

Quicktest

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

T-Rex FuelTank Juicy Lucy & Junior **£109 & £79**

No fuel crisis here as T-Rex supplies power to the people

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

Behold two new power supplies from respected Danish effects brand T-Rex. The first is the Fuel Tank Junior, with five 9V-isolated outputs. You can daisy-chain pedals from a single output (as long as the total load doesn't exceed 120mA per output) if you want, but using just five – one per output – keeps them all isolated for minimum noise. T-Rex provides one five-pedal daisy chain, single power cables and a cable that enables you to run an 18V supply. Its big sister, the Juicy Lucy, has five 12-volt-isolated outputs, offering up to 300mA each for high-power pedals such as the T-Rex Replica delay and Roommate reverb, as well as the new Nova series by TC Electronic. You can use the Juicy Lucy safely with

T-Rex nine-volt pedals, but check before you throw different nine-volt brands into the mix. The Juicy Lucy also comes with a current doubler for a massive 600mA if you need it. You also get a 115-230V switch, and a kettle-lead power socket.

In Use

With T-Rex pedals especially we noticed a significant improvement over the standard, included supplies; more punch is apparent and ground hum disappears. The lack of a right-angled jack on the cables will be a blow to some and it's a shame the Junior doesn't have a separate kettle lead.

Verdict

For those with 12-volt T-Rex or TC Electronic pedals the Juicy Lucy is a highly recommended. The Junior is likely to be the more popular choice; small enough to fit almost anywhere and plenty of nine-volt grunt, all at a tempting price. [DD]

The bottom line

We like: Solid build; ease of use; very low noise
We dislike: No kettle lead connection on the Junior

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Bare Knuckle Pickups PG Blues Set **£190** **(standard finish); £210 (aged)**

Brit pickup maker nails a classic British tone

CONTACT: Bare Knuckle Pickups **PHONE:** 01326 341313 **WEB:** www.bareknucklepickups.co.uk

It's well documented that Peter Green's '59 Les Paul came back from being repaired with the neck pickup unintentionally wired out-of-phase, and it's that sound we hear on tracks such as Need Your Love So Bad.

Bare Knuckle mainman Tim Mills talked to the original repairer when building this set, which are as close to the original as we've heard. "The neck pickup was rewound in the opposite direction but with the magnetic polarity unchanged," Mills affirms. "I've reproduced this, complete with heavy Formvar wire, and this accurately produces the Greeny tone when both humbuckers are selected."

As close in construction to original PAFs as anything available in the world (take note at the covers, Gibson), individually the bridge 'bucker has the bite, depth and snap that you expect, while the neck unit on its own is huge and a bit 'fat Stratty' – given that Strat-style wire was used in the original repair.

Sounds

But it's 'that' tone we want to hear – and it's there! "The amount of out-of-phase tone can be tweaked by adjusting one or other of the guitar's volume pots," explains Tim. "As you turn one pot down



the phase corrects itself as the signal of the full-volume humbucker takes over." The tone controls add quite a difference too, as Greeny experimented with the balance, some of his tones are sharper and others more muted.

Verdict

Listen to this month's Blues Headlines and decide for yourself. But we're totally convinced – so much so that this set is going nowhere! [NM]

The bottom line

We like: Excellent detail and build quality, oh, and the sound!
We dislike: Not cheap but with this tone, who cares?

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★



Radial Tonebone PZ-Pre £269

A new Swiss-army-knife of acoustic instrument preamps

CONTACT: SCV London PHONE: 0208 418 1470 WEB: www.tonebone.com

This recent addition to Radial's Tonebone series is an acoustic preamp with a list of features as long as your arm.

There are two inputs – each with switchable Class-A boost circuit for piezo pickups – which can be used independently or combined. EQ is global: low, semi-parametric mid-range and high. There is also a separate boost control that allows you have up to 8dB of solo boost. Feedback reduction is catered for by a notch filter and phase switch, another switch removes any troublesome low frequencies. Along with the Toggle footswitch (that selects either input channel) there's a Mute footswitch and a Boost footswitch that can be set, via a facia Assign switch, for solo boost, FX loop boost or both.

The dual inputs, the tuner and

main outputs, as well as the FX loop send and returns, are all chassis jacks, firmly mounted to the side of the rugged 200 x 110 x 35mm folded steel unit. Two XLR sockets offer pre- and post-EQ outputs.

In use

A number of the PZ-Pre's functions – the input boosts, ground lift and reverse polarity for the XLRs – are neatly side-mounted and can be engaged with a push from a pencil or the like. Aside from those, all controls can be easily seen and have a very rugged feel. With this thing at your feet, suddenly you are in control of your tone instead of the soundman. Excellent.



Verdict

As the control centre of an onstage acoustic rig, the PZ-Pre is ideal. It sounds good, feels very durable and has more than enough flexibility for the majority of uses where your instrument's preamp (if you have one) or amplifier is simply not enough. [DB]

The bottom line

We like: Rugged construction; ease of use; exhaustive selection of features

We dislike: Not cheap; a non-slip base would help

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

Roland CUBE Street £179

Meet the portable amp with a whole lot to offer...

CONTACT: Roland UK PHONE: 01792 702701 WEB: www.roland.co.uk

This latest addition to Roland's Cube family is the most versatile and appealing yet. Combining features and sound quality with portability, the Cube Street could be the answer for plugged-in

guitarists on the move.

The first thing we noticed was its weight, which at only 5.2kg could be comfortably carried in one hand between gigs. The sound quality from the two six-inch angle-

mounted neodymium speakers is also impressive, giving excellent clarity and volume for a small amp.

In Use

Like its big brother the Cube-60, the Street features COSM amp modelling. With eight classic amp presets including; Jazz Chorus, British Combo (Vox AC30TB), Classic Stack (Marshall JMP1987) and an Acoustic Sim, they all offer a decent nod to the real thing. The Black Panel (Fender Twin Reverb) and JC models are pleasingly twang-tastic and the Brit Combo gives you a satisfying bluesy tone with a small amount of distortion. Adding to the package are the onboard effects, with one knob controlling chorus, flange, phase and tremolo and another responsible for delay and reverb. While the effects won't blow you away, they show that Roland has

really tried to give you as much bang for your buck as possible. It also features a three-band EQ, built-in chromatic tuner, separate mic/line channel with separate EQ and effects, a promised 15-hour battery life and a snazzy fire engine red colour option.

Verdict

This is no Matchless DC-30, but for practice, busking or coffee shop gigs, you won't find much to fault here: well-made, compact and you can sing through it too! [JG]

The bottom line

We like: Quality and quantity in a portable, affordable package

We dislike: Effects tend to get a bit muddy with the gain cranked up

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

