TC ELECTRONIC
HYPERGRAVITY £99

A pedal to program your perfect compression

THE compressor can vary a lot in what it does: sometimes you can really hear the effect of the compression in the way that it squashes a note or gives the front end an extra snap, and then there's subtle studio-style compression, which endows your sound with an even and consistent level. The HyperGravity wants to appeal as widely as possible by covering both of those bases, and going one stage further with a TonePrint setting, which enables you to tweak parameters with TC's free editing software.

Besides the TonePrint, the pedal has two compression modes. Vintage delivers the characteristics common to most guitar compressor pedals on the market, while Spectra offers multi-band

compression – a process that applies a different amount of compression to the different frequency bands. This means that, say, a heavy bottom-end won't cause the top to be overly compressed – it's more subtle and transparent than clamping down on the whole signal. If you engage TonePrint mode, the editor lets you get seriously involved with setting gain curves and dynamic response for your chosen frequency bands. Add in the blend knob, mixing dry and compressed sound for parallel compression – compressing the sound while still retaining natural note attack – and you've got a pedal that covers more territory than all others in its price range.
Trevor Curwen

TYPE: Compressor pedal
CONTROLS: Sustain, level, attack, blend, Spectra/TonePrint/Vintage switch
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
BYPASS: True bypass
POWER: 9V battery, 9V power supply (not included)
CONTACT: TC Electronic 0800 917 8926
www.tcelectronic.com

SUMMARY					
FEATURES	■	■	■	■	
SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■	
VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■		
BUILD QUALITY	■	■	■	■	
USABILITY	■	■	■	■	■
OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	

JST TONEFORGE
MENACE $65

A plug-in for the metal connoisseur

YOU may not be familiar with the name Joey Sturgis, but he's a producer who has worked with some of the biggest names in metalcore, including Asking Alexandra and Of Mice & Men, and as such, his sound is extremely sought after. In response, he's launched Joey Sturgis Tones – his own line of high-quality and affordable audio plug-ins for your DAW, including the high-gain playground that is Toneforge Menace.

JST's Menace has been designed specifically for metal guitar players, and it's very much a plug-in-and-play piece of software, with very little editing required to

get an instant modern heavy guitar sound. The interface consists of six sections, five of which are user-editable – you get the amp, a TS-esque overdrive, cab with four mic'ing options, a three-band parametric EQ, and at the end the chain, a limiter control. The limiter section is particularly useful for keeping those muddy frequencies in check when thumping out high-gain palm-muted chords, while the sixth section consists of a single button, which activates 'Joey's Magic Post Processing'. Kick it in, and it allows the guitar to 'lift-out' and scythe

through even the most brutal of metal mixes.

Anyone who needs a usable, mixable metal guitar sound with minimal hassle will find instant gratification with the Menace. You won't get the countless editing options that feature on broader-scoped rivals such as AmpliTube or Guitar Rig, but this plug-in was designed for one thing and one thing only: metal – something it does superbly, and at a pretty darn good price, too.
Darran Charles

TYPE: Audio plug-in
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Windows (32 & 64 bit): VST2, VST3, AAX, RTAS Mac OSX (32 & 64 bit): VST2, VST3, AU, AAX, RTAS
CONTACT: Joey Sturgis Tones www.joeysturgistones.com

SUMMARY					
FEATURES	■	■	■		
SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■	
VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■	■	
USABILITY	■	■	■	■	■
OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	