

**ESSENTIAL FX UNDER £100****1 DIGITECH TL2**£99 [WWW.DIGITECH.COM](http://WWW.DIGITECH.COM)

**WE SAID:** We're pretty sure the TL2 is the best metal pedal we've ever stomped on. That tight setting will blow your boots off.

★★★★★

**2 MOJO HAND MULE**£89 [WWW.MOJOHANDFX.COM](http://WWW.MOJOHANDFX.COM)

**WE SAID:** Need something to bring your solos out of the mix and place them right upside your audience's collective face? This is it.

★★★★★

**3 ARIA CP10**£45 [WWW.ARIAGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.ARIAGUITARS.COM)

**WE SAID:** The CP-10 can do subtle, but its simple level, attack and sustain controls are happiest when squashing the signal hard.

★★★★★

**4 BEHRINGER DD6000**£43 [WWW.BEHRINGER.COM](http://WWW.BEHRINGER.COM)

**WE SAID:** This digital delay pedal has 11 different modes including a hold function and a reverse mode that's perfect for psychedelic weirdness.

★★★★★

**5 CARL MARTIN CLASSIC FLANGE**£90 [WWW.CARLMARTIN.COM](http://WWW.CARLMARTIN.COM)

**WE SAID:** This pedal has character, resonance and depth, and delivers a range of familiar and quality sounds.

★★★★★

**PRACTICE AMPS****1 VOX VT-30**£225 [WWW.VOXAMPS.COM](http://WWW.VOXAMPS.COM)

**WE SAID:** This amp oozes cool retro style – it's a versatile package with high-quality effects and simple program editing.

★★★★★

**2 LINE 6 SPIDER JAM**£400 [WWW.LINE6.COM](http://WWW.LINE6.COM)

**WE SAID:** The Spider Jam is another intuitive member of the Spider III family. That means realistic amp modelling and heaps of tonal options.

★★★★★

**3 RANDALL RX15M**£69 [WWW.RANDALLAMPLIFIERS.COM](http://WWW.RANDALLAMPLIFIERS.COM)

**WE SAID:** The Randall RX15M practice amp is perfect for bedroom warriors who are looking for plenty of poke from a small package.

★★★★★

**4 CACTUS AMP IN A CAN**£40 [WWW.CACTUSTUBEAMPS.COM](http://WWW.CACTUSTUBEAMPS.COM)

**WE SAID:** This big-ass Heineken can is actually an amp! The clean tone is warmer than we expected. It's nasty... but in a good way.

★★★★★

**5 DANELECTRO HONEYTONE**£35 [WWW.JHS.CO.UK](http://WWW.JHS.CO.UK)

**WE SAID:** This 10-watt combo has a pair of channels, reverb/echo effect, and a CD/tape input for jamming.

★★★★★

# BUYER'S GUIDE

A round-up of TG's best Rocked &amp; Rated gear

## ENTRY-LEVEL ELECTRICS

**ENCORE BLASTER E2**£125 [WWW.JHS.CO.UK](http://WWW.JHS.CO.UK)

**1 WE SAID:** There's nothing fancy about its raw materials but this model is good enough to play proper gigs, felt instantly at home in TG's hands, and turned in a suitably vintage style quack and pop via the excellent twin Guitar Tech singlecoils. If you want to get out there and gig, the Encore Blaster E2 is literally impossible to fault.

★★★★★

**GRETSCH ELECTROMATIC JR JET II**£269 [WWW.GRETSCHGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.GRETSCHGUITARS.COM)

**2 WE SAID:** The Junior Jet II is a guitar for those who want to stand out. The responsive retro punch of the pickups really gilds this Gretsch's lily. Whether its played through some old fuzz or in a clean to overdriven blues tone, it's begging to be strangled.

★★★★★

**SQUIER STANDARD TELECASTER**£219 [WWW.SQUIERGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.SQUIERGUITARS.COM)

**3 WE SAID:** The Squier has a deliciously playable neck, a fingerboard that feels totally professional and a build that's more than competent. While you can't expect these singlecoils to match the twang of a Fender, they get far closer than you deserve.

★★★★★

**MICHAEL KELLY VALOR X**£299 [WWW.MICHAELKELLYGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.MICHAELKELLYGUITARS.COM)

**4 WE SAID:** The Rockfield Mafia pickups are clear and warm from clean to 'kaboom', the sound coming from a tried-and-tested combo of mahogany and maple. The price, playability and versatility make it ideal if you're serious about getting good on guitar.

★★★★★

**DEAN DAVE MUSTAINE VEHEMENT**£339 [WWW.DEANGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.DEANGUITARS.COM)

**5 WE SAID:** As the only Dean model to feature the thin-as-a-broomstick neck profile specified by Mustaine, this Vehement is an absolute belter for technical play and equally satisfying for playing thrash rhythms at the bottom end.

★★★★★

**HOW TO BUY AN ENTRY-LEVEL ELECTRIC**

**W**hen you're buying an electric in this price range, try out as many models as possible, while thinking about the style of music you like to play. Test all the guitars you try for comfort (does the neck feel OK?) and weight, and don't be afraid to ask the shop assistants for advice. Shop around to find the best bargains!

