1 Positive Grid
Bias Head
€1,354

3 Sonuus i2M
musicport
£69

2 Sonuus G2M v3
£59

Roadie Tuner
£59 **4**

Guitar-Tech Tools

For any guitar-centric producer, or tech-loving guitarist, there probably isn't a better time to be alive. Here we bring you some of the best hardware amp-modelling solutions available, combined with a few small problem solvers

1 The **Bias Head Powered** isn't just your average 600W solid state amp; it's also the physical front-end to Positive Grid's Bias Amp software, which is free with the hardware and available in both desktop and iOS formats. This is possibly the most complete amp modelling solution we have ever tried. A fully gigable head, tone-matching capabilities and an online community for new sounds all make for a smart purchase. For around £100 less, you could go for the 'Processor' version, but we'd say save up your pennies and go for this 'Powered' version instead.
www.positivegrid.com

VERDICT 9.5

2 The third iteration of the **G2M** is still monophonic audio-to-MIDI, but with an updated algorithm which has certainly improved the tracking and latency. It still must be said that playing too loose and being out of tune will just be a frustrating experience for you. It's definitely worth re-stringing your guitar for the best results.
www.sonuus.com

VERDICT 7.9

3 The **i2M** can send USB-MIDI to up to six channels simultaneously and also doubles up as an audio interface, with 44.1kHz and 48kHz recording at 16-bit. Like the G2M, the latency and tracking feel workable, but this version just pips it with the added flexibility.
www.sonuus.com

VERDICT 8.2

4 Once paired with either an Android or iOS app, the **Roadie** will need to calibrate each string before getting stuck into tuning your guitar to one of many preset tunings, or any custom tuning of your choosing. If you're a producer who works with guitarists get this in your studio – visiting musicians will love you for it.
www.roadietuner.com

VERDICT 8.9

5 Many producers will plump for a **UAD** set-up for its mixing and mastering qualities, but let's not forget the large number of amp models and guitar effects that are available on the platform. Official plug-ins for the likes of Marshall, Engl and Fender sound incredibly authentic, but don't overlook the non-branded ones. Softube's Amp room bundle is excellent value for money and features high gain amps in the Metal Room, classic tones fill the Vintage Amp Room and the low-end is catered for with the Bass Amp Room. Be sure to check the site for deals; at the time of going to press, the bundle is only £135.
www.uaudio.com

VERDICT 9.0

6 On the same amp-modelling scale as the Bias Head, is **Fractal's AX8** pedalboard. It's the floor version of the manufacturer's famed Axe FX II rack unit. As with PG's offering, there are plenty of presets here to sate most recording situations and just like the Bias Head, there is an online community of other guitarists sharing new models that can be downloaded to your unit. It sounds amazing, is more solid than actual rock, but for the money it doesn't stand up to the Bias Head as an all-in-one solution.
www.fractalaudio.com

VERDICT 9.1

UAD/Softube **5**
from £598

Fractal Audio **6**
Systems AX8
€1,699

FM VERDICT

THE HIGH PERFORMER The Bias Head wins by a good distance. The sheer flexibility in editing means you can dial almost every tone imaginable.

THE BEST VALUE The Roadie is one of those labour-saving devices you just need in your life. Many tuning settings available and quick string-removal function.