

MULTI-FX UNITS**1 BOSS ME-70**£269 WWW.ROLAND.CO.UK

WE SAID: A solid collection of gig-worthy effects, rock-hard build quality and a highly intuitive interface... The result is a great-value effects unit.

★★★★★

**2 DIGITECH RP1000**£523 WWW.DIGITECH.COM

WE SAID: On the face of it, the RP1000 is a tad more expensive than the competition, but it's bursting with pro-level features.

★★★★★

**3 TC ELECTRONIC NOVA SYSTEM**£449 WWW.TCELECTRONIC.COM

WE SAID: No awards for envelope pushing here, but it offers a premium set of meat and potatoes effects.

★★★★★

**4 LINE 6 M13**£458 WWW.LINE6.COM

WE SAID: Gigging guitarists will love its professional spec (including true bypass), while creative types will go nuts for its smorgasbord of effects.

★★★★★

**5 ELECTRO-HARMONIX HOLY STAIN**£75 WWW.EHX.COM

WE SAID: Other digital multi-effects units do more but this will keep the experimental guitarist very happy.

★★★★★

**DISTORTION PEDALS****1 SEYMOUR DUNCAN TWIN TUBE MAYHEM**£249 WWW.SEYMOURDUNCAN.COM

WE SAID: This valve-driven beast has tons of options; it's brilliant if you want a bit of high-gain, erm, mayhem.

★★★★★

**2 KRANK DISTORTUS MAXIMUS**£150 WWW.KRANKAMPS.COM

WE SAID: You get brutally heavy distortion and an EQ section that intensifies the vicious tone.

★★★★★

**3 RADIAL BONES LONDON**£150 WWW.RADIALENG.COM

WE SAID: The Bones series is Radial's solid state version of the Tonebone valve-driven pedals. The 'British Plexi' drive sound is totally flexible.

★★★★★

**4 VOX SATCHURATOR**£110 WWW.VOXAMPS.COM

WE SAID: A versatile distortion, complete with Satch's signature. Even with the More switch engaged, the pedal remains punchy and defined.

★★★★★

**5 LINE 6 ÜBER METAL**£90 WWW.LINE6.COM

WE SAID: Literally dripping with distortion, the Über Metal also includes a sweepable mid EQ and a noise gate to keep everything neat.

★★★★★

**BUYER'S GUIDE**

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

ACTIVE PICKUP ELECTRICS**WASHBURN WV40PROE VINDICATOR**£689 WWW.WASHBURN.COM

1 WE SAID: Active humbuckers' tendency to distort means they aren't perfect for every scenario, but the Vindicator is a shred tool and for that application you'll find nothing better. Its curved bout has negligible impact on the performance, and it offers the kind of access and roaring speed that everyone hopes for when they pick up a V.

★★★★★

**SCHecter HELLRAISER SOLO 6**£749 WWW.SCHECTERGUITARS.COM

2 WE SAID: The girth of this singlecut is precisely what makes it so cool. As long as you don't split the mighty humbuckers into relatively wimpy singlecoils – which is like putting a muzzle on a pet dinosaur – you'll be in heaven. Or possibly hell.

★★★★★

**PEAVEY TWENTY THREE III**£697 WWW.PEAVEY.CO.UK

3 WE SAID: Metal players demand a number of things from their guitars and the PXD has them all. Big frets and a wide, flat fingerboard mean easy string bending, and the neck is skinny enough to get the optimum hand position for sweep picking.

★★★★★

**LTD KH-OUIJA**£849 WWW.ESPGUITARS.COM

4 WE SAID: It was one of the most iconic guitars to grace our bedroom walls, so TG's glad the Ouija's back. From the finish to the playability, ESP has done a sterling job. If you're a Hammett obsessive and looking for a conversation piece, it's worth every penny.

★★★★★

**DAEMONESS ANTICHRIST**£1,500 WWW.DAEMONESSGUITARS.CO.UK

5 WE SAID: The solitary EMG 85 'bucker and volume control deliver a full blown aural assault, so it's unlikely you'll use the guitar for anything but hard rock and metal. Still, how many jazzers do you see rocking a guitar that depicts a witch being dunked?

★★★★★

**HOW TO BUY ACTIVE PICKUPS**

Fitting high-output, active pickups to a passive stocked guitar can mean modifying to your guitar's body to house a battery, but luckily plenty of models come with active pickups pre-loaded. Most pickup companies give an idea of the pickup's tonality on their websites, so check out EMG and Seymour Duncan for some popular active models.

