



# Gas Supply

**Our pick** of the month's most delectable and wallet-bothering new gear

## Fender Noventa Series **From £759**

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### JARGON CRUNCHING **Noventa**

Take a look at the magnets, and you'll see that these aren't your standard Strat/Tele/JM pickups. Like the series itself, the pickups are called Noventas, too, which anyone who can count to 100 in Spanish will confirm translates to 'ninety' in English. So, replace the regular pickups with a chubbed-up single coil that has 'ninety' in its title and suddenly it all makes sense!

### Another new Fender range? I can't keep up!

Yes, indeed! This is the Limited Edition Noventa line-up, a trio of guitars unveiled at 'Not The NAMM Show' earlier this year, and officially just released. As you can see, each model is a twist on the Big F's Stratocaster, Tele and Jazzmaster formats.

### So, who are these aimed at?

Fender's blanket description for the Noventa Series is that it combines classic Fender style and dynamic single-coil pickups to deliver powerful tones, modern playability and dashing good looks. Make of that what you will, but we'd say these cover a pretty broad church in terms of visual appeal and tone, and, of course, the price point.

### Are they all completely different?

There's a number of common features across the Noventa range. Obviously, this starts with the pickups, but the bodies are all alder and the necks are one-size-fits-all Modern C shapes with 21 frets and 241mm (9.5-inch) radius fingerboards. The 'board's wood

changes depending on which finish you choose, but there are two options: maple or pau ferro.

### Tell us more about each model...

The Tele is the biggest visual departure from the Tele we know and love. With its single pickup and 'half' pickguard it's a pinch of Esquire and a dash of La Cabronita, combined into something different. It comes in three classic finishes: 2-Color Sunburst, Fiesta Red and Vintage Blonde, with a pau ferro fingerboard on the 'burst, and maple 'boards on the other two. As well as that, it's got a modified 'cut' Telecaster bridge with three brass saddles.

### What about the Strat?

Again, you get the Noventa pickups and a choice of three colours, this time Crimson Red Transparent, Daphne Blue and Surf Green, with a set menu of pau ferro fingerboard on the red, maple on the others. Like the Tele, we think this one is primed for being a no-fuss rocker, with its single volume and tone controls, three-way switching and fixed six-saddle bridge.

### RETRO FINISHES

Fiesta Red, Surf Green and Daphne Blue are among the finish options. Plus there are some less stylised colours for each model

### DESIGN

Each guitar includes an alder body, Modern C-shaped neck, and either maple or pau ferro fingerboards that are governed by your overall finish choice





The limited-edition Noventas, unveiled earlier this year, are available now

### That Jazzmaster has a lot going on!

A trio of chunky pickups means there's not a lot of floor space between the neck and the bridge. You get a five-way switch (positioned horizontally on the lower horn) on the Jazzmaster, too, giving you bridge/middle, middle, middle/neck and neck switching options. Maintaining the Jazzmaster's alt-rock credibility is the inclusion of an Adjusto-Matic bridge, but unlike the Strat you still get the classic JM vibrato. Finish options here are Fiesta Red/maple, Surf Green/maple and Walnut/pau ferro. We love that Fender has kept the 'spaghetti' logo here, too.

### Down to business - how much and when?

Fender has played a bit of a blinder here. The Noventa range is a Limited Edition release, but we're pretty sure that limitation is time rather than a strict headcount, and we'd say it's set its sights on those looking for mid-level workhorse guitars. The Telecaster costs £759, the Stratocaster is £799 and the Jazzmaster is £889. These are already finding their way into stores, so you should be able to try them by the time you read this. [SW]



### PICKUPS

Fender says the Noventa pickups provide hot single-coil tones with enhanced mid presence and touch sensitivity for bell-like cleans and throaty overdrive

### CONFIGURATION

The single-pickup Tele's 'half' scratchplate and 'cut' bridge add to its stripped-back nature, and the Strat is offered as hardtail only. Meanwhile, the Jazzmaster features three pickups and a five-way switch

## ALSO OUT NOW...

### FRIEDMAN BE-MINI £299



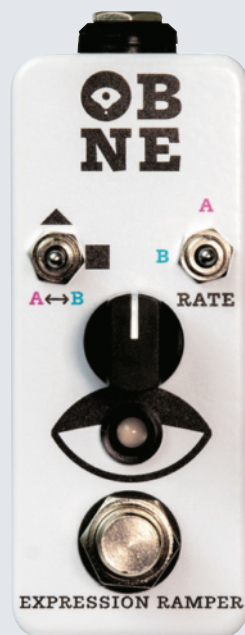
If you've ever sat staring longingly at Friedman's website wishing it made something between a pedal and a large valve head, ready your credit card. Dave Friedman's latest creation is the BE-Mini, a single-channel, 30-watt solid-state amp, but don't let the lack of valves fool you. Thanks to the BE preamp circuit, this little brute promises to deliver the same "British-voiced harmonics, grind and punch" of the revered BE series.

As well as the gain/three-band EQ controls, you get a presence knob, plus Cut and Tight controls to help tailor your tone further. Around the back there's a series effects loop and speaker outputs. The BE-Mini is available now.

[www.friedmanamplification.com](http://www.friedmanamplification.com)

### OLD BLOOD NOISE ENDEAVORS

#### EXPRESSION RAMPER £59



You know that expression pedal socket you never plug anything into because you can't face losing any more space on your pedalboard? Well, Old Blood Noise endeavors has a solution that saves space and also works while you're doing your best Kirk Hammett impression on the Cry Baby.

The Expression Ramper gives you two toggle switches: one for the shape of the expression movement and one for toggling between two rate speeds. Meanwhile, the central control knob is used to determine the rate for each, and when you stomp on the pedal it moves between the two. The shape toggle gives you triangle and

square (similar to your tremolo pedal) or one-shot modes to manipulate the way the expression pedal sweeps through its movement. It's a handy solution that could unlock some creative results from the pedals you already own.

[www.oldbloodnoise.com](http://www.oldbloodnoise.com)