

Pigtail Music '50s Tailpiece Replica £50

Need a real replacement for your broken vintage Gibson bridge? Look no further... by Dave Burrluck



With originals both pricey and rare, the Tailpiece Replica is an ideal solution

PIGTAIL MUSIC MAKES A growing range of guitar hardware, and the company's original string-winder product (£19.95) is proving very popular with pros and guitar techs alike. Pigtail Music's range of hardware includes bridge/tailpiece studs, tremolo blocks, tuner bushings and various bridges. Now they've added this neat wrapover bridge too, designed as a direct replica of those fitted on original Juniors and Specials. "The only tailpiece on the market with correct contour on top for better intonation and tone," says Pigtail. "Weight is identical to the '50s tailpieces within milligrams (average weight between 30 and 32

grams). Tailpieces for Les Paul Juniors and Specials have adjustment screws and grooved backs without counter bores, just like the originals. Tailpieces for Standards and Customs – which are also available from Pigtail – have counter bores for string balls on the backside. All manufacturing methods used on the original units were retained for the utmost authenticity in tone and appearance."

IN USE: The original bridge on this writer's old Gibson Jr broke some years back and was replaced with an Allparts tailpiece. The Pigtail unit is virtually identical to the original, both in profile and weight (Pigtail offer an 'aged' version, too). It's much closer than the Allparts version, and others we've come across. Sound-wise, the bridge maintains that open-sounding ring that's an essential part of the tone of these early Jrs.

PIGTAIL '50S TAILPIECE	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** As close to the original as you can get
 ■ **WE DISLIKED** It's an expensive piece but way cheaper than an original bridge

Verdict

If you need a replacement bridge/tailpiece for your old Jr or Special (or a more modern one), the '50s Tailpiece Replica is as close to the real thing as you can get without paying silly vintage prices – if you can even find an original. The acoustic-like intonation is all part of these simple guitars' performance, though if you need it, Pigtail's adjustable wrapover is a fine piece too.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO PIGTAIL WRAPOVER BRIDGE **PRICE:** £50 **TYPE:** ONE-PIECE **TEL:** 020 8973 1441 **WEB:** WWW.PIGTAILMUSIC.COM

Jacques Trinity Filter Auto & Classic Wah £105

Funky filters, wah-wah and more, from one compact stompbox by Chris Vinnicombe



Fans of funk would do well to check this pedal out

THE FRENCH BRAND JACQUES is gaining global kudos for its pro-quality range of stompbox effects. The new Trinity unit is a combined filter and wah unit, with hidden depths unlocked by just four rotary controls. Most aspects of the pedal's construction are

suitably robust and roadworthy, although we did find the plastic switch that toggles the effect on and off to be somewhat flimsy and a possible weak point further down the line. However, it's nice to see a simple battery access hatch around the back, without the fussy clip arrangement you'd usually find inside a compact effects pedal.

SOUNDS: The Trinity packs a great deal into a standard-sized stompbox, delivering squelchy envelope filter textures in abundance, pseudo-tremolo sounds, auto-wah and even traditional wah-wah, in combination with an optional dome expression controller (an additional £35). Although conversion to the Trinity and the feel of the dome controller take some getting used to, the resulting smooth wah-wah sounds may even find you abandoning your trusty Cry Baby or Vox unit. The Trinity's other voices are balanced and musical, delivering plenty of top-end, without ever becoming harsh and scratchy. Whether you're plugging in

JACQUES TRINITY	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Smooth sounds; versatility; playing the Grange Hill theme with the filter
 ■ **WE DISLIKED** The switch lets down an otherwise admirable design

with a six-string electric or a bass, performance is equally effective, and when used in conjunction with fuzz and delay pedals, the filter can create some pretty far-out textures.

Verdict

Ultimately, this is the kind of effect that has limited appeal to anyone who doesn't at least flirt with funk playing. However, if that's your bag then the Trinity is a versatile, space-saving solution that does the job of several dedicated units.

