

Quicktest

Welcome to Guitarist's regular round-up of the best of the rest of the gear that's passed through our hands this issue



Palmer PGA-01 Triline Guitar Router

£372

An ideal onstage amp-switching box

CONTACT: Adam Hall Ltd. **PHONE:** 01702 613922 **WEB:** www.palmer-germany.com

If you use two amps onstage, some sort of switcher is needed (unless you have both on all the time) and Palmer's Triline active A/B/Y box is purpose-built for the job. With three footswitches (A, B and A+B) the Triline lets you select the amps individually or both at the same time. It also lets you select between two guitars connected to two different systems – say, an electric guitar to a normal amp and an electro-acoustic to an acoustic amp and/or directly to a PA via the XLR output of the Triline's built-in DI box. There's also a dedicated output for connecting a tuner with a combination switch press. Nice.

In Use

Sturdy underfoot and powered by an AC adaptor, which comes with about 3.5 metres of quality cable that connects to the unit with a secure screw connection, the Triline is as solidly stage-ready as you can

get. All the switching is done instantly – there are no silent gaps, no clicks and no ground loops or hum – no doubt down to the fact that the amplifiers are transformer isolated.

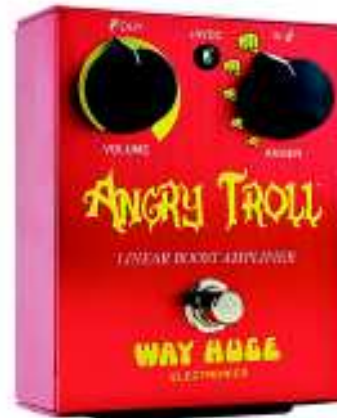
Verdict

Anything that makes life easier onstage has to be a good thing and the more reliable the better. The Triline does exactly what it sets out to do and has a build quality that inspires confidence. As a professional product it's definitely not cheap but, if you can afford to use two amps, that may not be an issue. [TC]

The Bottom Line

We like: Excellent build; silent switching; tuner output; built-in DI box
We dislike: Expensive

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



Way Huge Angry Troll

£169

It's a true rock 'n' roll Troll!

CONTACT: JHS **PHONE:** 01132 865 381 **WEB:** jhs.co.uk

The latest in the revitalised Way Huge range, the Angry Troll is a linear boost amplifier designed to drive the input of your amp, adding up to +50dB of gain for increased bite and punch. Two knobs control the action: the first is a volume knob controlling the overall output level, while the second – the anger knob – is actually a rotary switch with five Fists Of Fury positions, each with increasing amounts of gain created by the Troll's op amp. Way Huge says that the two controls interact like a vintage mic preamp.

Sounds

With the anger knob at a minimum, the volume knob can be used to give you a clean boost, driving an already driven amp harder, or upping the volume on a clean amp, while subtly increasing top-end presence and just bringing in a hint of distortion

when full up. Bringing the five Fists Of Fury into play adds precise portions of real distortion to the picture, making the Troll a very useful overdrive/distortion unit with a clean amp, but really coming alive driving an overdriven valve amp as far into screaming distortion as you need. Turn it up full and you'll see where the name comes from – the Angry Troll could make your hair stand on end!

Verdict

If you want both a clean booster and something to drive your amp into mighty distortion it's right here in a single box. [TC]

The Bottom Line

We like: Huge gain; easy to recall exact sounds
We dislike: It's fairly large

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Sontronics Delta £499

A high-quality ribbon mic that loves guitar cabs

CONTACT: Sontronics PHONE: 01202 236862 WEB: www.sontronics.com

For many there's only one solution for mic'ing a guitar cabinet: Shure's SM57. It's proven its worth beyond question, but its dynamic, bright sounding, cardioid-pattern design doesn't suit everything. For a different sound, you might consider a condenser, a different dynamic or, for a smoother sound, a ribbon mic such as this...

The Delta comes with its own rugged aluminium carry case and shock-mount. The mic itself is metal, with silver and black livery giving a suitably modern-retro vibe either on stage or in the studio. More unusual for a ribbon mic, it's a 48-volt phantom-powered design (so make sure your desk or pre has that facility), enabling much higher

sensitivity than a classic ribbon mic, more like a condenser.

Sounds

The figure-of-eight pattern offers marginally different responses front and back; one slightly brighter than the other, though not by much. Using the Delta for a day's recording on a small valve combo, and also in front of a belting Mesa Lone Star live, it gives a smooth delivery with a noticeable roundness to upper frequencies; there's less edge than with an SM57 or one of the current crop of Far Eastern large-diaphragm condensers.

