





# FENDER MUSTANG MICRO

£89.99

Less is more...

**G**ear is subjective – we all gravitate to different things, sometimes surprisingly when it’s something we didn’t expect to like. But there’s a fundamental question we like to ask about new guitar gear; is it going to make a lot of people want to play more?

Fender have recent form for breaking new ground to answer that question with an affirmative; Fender Play successfully tackles

a 270-degree rotating input jack. Plug your headphones in and you have access to 12 amps and 12 different effects combos. The amps each have five EQ settings and the effects each have the same number of parameter presets. This is all accessed at the side with + / - buttons, facing up to you as you play with colour coding.

It’s an excellent selection; the amps running the gamut from direct to clean, crunch and high-gain, encompassing iconic

repeats bounce around in our cans. The limit of five presets is actually freeing for the effects – changing parameters dependent on model choice including reverb level, delay level, delay time, trem speed, flanger depth and Vibratone speed.

It all sounds superb and the EQ presets help to tame the high gain models from getting too fizzy, but honestly we were taken aback at how much quality is on access wherever you are. And it’s the mobility angle that is key here – pick up, plug in and play with an internal battery chargeable via USB to simplify things further.

But there’s more – you can stream audio to it from your phone via Bluetooth to jam along with, and plug it into your DAW via USB for recording if you wish (we used GarageBand with good results).

A Fender home run then; we think this will make you play guitar more, and enjoy it more, too.

**Rob Laing**

## IT WILL MAKE YOU PLAY, AND ENJOY IT, EVEN MORE

the question of how to keep new players... playing. Even the Acoustasonic series bridges the worlds of electric and acoustic in a fresh way that’s inspiring to experience. But the Mustang Micro’s appeal is far more universal than that. It’s something every electric guitar player would benefit from owning.

The Mustang Micro takes some of the modelling tech of the Mustang series of combos and heads and squeezes it into a chassis about the size of a Club chocolate biscuit with

Fender models like the ’65 Twin, Deluxe and BassBreaker, up to high gain Mustang models, the 5150-esque Metal 2000 and the Bogner-style Uber. Choose from the five EQ settings to suit your tastes and pickups – moving from a middle flat setting (white LED), two darker settings and two brighter settings.

The effects treatment is even more canny; the modulated reverb and 2290 Delay and Reverb panned effects are especially engrossing. The latter encouraging our wannabe Edge impression as

**1 LEVEL**  
Between your Bluetooth music devices output level and the volume dial on the Mustang, you can quickly find the right levels to jam along to songs you’re learning. We ended up using our guitars’ volume controls to dial back gain – if you have 50s wiring, it’s a definite advantage.

**2 AMP MODELS**  
We like how two of Fender’s amp models are already paired with pedals to enhance them; the ’65 Twin with compression and, a favourite we kept coming back to for medium drive, the ’65 Deluxe with ‘Greenbox’ overdrive (no prizes for guessing what that’s based on!).

**3 LEDS**  
You’ll get a business card-sized guide with the Mustang Micro listing amps and effect models with their corresponding LED colour codes (there’s a downloadable manual, too). You’ll soon learn the ropes using your eyes and ears!

### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Headphone modelling amp

**CONTROLS:** Volume, on/off/bluetooth pairing, amp +/-, EQ +/-, Effects +/-, Modify [effects] +/-

**FEATURES:** USB-C recording/charging out, Bluetooth audio streaming, 12 amp model, 12 effect model combinations, rechargeable lithium-ion battery (4 hours minimum and 6 hours max battery life)

**DIMENSIONS:** [LxWxD]: 77mm x 37mm x 17mm

SUMMARY	FEATURES	SOUND QUALITY	VALUE FOR MONEY	BUILD QUALITY	USABILITY	OVERALL RATING
	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