

AMP MODELS

METAL may be the THR10X's top priority, but the amp still sounds great even when the gain is dialled down to more modest levels

EFFECTS

CONTROLLING the onboard effects is easy: reverb and delay on one pot, modulation on another – but a footswitch for channel switching is sorely missed

SPEAKERS

THE speakers may be small, but they pack a hell of a punch. As well they should, having been designed by Yamaha's renowned AV department



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Modelling combo
OUTPUT: 10 watts
AMP MODELS: 8
EFFECTS: 10
CONTROLS: 5x user-programmable patches, amp select, bass, middle, treble, gain, master, guitar output, USB aux output, effect, delay/reverb
SOCKETS: USB, aux in, 6.35mm headphone out
WEIGHT: 2.8kg
DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD] 183.5 x 360 x 140mm
CONTACT: Yamaha UK 0844 811 1116
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YAMAHA THR10X £299

It's teeny weeny and desktop-friendly, but this hi-fi hybrid has a mother lode of gain

THIS utopian ideal that we can own one thing that does everything has juiced the evolution of consumer electronics. Smartphones, smart TVs, even that old TV with a built-in VHS unit. Guitar amps are no different: their ability to multi-task started in the 60s, when the likes of Ampeg and Fender boasted reverb as an onboard feature.

Yamaha's THR10 series takes amplifier multi-functionality to new extremes. But guitarists who have long-since acclimatised to a market awash with modelling amplifiers, in-built effects units and MIDI-controllable electric toothbrushes shouldn't be intimidated by the spec sheet. A rival to Line 6's Micro Spider, Roland's Cube and the Fender G-DEC series, the THR10X will interest anyone looking for a super-portable practice amp with a wide variety of tones.

The THR10X is Yamaha's high-gain entry in the THR-series: where its siblings are rolled out in

stylish, living room-friendly hues, it comes in army green. It spoils the look a bit, but orange LEDs behind the front grille plate are a nice visual touch for valve-amp aficionados sold on Yamaha's promise of "authentic tube tone".

The THR has USB connectivity, comes bundled with Cubase AI software for home recording, and

from such backline bruisers as the Engl Powerball (Power I/Power II); Eddie Van Halen's hotter-than-soup 'brown' sound (Brown I/Brown II); and the Southern Hi, which evokes the late Dimebag Darrell's oversaturated scooped sound. The THR10X's native amp voices of Clean, Bass and Flat round out the options. This is a

response, excellent for an acoustic, but equally so for a drum machine or keyboard. The effects are decent, if unspectacular – the spring reverb is authentic enough, the chorus spacey and clean.

High-gain amplifiers have always struggled with domesticity, but the THR10X can sit in beside the stereo without making your lounge look like a rehearsal space. You won't find it drowning out a drummer at band practice, yet the THR10X is louder and ballsier than you'd expect from its size. That it's such a valuable recording tool almost feels like a bonus, because as a standalone amp with a whole bunch of responsive rock and metal tones, it's a whole lotta fun.

Jonathan Horsley

This is a high-gain amp, and there are some searing tones

boasts stereo speakers voiced for guitar but crafted by Yamaha's hi-fi division, meaning your amp can double as a dock for your mp3 player. There are eight onboard effects – flanger, chorus, phaser, tremolo, delay, delay/reverb, spring reverb and hall reverb – and a built-in chromatic tuner, too.

The THR10X has eight amp voices, accessed by a rotary dial – five of which draw inspiration

high-gain amp – there are some searing tones readily available – but roll back the gain and you'll find a number of pleasant surprises: classic Lukather-esque modern blues on the Southern Hi, and warm British crunch on Brown settings. The Clean setting has plenty of character, and that warm spank you'd look for in a valve amp. The Bass setting is voiced for a bass, and the Flat has a totally flat

| SUMMARY | FEATURES | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|--|--|
| | SOUND QUALITY | | | |
| | VALUE FOR MONEY | | | |
| | BUILD QUALITY | | | |
| | USABILITY | | | |
| OVERALL RATING | | ★★★★★ | | |