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1 TC ELECTRONIC HYPERGRAVITY COMPRESSOR £99

ORIGIN: Thailand

TYPE: Compressor

FEATURES: True bypass, multi-band compression, TonePrint facility

CONTROLS: Sustain, level, attack, blend, Spectra/TonePrint/Vintage switch, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, output

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) or 9V battery

DIMENSIONS: 72 (w) x 120 (d) x 48mm (h)

TC Electronic

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Potential compressor users may have been put off by the fact that compressing their whole signal might mess with their sound too much. But the latest pedals offer parallel compression – via a blend control mixing compressed and uncompressed signal for natural-sounding blends.

The HyperGravity features that blending facility but also ramps up the versatility by offering a range of different types of compression. A three-way switch enables you to select Vintage or Spectra, representing respectively the sort of squashy tone typical of the most-copied of stompbox compressor designs and multi-band compression that offers a more transparent signal control. Both do a decent job, but the jewel in the crown is the TonePrint option, where you can load the pedal with compression programmed by TC, one of its roster of guitarists, or create your own with the software editor. There's plenty of extra gain, too, so you can use the pedal to drive an amp. **[TC]**

2 TC ELECTRONIC SENTRY NOISE GATE £95

ORIGIN: Thailand

TYPE: Noise gate pedal

FEATURES: True bypass, hard gating, multi-band noise removal, TonePrint facility

CONTROLS:

Threshold, damp, decay, Gate/TonePrint/Hiss switch, bypass footswitch

CONNECTIONS:

Standard input, output, send and return

POWER: 9V DC adaptor (not supplied) or 9V battery

DIMENSIONS: 72 (w) x 120 (d) x 48mm (h)

Noise gates can be lifesavers if you have a rig bedevilled by an excess of unwanted noise – be that low-frequency hum from single-coil pickups or earthing issues, or unwanted hiss from a massively cranked amp or dirt pedal.

The Sentry features both traditional hard gating that shuts down the signal depending on its volume, and multi-band gating that can zero in on specific frequencies for a perhaps more natural noise-reduction experience. With knobs to set the amount of noise attenuation and the rate at which the gate closes, there's plenty that can be achieved with those two presets, but for really zeroing in on the exact noise reduction needed, the TonePrint facility lets you finely edit your gate's characteristics. What's more, send and return jacks let you use it solely, say, on a noisy high-gain distortion pedal to set up gating that works very naturally, the gate being triggered by the direct guitar signal, but closed after the noisy pedal. **[TC]**



VERDICT A compressor pedal that you can program exactly to your needs. About time!

7/10

VERDICT If a noise gate is a necessity in your signal chain, this one offers real versatility

9/10