

# 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

## Peavey CT-10 Cable Tester £29

Peavey's new fault finder is comprehensively equipped and competitively priced

**CONTACT** Peavey Electronics **PHONE:** 01536 461234 **WEB:** www.peavey-eu.com

A **cable** tester offers the quickest way of checking for faulty cables and Peavey's new Chinese-made CT-10 expands an increasing choice. It comes in a quite compact, sturdy steel case equipped with the most popular connectors, spanning standard stereo/mono jack, DIN, RCA, XLR and Speakon sockets. These are arrayed along each side in respective in/out formation, while an end-mounted compartment accommodates the necessary 9V battery. On top are two banana jacks for checking an appropriate cable via a confirmatory LED, but they also accommodate the supplied probe leads for continuity testing. There is a six-way rotary switch, which selects each of the five connection choices plus battery check, with relevant green and yellow LEDs confirming correct operation.

### In use

The CT-10 is certainly easy to use, as all that's involved is plugging in a cable, selecting the correct contact setting on the switch and letting the LEDs indicate if all is well.

### Verdict

Like any cable tester, the CT-10

isn't exactly exciting, but it performs a very useful task in a simple, speedy and efficient manner. Construction breeds confidence concerning durability and it's certainly cheaper than some competitors – this is reflected in a restricted range of connectors, although all the obvious and most common varieties are included. **[PD]**

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** User-friendliness; price

**We dislike:** Limited connector choice; no mains power alternative

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★



## Bob Kilgore's Harmonic Capo \$34.95

(shipping to the UK: \$6)

It's a capo, Jim, but not as we know it...

**CONTACT:** Weaseltrap Records **PHONE:** N/A **WEB:** www.weaseltrap.com

Bob Kilgore's Harmonic Capo doesn't clamp down and raise the pitch like a normal capo, instead you strap it on directly over the 12th fret and push down each of the six soft rubber pads until they rest lightly against the strings, generating harmonics as you pick or strum. So what? You might ask. Well, the genius of the harmonic capo is that you can fret any of the notes behind it, temporarily breaking the link with the rubber and producing a proper note. Any pull-offs to an open string will result in a harmonic and you can create hybrid chords composed of both notes and harmonics.

### In use

The Harmonic Capo really comes into its own when you are playing fingerstyle in an open tuning like DADGAD, as extra chiming notes fly out from under your fingers, but there's more to it than that. Take some time to figure out what will work – tunings, which strings to apply the capo to etc – and there's great potential for adding interest to any recording with strangely voiced chords and some new textures.



### Verdict

The Harmonic Capo won't have universal appeal – it can't be used with guitars that have a 12th fret neck joint so precludes most classical guitars and dobros – and more, results are mixed with 12-strings and very low actions. For the rest, it's about time we had a new device to stretch the guitar and here it is – great fun. **[TC]**

### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Great potential for creating new sounds; easy to use; affordable

**We Dislike:** Not suitable for all guitars; notes at first fret are muted on some guitars

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★

## Tascam GT-R1 £265

Guitarist  
**CHOICE**

An ultra portable stereo recorder that has been made specifically for guitarists

**CONTACT:** Tascam UK **PHONE:** 01923 438888 **WEB:** www.tascam.co.uk

Anyone who read last month's stereo digital recorder round-up will be aware of the Tascam DR-1, a portable general-purpose stereo recorder that offered a few extra features that would appeal to guitarists – notably a chromatic tuner, metronome, some of the playback features found in Tascam's range of phrase trainers and an overdub facility. The new GT-R1 takes that a stage further, building on the DR-1's feature set with the addition of a dedicated guitar input, amp simulations and an onboard rhythm machine.

### In use/Sounds

Recordings can be made through

the built-in stereo microphone in mp3 or .wav format and easily transferred to computer via USB, making the GT-R1 an ideal tool for recording gigs or rehearsals. But it's the extra facilities that make it a great asset for the songwriter or guitarist. Firstly, it's a very practical musical sketchpad for creating, developing and compiling your ideas. Plugging a guitar straight in, you can tart up the sound with some amp simulation, play along to a variety of rhythms and build up a part at a time using the overdub facility. Secondly, there's the phrase training aspect where you can loop sections of audio and change speed

and/or pitch. All you have to do is load up some of your favourite tracks via the line input or USB and play along.

### Verdict

The GT-R1 transcends the portable stereo recorder genre by also being a creative tool for guitarists and songwriters. It's versatility extends to being a gig recorder, musical sketchpad and a handy practice tool in one. Three out of three ain't bad at all... [TC]



### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Excellent combination of features; easily portable  
**We dislike:** Mains adaptor sold separately

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★

## Shadow Stompin' Bass £99.50

Need a bit of a kick for your acoustic band? You need Shadow's Stompin' Bass...

**CONTACT:** Barnes And Mullins **PHONE:** 01691 652449 **WEB:** www.shadow-electronics.com

Numerous acoustic musicians use some kind of kick board to produce a bass drum-like sound, but unless you want to make one yourself – in true blues tradition – or trawl the internet, there's very little choice. Shadow, the German pickup manufacturer, has spotted this hole in the market and produced the Stompin' Bass.

Into a light-coloured rosewood case Shadow has put one of its NanoMag transducers, a 6.4mm jack output and added a non-slip rubber base and a hard rubber extension (removable if you don't like/need it). There are no controls and the whole thing runs off a single nine-volt battery. You just plug it into a spare amp or PA channel and stomp away.

### In Use

Simple. It produces a low-end thumping, bass drum sound with enough width so you can tailor the

low-end and mid-range to your preference. You can tap it with either your heel or toe (after practise we found the toe easiest) and it proves ideal to add some thump to your acoustic blues or, with a looper or a particularly clever foot, to create some even more complex patterns.

### Verdict

A dead simple way to turn your foot-tapping into serious bass drum-like amplified percussion. It's really quite funny, we had absolutely no idea that we needed one. Now that we've used it, we really don't want to give it back. [DB]

Such a simple device, we can't believe we don't already have one



### The Bottom Line

**We like:** Well designed; easy-to-use; good sound  
**We dislike:** Unless you're gonna use it a lot, it's expensive

**GUITARIST RATING** ★★★★★