. As well as a 40-second looper there are 40 different rhythm patterns to play along with, plus support for an optional expression pedal. A USB port enables connection to a Mac or PC for editing patches and recording. The latter also boasts live monitoring so that you can actually hear what you're playing as you're recording without fear of latency. A copy of Steinberg's

Sequel LE recording software is also included with the unit.

Starting with the amp simulations, the usual models based on Fender, Vox and Marshall all make their expected appearances, but the addition of Diezel, Hiwatt and even Two Rock simulations are a nice surprise and do a good job of mimicking

their intended tones. As always, you'd be getting ahead of yourself to think these are going to sound exactly like the real thing, but we see an awful lot of modelling gear at *TG* and the G3 certainly stacks up to our high expectations with a good response to your playing dynamics across the board and overall variety of sounds.

As for the effects onboard, the Tokyo-based company has

bucketloads of experience in that department and has included a huge range of effects in every category in the G3, from the standard overdrives, delays and modulations, through to filters and synths. There's a slight digital sheen to the sounds, of course, but considering the sheer variety at your fingertips you really are getting a lot for your money.

Zoom has struck an excellent balance between form and function with the G3 effects and amp simulator – there's something here for everyone. Despite our high expectations with modern effects and modellers, every box seems to be ticked and all at a fantastic price. Well played, Zoom.

**Alun Lower**

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