



COMPRESSOR PEDALS

Compared with other pedals like delays and drives, the humble compressor might seem a bit less glamorous – dare we say it, even boring. However, if you want self-assured rhythm playing with an even tone, drive pedals that respond in a consistent way, or just some clean country picking, then a compressor might be the secret weapon you’re looking for. Elsewhere, in technical metal and math-rock there’s been a resurgence of various tapping techniques, which also benefit from the compressor pixie dust. Since rackmount compressors made the jump into pedal form decades ago, there have been countless designs and iterations and now digital stompboxes can give anything analogue on the market a good run for its money. Don’t believe us? Step this way...

BOSS CP-1X COMPRESSOR

£125

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Like the TC, the Boss CP-1X is a digital multi-band compressor. It’s the most expensive of this group but ostensibly the most feature-rich as well. With an internal charge pump to 18 volts, a normal nine-volt power supply will suffice for optimal operation and allow for more headroom. The ubiquity of Boss units means that the layout is intuitive, moreover, there are simply so many decent sounds available in this pedal that it’s hard to come unstuck. Within two minutes, you’ll have your rhythm parts ironed out and your tapping solos ringing as intended. We for one welcome our new robot overlords.

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

MXR DYNA COMP MINI

£114

SIMPLE AND CLASSIC

The MXR Dyna Comp is a classic for good reason. It has been featured on pro boards for decades and cloned many times. Despite this, however, it’s hard to not feel like it’s been standing still while the competition has got ahead of it. While this mini version of the larger original has a welcome toggle switch for attack, in general the two controls – output and sensitivity – make finding a subtle tone somewhat laborious although fans of *Under The Bridge*-style squash will have no problems. It’s a good-sounding pedal once dialled in, but not the most flexible.

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



Tame your tone with technology or old-school analogue grit – the choice is yours...

TC ELECTRONIC HYPERGRAVITY MINI

SMALL BUT DENSE

£94

If you're not prejudiced against digital effects and want a compressor that's light on the pedalboard and the wallet, this could be for you. It's a multi-band compressor that uses the same MD3 algorithm as TC's studio System 6000 unit. It takes some tweaking to dial in a sound that doesn't darken the tone of the guitar or give the impression of it being 'thinner' due to too much attack, but the results are worth the effort – especially as, for the most part, compressors are 'set and forget' pedals. It's also TonePrint compatible, if you want to edit the parameters on your computer.

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

ORANGE KONGPRESSOR

THE KING OF THE JUNGLE

£119

Kongpressor seems an appropriate name for a pedal this size; luckily, compared with the svelte TC and MXR offerings it offers a suite of options, with attack, release, squash and chime joining volume as controls on the front plate. The treble cut isn't essential, but the range of the squash, or compression knob is highly usable. As far as analogue goes this is a winner, with the attack and release interacting in a pleasurable way to even out the guitar, whether picked or shredded. There's a slight colouration to the tone, but it's a almost preamp type of grit that will be a bonus to many players.

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

AT A GLANCE

BYPASS: (MXR, TC Electronic), Buffered (Boss, Orange)

POWER REQUIREMENTS:
9V power supply; 9V battery or 9V power supply (Boss, Orange)

CONTACT:
Roland UK 01792 702701
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0800 917 8926
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