Verdict

The price puts it in the serious semi-pro/pro bracket, making it overkill for 'normal' pub and



club gigs in our opinion. If you're serious about your recording, however, the Delta's performance on guitar amps – and indeed any number of instruments – makes it a brilliant addition to your existing dynamic and condenser options. [MT]

The Bottom Line

We like: Aesthetics; sound; included case and mount
We dislike: Serious price; some may want more edge

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

JMI SupaFuzz £195

Bend me, squash me, any way you fuzz me

CONTACT: JMI PHONE: 0113 243 8165 WEB: www.jmiamplication.com

Almost the size of a house brick, JMI's SupaFuzz is a limited edition reproduction of the famous Marshall unit from 1966, used by Pete Townshend (1967-68) among many others. Another Gary Hurst design, made by Sola Sound for Marshall, the original had the same circuitry as the three-transistor Mk II Tonebender and JMI's modern remake sits alongside the Mk II Tonebender remake in the company's range – both being available in a limited edition run of 200 each.

Sounds

All-important are three New Old Stock OC75 Germanium transistors, which give the SupaFuzz that authentic mid-sixties Brit fuzz sound. It's all controlled by two knobs – a volume knob with enough gain

to give your amp an extra kick in the front-end and a filter knob that increases the amount of fuzz rather than any tonal stuff. The tonal voicing of the pedal actually feels just right, with a nice balance of frequencies that's not going to radically change your amp's voice – simply coat it with thick and harmonically-rich sustaining fuzz.

Verdict

Well, the SupaFuzz would make a fine doorstop but, with its authentically retro looks and accurate vintage sound, it's much too good for that. If you don't mind that there are no concessions to modern use – compact pedalboard size, AC adaptor, on/off LED and convenient battery hatch – then it could be just the retro fuzz that you need. [TC]



The Bottom Line

We like: Authentic vintage looks and sound; solid build
We dislike: Battery-only operation

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



Carvin Vintage 16 £364

Carvin doesn't only make good guitars y'know...

CONTACT: Rock Solid UK PHONE: 0871 890 3022 WEB: www.guitarsampsdrums.com

Having gigged a Carvin Nomad 50-watt 112 combo for the past decade, this writer can happily attest that Carvin makes some great amps: reliable, good sounding and affordable to boot. The Vintage 16 is the Nomad's single-channel baby brother – a little trimmer in width, with three Groove Tubes 12AX7s and a pair of EL84s, Carvin's GT12 speaker and open-back poplar plywood construction, and a portable 14kg (31lb) weight.

It's a very simple amplifier to get to grips with, it has soak, volume, bass, mid, treble and reverb controls and switchable output from 16W in 'Pentode' mode down to 5W in 'Triode'. This switch is inset on the back panel, so you'll need a screwdriver to change it, but

that aside the amp is a no-brainer to use.

Sounds

The volume and soak controls are the key to this amp's surprising versatility: think soak (preamp) and volume (power amp) and you get the idea. There's some fine, sparkling clean Fender-style tones (the reverb is well suited) and a nicely smooth, natural overdrive that travels from light crunch to classic rock with ease. Importantly it doesn't overly colour the guitar – a Tele, Strat and PRS Singlecut all sound like they should. The low power mode is handy for home practice, it's not an overly loud amp in Pentode mode, but just about perfect for small gigs, jam nights and, of course, recording.



Guitarist
CHOICE

Verdict

Simple, well-made, good sounding, versatile, compact and very affordable. This is a valve amp that won't annoy your neighbours, damage your back or your bank account. Worth tracking down. [DB]

The Bottom Line

We like: Everything!

We dislike: Recessed power output switch

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Belcat DLY-503 Delay & PST-10 £18.99 & £27.95

A laughably affordable delay and power brick

CONTACT: Gear4Music PHONE: 0843 155 0800 WEB: www.gear4music.com

Belcat produces an extensive range of astonishingly cheap and cheerful effects pedals, but here we're focusing in on the DLY-503 analogue delay and PST-10 Power Station.

The DLY-503 is a cheap, compact and funky looking delay that offers three controls – time, level and rate – with an available rate of 130-350ms. As you'd expect, the DLY-503 features both out and input jacks, a nine-volt DC adaptor input, as well as battery operation and a red on/off LED.

For our test, the DLY-503 is being powered by the PST-10 Power Station, a similar sized (110mm x 60mm x 45mm) unit that can power up to eight pedals from its eight nine-volt outlets and two more utilising its adjustable six-, nine- or

12-volt outputs. 10 mini DC patch cables are supplied with the unit, so you can get set-up straight away.

Sounds

The DLY-503 achieves anything from rockabilly-style slap-back delay, slight reverb effects, The Edge ping-pong stutters, to more ambient sounds with an overdrive pedal in tow. The level control dictates the blend of delay into your original signal, but we found we had to have this set fairly high to make an impact and vice versa for a dryer signal.

Verdict

Both units represent eye-popping value for money. The DLY-503 should be considered by anyone new to delay effects,



those wanting to experiment, or it can simply be used as a worthy, low-cost backup. We did note a couple of subtle annoyances, though. There's slight noise around the bloom of a note and the LED is far too dim when compared with other pedals on our test 'board. [DD]

The Bottom Line

We like: Price; classic delay sounds; funky looks

We dislike: Dim LED and slightly noisy

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★