







## AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** 1x12 solid-state combo w/ digital effects  
**OUTPUT:** 40W, switchable to 20W and 0.5W  
**SPEAKER:** 1x12 special design Boss G12-100

**CONTROLS:** Clean channel volume, overdrive channel gain and volume, bass mid, treble, boost switch, tone switch, tap tempo, delay level, reverb level, presence, master volume, output stage select, power control

**1 VIRTUAL VALVES, VARIABLE POWER**

The Nextone's key features include a trick class AB push-pull power stage that can emulate 6V6, 6L6, EL84 and EL34 valves, with three power settings

**2 EFFECTS**

The amp's onboard effects include three types of digital delay, three excellent digital reverbs and a tremolo, too. And all are fully programmable from the Nextone's editor app

**3 CLEVER LOOP**

The full capabilities of the Nextone's effects loop are accessed through that editing app. It can run in series or parallel, with full level control

**SOCKETS:** Guitar in, recording/ headphones out, line out, effects loop send/return, extension speaker jacks, footswitch/GA-FC controller jacks, USB  
**WEIGHT:** 13.5kg

**DIMENSIONS:** [HxWxD] 427x492x248mm  
**CONTACT:** Roland UK Ltd 01792 702701  
[www.boss.info](http://www.boss.info)

# BOSS NEXTONE STAGE £439

## Boss takes its solid-state Tube Logic tech to the next level

**M**ore than any other manufacturer, Roland has always pushed the boundaries of guitar technology, from guitar synthesis to the original CE-1 Chorus Ensemble, introduced way back in 1976, which spawned today's hugely popular Boss range of effects. Alongside the recently rejuvenated Blues Cube range, Roland chose the Boss brand a few years ago for its Waza Craft heads and the massively successful Katana range of digital modelling amps – the first time the Boss badge has appeared on a guitar amplifier, but not the last. Now there's another new amp range to tempt us, combining Roland's clever Tube Logic technology with digital control for a new vista of sonic temptation, the Nextone. There are two combos in the

Nextone mini series: the 80-watt Artist 1x12 and the slightly more compact 40-watt Stage combo, which we're taking a look at here.

The Nextone Stage looks classy with its silver-trimmed grill cloth, set off by the famous Boss badge. The control panel has a familiar old-school look and feel, with

reverb, and a master section with knobs for presence and master volume, alongside an output stage selector and power control.

The output stage selector is a big part of what makes the Nextone special. Boss's clever Tube Logic technology uses digitally-controlled analogue solid-state

## IT SOUNDS SCARILY REALISTIC WITH FAT, TWEEDY OVERDRIVE

separate volume and gain controls for clean and overdrive channels, sharing a standard bass, mid and treble EQ. Two small buttons operate boost and tone functions, the latter working simultaneously as a bright switch for the clean channel and a mid boost on the drive channel. There are level controls for the built-in delay and

components to mimic the dynamic response and clipping characteristics of a valve output stage. In the standard Blues Cube range, Tube Logic emulates a 50s-era 'tweed'-style amplifier; in the Nextone it's been significantly expanded to replicate four classic output stages based on 6V6, 6L6, EL84 and EL34 valves. Like the

Katana amps, the Nextone also benefits from a sophisticated editing app, which lets you dig into the amp's inner workings and make subtle or not-so-subtle changes to EQ, effects and valve-specific features like bias and sag. The Nextone's onboard effects are limited to delay or tremolo and digital reverb, with three different delay and reverb types available through the editor. Once you've edited your sounds to taste, you can load them into the Nextone's single custom preset, accessed from the channel button on the control panel.

Other cool features include headphones/recording and line outputs, together with a programmable effects loop and a USB socket that records audio as well as hooking up the editor. The Nextone can be used with standard latching footswitches, or you can



## The logical next step

The lowdown on Roland's clever Tube Logic technology

While valves sound great, they're not perfect. Modern valves don't have the quality and consistency of those made in the 50s and early 60s, and they wear out quicker. Solid-state should have all the advantages – it's durable, reliable and portable with no heavy transformers. But the sound and response of valve circuits is difficult to emulate with solid-state. Until now, that is. Roland's fiendishly clever Tube Logic technology made its debut in the rejuvenated Blues Cube series, before being used for the Waza Craft, Katana and Nextone amps. It uses analogue solid-state circuits, which can be dynamically controlled with a DSP to react just like their valve equivalents, making it possible to mimic the various parts of classic valve amplifiers, right down to component level. It sounds uncannily authentic.

put more functionality at your feet with the GA-FC foot-controller.

In use, the Nextone sounds scarily realistic, with bouncy dynamic cleans and fat, touch-sensitive tweedy overdrives. The difference between the output stage types wasn't quite as distinct as we'd hoped, although you can certainly hear classic Plexi, Tweed, Blackface and Vox characteristics as you cycle through different valve types. It's more noticeable using clean sounds and mild overdrive; as you turn up the wick the subtle nuances gradually disappear. The effects are impressive and you can

The Nextone includes a programmable effects loop, USB port and foot control sockets



The control panel has a reassuringly familiar old-school look and feel



dial in any sound you want using the editor: for example, the software EQ has not one but two fully parametric midrange choices.

At lower volume the Nextone Stage sounds much like a real valve amp, without the drawbacks of valves. It has more functionality than the Blues Cube, but lacks the effects wizardry of the Katanas. The reverbs are great and the delay can be swapped for a decently usable tremolo, however there are currently no other effects and only one programmable patch.

Taken on its own, the Nextone is a great idea, however it faces stiff

competition, including ironically, Boss's own Katana range, which may not have the power amp control but has quite a few tricks of its own. However, if you don't need bells and whistles but want to hear just how far solid-state can be taken, the Nextone is a great choice – maybe your next one.

**Nick Guppy**

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

## ALSO TRY...

### BLACKSTAR ID:60 TVP

£459

Blackstar's stunning ID range is the Nextone's closest non-Roland competitor, with six preamp voices, six output valve emulations and more effects to tinker with.



### BOSS KATANA ARTIST 100

£469

A few quid more buys the flagship Boss Katana Artist, which offers five voices, 58 effects, eight patch presets and a truly superlative Waza Craft loudspeaker.



### MARSHALL ORIGIN 20C

£499

If you must have real valves, Marshall's Origin 20C Combo is the real deal, utilising a clever preamp and Powerstem technology for classic Marshall tone.