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO JACQUES TRINITY FILTER AUTO & CLASSIC WAH **PRICE:** £105 **TYPE:** EFFECTS **WEB:** WWW.FILLINGDISTRIBUTION.COM

Bose SoundDock £249

Another nail in the coffin of your tired CD player? **by Simon Bradley**

LOVE OR LOATHE THE

somewhat crunchy nature of mp3 when compared to CD audio, the portability of even the biggest iPod makes them must-have items. Of course, a whole industry has sprung up around the unit, allowing you to play one in your car or amplify it to huge volumes, and when a name like Bose steps into the fray, you know that the SoundDock is going to be a serious piece of kit.

Thanks to the clever system of adaptors that come with the unit, this digital music system is compatible with

all iPods, from the Nano and Shuffle to the good ol' 30Gb option. Simply insert your iPod into the port – or dock – that nestles within a small indentation at the front of the unit and you're away. You can change between tracks (although not specific albums, sadly) via the included infra red remote control.

IN USE: The sound quality is crystal clear, just as we'd hoped and expected, and size isn't a problem, with the bass response likely to satisfy the most discerning of ears. Perfect for outdoor parties or rocking out in the kitchen, the SoundDock is yet another must-have add-on for your iPod. It even charges your iPod while it's plugged in and is available in sleek black or classic white colours to match your player.

Verdict

There are cheaper iPod amps on the market, but certainly not many that are



better than this one, and we reckon the price of £249 is perfectly acceptable. So is it finally time to throw out the old ghettoblaster and invest in something more current? 'Fraid so...

Turn your iPod up to 11 with the SoundDock

BOSE SOUNDDOCK	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
■ WE LIKED The design and quality of sound available	
■ WE DISLIKED No remote album-switching facility	

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO BOSE SOUNDDOCK **PRICE:** £249 **TYPE:** DIGITAL IPOD AMP **TEL:** BOSE UK 0870 741 4500

Visual Sound 1 Spot Adaptor £24.95

Need to power your pedalboard but short of space and cash? Here's the answer... **by Dave Burrluck**

CREATING YOUR OWN

pedalboard is never as easy as it should be. There never seems to be enough room, and finding the right power supply can be frustrating and sometimes expensive. Visual Sound's 1 Spot can power around 20 pedals (1700mA max), and with the various conversion leads that are available (at an additional cost), it's compatible "with over 90 per cent of current stompboxes that require a 9V supply," reckons Visual Sound. Cleverly, the 1 Spot will convert international voltage (100V-240V) automatically, and it comes with a three-metre cable, which is almost twice as long as other adaptor cables.

IN USE: For maximum freedom from noise and hum, many pro techs would suggest using a pedal power supply that has isolated DC outputs. However, these can be expensive, and hooking up the 1 Spot to power various stompboxes seemed to work, without inducing additional noise. We bought another Multi-Plug 5 Cable (£7.95) so we could power our board, and had everything neat and tidy in minutes.

Verdict

A 9V supply that really seems to work. Like Visual Sound's pedals, it's a carefully thought-out product, and it's supported by various converter plugs (from £2.95) to power negative or positive tip pedals, pedals without adaptor inputs, Line 6 modelling pedals and a five-pedal daisy-chain lead. If stompboxes are your thing, you'll need power, and this little product will provide just that – and plenty of it.



Plug In Baby: the 1 Spot will meet your pedal power needs

1 SPOT ADAPTOR	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
■ WE LIKED Does what it says on the tin; good range of converter cables	
■ WE DISLIKED Shame the five-pedal daisy-chain lead isn't included in the price	

Guitarist RATING

★★★★★

KEY INFO VISUAL SOUND 1 SPOT **PRICE:** £24.95 **TYPE:** 9V POWER SUPPLY **WEB:** WWW.GUITAREXPERIENCE.CO.UK

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