

THE FAST TRACK

TC Electronic PolyTune Poly-Chromatic tuner



* BY CHRIS GILL

NOTHING PUTS THE pressure on like having to tune between songs during a gig. Even worse is when you're not sure your guitar is in tune and you have to stand onstage like a dork while you go through each string individually to verify its tuning.

The TC Electronic PolyTune is an incredible new polyphonic tuner for guitar and bass that lets you check your instrument's tuning as quickly as it takes to strum its open strings. A bold and simple display instantly lets you know which strings are in, and out, of tune. Begin to play individual strings, and the pedal automatically switches from Poly mode to Chromatic mode, so you can concentrate on the ones that need tweaking.

SPECS

LIST PRICE: \$149.00
MANUFACTURER: TC Electronic, tcelectronic.com
FEATURES: True-bypass on/off footswitch, multi-function mini toggle switches, DC input and output jacks, 1/4-inch mono input and output, large LED display, Polyphonic and Chromatic tuning modes, Guitar and Bass modes, Needle and Stream display modes, five semitone range for dropped tunings

ON DISC!

FEATURES

ALTHOUGH THE POLYTUNE is about the size of an MXR Phase 90, it has an oversized, brightly lit display that is easy to see onstage. The only control on the pedal's face is a true-bypass footswitch. A miniature recessed toggle switch located on the left side at the top of the unit lets you select Needle and Stream (strobe) modes for guitar or bass. A mini toggle switch on the right side drops the Poly mode's reference pitch up to five semitones to accommodate guitars tuned down to E_b, D and so on, and the reference pitch can be calibrated from 435 to 445Hz. Other features include a DC output jack that lets you daisy-chain power to other pedals and a light sensor that automatically dims or brightens the display to the optimum setting for your environs.

PERFORMANCE

THE POLYTUNE IS incredibly easy to use. Just strum the open strings: those that are in tune are displayed in green; out-of-tune strings are shown in red, either below (flat) or above (sharp) the center segment. When tuning individual strings in Chromatic mode, the PolyTune uses a similar color scheme and displays the value of the closest note. When you get an all-green "In Tune" confirmation, the tuning is perfect. The tuner is exceptionally sensitive and will track even the lightest string vibrations, so you don't have to constantly pluck the strings to get a strong reading.

THE BOTTOM LINE

THE POLYTUNE IS an essential lifesaver for time-pressed gigging guitarists and perfectionist studio players. It shaves precious seconds off the tuning process while it provides dead-accurate tuning. **SC**



•PRO	•CON
INCREDIBLY FAST AND ACCURATE • HIGHLY VISIBLE GRAPHICS • WORKS WITH DROPPED TUNINGS	NO BUILT-IN MIC FOR TUNING ACOUSTIC GUITARS • POLY MODE DOES NOT SUPPORT ALTERNATE TUNINGS

NEW EQ

WHAT'S NEW & COOL

RADIAL ENGINEERING KOMIT COMPRESSOR / LIMITER

The Radial Komit combines the power of an advanced VCA compressor with the vintage tone of a diode bridge limiter in an easy-to-use format. The Komit features a feed-forward VCA compressor designed to react in real time to program material, and it can be adjusted from 1:1 compression all the way to 10:1 hard compression ratios using a single dial. This control is augmented with a dynamic control that delivers slow, medium and fast attack and decay times as the unit auto-tracks incoming signals. The Komit also has a separate 20:1 limiter that may be bypassed or inserted to provide a dynamic ceiling for the audio track and to

prevent distortion from reaching the digital workstation. A 12-position switch provides repeatable limiter gain settings of -10dB to +21dB. The drive output gain control is post-compressor/pre-limiter and is equipped with auto-gain makeup to ensure more stable and natural-sounding dynamics.

STREET PRICE: \$449.99
 Radial Engineering,
radialeng.com

CORT USA GENE SIMMONS GS-AXE-2 BASS

Cort Guitars and Kiss bassist Gene Simmons have partnered to manufacture the GS-AXE-2 bass. This is a reproduction of the original AXE bass Simmons used on tour. The GS-AXE-2 has a mahogany body, hard maple neck with rosewood fingerboard, 34-inch scale, passive electronics, Mighty Mite pickups and die-cast tuners. A padded gig bag with Simmons' image is included.

LIST PRICE: \$699.00
 Cort USA,
cortguitar.com

