

# Quicktest



## Cruztools GrooveTech Jack & Pot Nut Tool **£11.99**

A tool for keeping your nuts tight

**CONTACT:** Westside Distribution **PHONE:** 0141 248 4812 **WEB:** www.cruztools.com

Anyone who owns a Strat or Tele will have experienced the problem with the little nut that's designed to hold the jack socket firmly in place becoming loose, and the faff it takes to tighten it up in its recess. A standard socket set is too thick-walled to fit and a pair of needle-nosed pliers won't quite grip right... Bugger!

Not to worry, salvation is at hand with the T-shaped Groovetech Jack And Pot Nut Tool from Cruztools, which, as the catchy name implies, also tightens the nuts that sit under

your control knobs, holding your potentiometers firm.

### In Use

Basically, what you're getting is three thin-walled socket wrenches, at the standard nut sizes of 1/2-inch, 7/16th-inch and 12mm, suiting Fenders, Gibsons and more. The 1/2-inch socket is perfectly proportioned for getting at a Strat's input, and all three are deep enough to fit over the longest pot splines while tightening the nuts around them. The nicely smooth ends shouldn't damage guitar finishes either.

### Verdict

This is one of the most useful accessories you can get for keeping an electric guitar functional – if you play a Strat, it's essential. Buy one and keep it close to hand – you won't regret it. **[TC]**

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** It works; fits most common guitar sockets; goes in your guitar case

**We dislike:** What's not to like about it?

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★

## T-Rex Twister 2 **£230**

Chorus and flanger together in one updated stompbox

**CONTACT:** Westside Distribution **PHONE:** 0141 248 4812 **WEB:** www.t-rex-effects.com

The Twister 2 updates both the hardware and software of T-Rex's original Twister. The light/heavy switch has been removed, and the company says that the pedal now covers a wider tonal range.

What you get is chorus and flanging (selected by a two-way switch) in a single unit, with control over depth, rate, tone and output level, as well as regeneration for the flanging. A gain pot on the side sets the optimum input level before being neatly tucked away into the casing.

### Sounds

With one input and two outputs, the Twister 2 can be run in mono or stereo, offering flexibility for recording as well as easy integration into a live rig. A wide selection of familiar flanging tones are available via juxtaposition of the depth, rate and regen knobs, while the adjustable depth and rate of the chorus also delivers a decent range, from a subtle effect to fast rotary. The secret weapon, though, is the tone control, which can roll off some of the top for less of a modern sheen and also help your sound to 'sit' right.



### Verdict

The chorus and flanger share the same basic architecture and you wouldn't really want to use both together, so it makes sense to put them in one box. Also, the fact that you're getting two quality effects goes a long way towards justifying the usual high T-Rex asking price. **[TC]**

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** One pedal with two quality sounds; useful tone control; adjustable input and output levels

**We dislike:** It's pricey

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★

# PreSonus Audiobox Studio

£209

A one-box recording solution

CONTACT: Source Distribution PHONE: 0208 962 5080 WEB: www.presonus.com

We took a look at the Presonus Audiobox 2 x 2 USB audio interface and its bundled Studio One Artist software a little while back. We concluded that, being rugged and portable while offering mic, guitar and MIDI (so you can add a keyboard) interfacing options, it was a strong contender for your money if you wanted to record on your computer. Now, Presonus has made it easier to get started in that direction by releasing the Audiobox Studio package, putting interface, software, microphone and headphones, plus the connecting leads, in one box.

## In Use

The Audiobox interface does its job well, whether you wish to

plug a guitar straight in or use it with the included M7 large-diaphragm cardioid pattern condenser mic – the ideal type for recording vocals and acoustic guitar.

The mic has no suspension mount or low-cut filter, but it does a decent enough job, and the HD7 headphones fit comfortably and reproduce sound clearly. Those three hardware items would complement any DAW, but with unlimited audio tracks, a whole bunch of plug-in effects and virtual instruments, plus bundled loops and samples, the Studio One Artist software offers a practical working environment to knock together backing tracks and build, then mix, your productions.



## Verdict

While you could, of course, assemble your own package of audio interface, headphones, mic and DAW from separate manufacturers, it may be easier to let the keenly priced Audiobox Studio take the guesswork out of it. [TC]

## The Bottom Line

**We like:** Complete package; versatile audio interface; price  
**We dislike:** No suspension cradle for mic

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

# Logjam Music Logarhythm Mk II

£59.95 (inc postage)

UK-made foot-stompin' kick drum in a log

CONTACT: Logjam Music PHONE: N/A WEB: www.log-jam.co.uk

As the folk and roots music revival continues apace, the performing acoustic guitarist seemingly needs more than just fretboard talent to break through. The looper is the route for some of those wanting to increase the size and scope of their sounds, while the humble foot stomp – quite often homemade – underpins many an artist, not least Seasick Steve. For those of us not wanting to go down the DIY route, our choices are limited, but the Logarhythm is purpose-built to give you a bass drum in a box, specifically a paperback-sized choice of four hardwoods

that sits some 45mm off the floor. On its underside is a non-slip gauze – essential for use on uncarpeted floors and stages. It's passive, so there's no battery to worry about either – just plug in the jack to, ideally, your PA or acoustic amp and off you stomp.

## Sounds

The Logarhythm responds well to soft or hard kicks and there's a slight tonality difference depending on where you hit it. The type of shoes you're wearing will also have an effect, but it certainly emits a very usable bass drum-like thump. It takes a while to get

used to the height, especially if you're stompin' from a seated position, but that adjustment aside, it's faultless.

## Verdict

Nicely designed and made in the UK, the Logarhythm will add a bass drum to any acoustic performance. Can you kick it? Yes you can... [DB]



## The Bottom Line

**We like:** Simplicity; no battery; rich and variable sound; non-slip gauze  
**We dislike:** It sits quite high off the floor and takes some getting used to

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★