

TASCAM iXZ **£69**

The multi-track giant returns with an iDevice interface

WE'RE never happy. First we want a phone that goes on the internet and lets us play games. Then we want to play our guitar through it. Next we want to record. Hang on, we also want to plug our mic in and record our real amp or add some vocals. Well, thank you Tascam for making the iXZ. This small box enables us to connect our guitar, dynamic mic or even a phantom-powered condenser mic to the iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad in our orchard of Apple products.

This curvy, white plastic unit runs off a pair of standard AA batteries and is furnished with a combi-socket that accepts either a jack cable or XLR lead. There's a set of controls for power on/off and input switching (guitar or mic),

phantom power on/off, and an input level control. On the back is a 3.5mm headphone control, plus the attached wire that connects to your device's headphone/mic socket, which means you're running through Apple's A/D converters. This does little for the noise levels, but it's nothing you can't live with – particularly as it means you're free to charge your iPad or other device while using it.

You can be up and running in moments. We tried it out with GarageBand, AmpliTube and Peavey's AmpKit to great success, and being able to use quality microphones is a real plus point. The iXZ isn't the only unit that lets you do this, but at the time of writing, it is the best value.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch interface
CONTROLS: Power, phantom power, input select, input level
CONNECTIONS: Jack/XLR input, headphone output, interface cable
POWER: 2x AA batteries
CONTACT: Tascam UK Ltd 0845 1302511
www.tascam.co.uk



SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USEABILITY				
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★

D•A•M MEATHEAD M-25 **£195**

Metal gain with plenty of pain

SURELY one of the best things about being a pedal builder is getting to name your creation. It's a practice built on a firm tradition of smutty innuendo and delicious punnery, and we like the first part of D•A•M's fuzz pedal moniker. However, the tradition of Muffs, Balls and Fingers has escaped this one. Instead, it shares its name with a motorway.

Not really. You may remember seeing another version of the Meathead in issue 222, when the M-13 delivered the fuzz establishment's arse on a plate. We couldn't help wondering what it'd be like with a couple of extra controls, though. The M-25 (or Meathead Deluxe) adds Filter and Attack to your arsenal, while the Level serves the same function as the Dirt control from our Group

Test winner. The Attack control acts as your main clipping control, and it's surprisingly tame until you hit the positions at three o'clock and beyond. Filter adds bass and extra clipping into the mix, while Level controls the output.

At first the controls can be tricky as there are multiple ways of achieving the same sound. However, with a little tweaking, we managed to coax out loads of different tones, from smooth blues leads to a vintage punk dirge to a full-on woolly grind.

The M-25 offers extra tweakability that's lacking from the more standard version, even if it does complicate things. In a time where anyone with a soldering iron and a dream can spell 'boutique', we applaud D•A•M for making things more interesting.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Fuzz pedal
CONTROLS: Level, attack filter
SOCKETS: Input, output
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
CONTACT: D•A•M info@stompboxes.co.uk
www.stompboxes.co.uk

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USEABILITY				
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★