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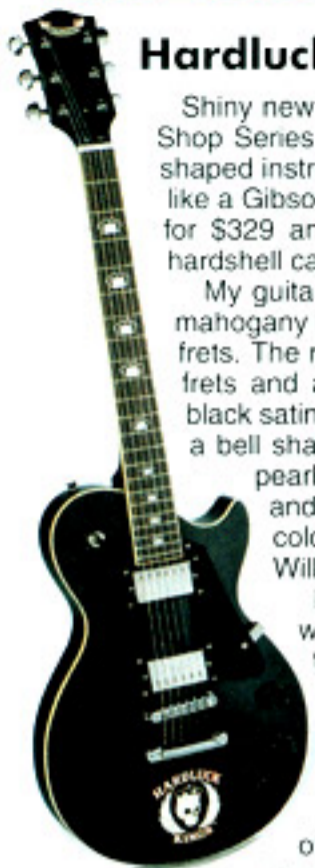
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Hardluck Kings' Bossman Guitar

Shiny new company Hardluck Kings (HLK) starts out their Chop Shop Series Rock guitar line with the Bombshell, a Fender Strat-shaped instrument and the Bossman (pictured), a guitar that looks like a Gibson Recording Les Paul. Amazingly, the Bombshell sells for \$329 and the Bossman for \$399 and both include rugged, hardshell cases.

My guitar player and I received the Bossman and we liked its mahogany body, set-in flat neck and the easy access to the upper frets. The neck is on the thin side with a rosewood fretboard, 22 frets and a black pickguard that matches the cool-looking flat black satin paint job. Up at the headstock you get a bone nut and a bell shaped truss rod cover. The agro-looking brass knuckle pearl inlay fret markers go well with the chromed hardware and the body and neck are set off with a subtle parchment colored binding. Bossman finishes with chromed die-cast Wilkinson tuners and a Tune-O-Matic bridge.

In the electronics department, there are two humbuckers with chrome covers and a three-way switch mounted in the traditional place. Both the two volume and two tone controls use black-based clear knobs.

We plugged into a Three Monkeys Orangutan amp and found this guitar to play very well and incredibly in tune—as if it had been Plek'd. We noticed the neck pickup to be a little microphonic at high volumes; otherwise we both thought this guitar was a big winner—especially at its price point. More information on both the Bombshell and Bossman are available at hardluckkings.com.



Pigtronix Echolution Pedal

The most advanced and versatile delay pedal I've seen these days for guitarists, combines the best traits of digital and analog processing into a delay system with a preamp section that can be driven to saturation and overdrive the delay line.

Echolution has several sections, including a tap tempo delay with fixed, musically related delay modifiers for up to six delays, a modulated delay processor with both chorus and tremolo effects and an overdrive/mix/filter section for arriving at a final sound and level.

I tried out Echolution in my studio and found the unit quiet and easy to adjust. It has a warm delay sound and actually functions like two pedals in one. I also like the reverse switch that flips the echo around backwards and, when you combine it with the loop feature and delay times up to 12 seconds, you can get some pretty cool soundscapes going.

Its Chorus and Tremolo modulated delay section's LFO speed is continuously variable and the delay time is sweepable from 10ms to 12 seconds over three ranges. When switched in, it overrides the Tap Tempo section, and both effects can be added to the delay with separate depth controls for each. With an expression pedal input for controlling the delay time in the modulation mode, Echolution sells for \$649 MSRP or about \$479 MAP. See pigtronix.com for more information.

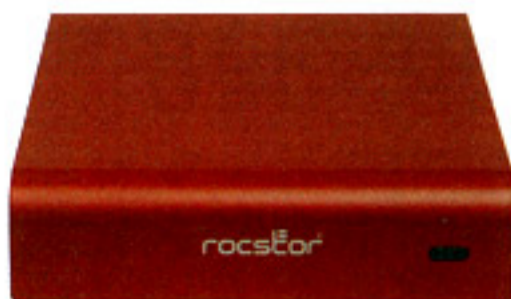
Rocstor Rocpro 850 Hard Drive

Rocstor recently released a new line of hard drives in both desktop and mobile versions that feature 7,200 rpm 3.5-inch internal drives, up to 32MB of cache memory, and an Oxford 924 chip set for eSATA, FireWire 800/400 and USB connectivity. The desktop models come with built-in universal/world power supplies (no pesky wall wart or line lump power supply) and are fan-less for noise free operation.

I received a 1TB Rocpro 850 and it went immediately to work cloning both my office and ProTools MAC's system drives. I also made copies of my current ProTools session files on a separate partition. In total, this is about 800GB of data that the drive gobbled up in many hours of trouble-free, continuous operation. Once copied, I can use the included stylish shoulder bag to carry the drive and travel out of town or to another studio.

Some other features to consider when you're shopping for a new desktop drive: the Rocpro drives use a state-of-the-art enclosure design made from an aluminum alloy that maximizes heat dissipation; the drives come preformatted; they're only 5.8W x 8.7D x 1.6H inches big and can be stacked and "daisy-chained" for more storage space; they come with a FW 800 to 400 adapter cable plus cables for USB and eSATA connections; and they include Norton PC software.

Lastly, they are cross-platform compatible between Mac and Windows, and have a two year limited warranty with toll-free telephone tech support. The Rocpro 850 1TB drive as tested sells for \$129, the 1.5TB is \$161 and the 2TB model is \$195. Check rocstor.com for more.



Arobas Music's Guitar Pro 6

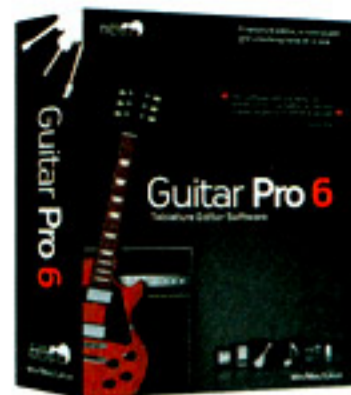
Distributed by eMedia, *Guitar Pro 6* multitrack tablature editor for guitar, bass, banjo and ukulele is much more than an upgraded version of *Guitar Pro 5*. It was developed from the ground up by Arobas Music to include a more intuitive interface coupled with an improved Real Sound Engine (RSE). With over 40 new features, you get notation symbols such as rhythm, slash, simile marks and multi-measure rests, configurable tones, tap tempo and jazz fonts.

There are 100 instrument sound samples available for the realistic playback of your scores and over 50 real-time stomp box effects (flanger, phaser, chorus, distortion) and amps are accessible for any track via a pull-down menu.

Along with a parametric equalizer available for each track, there is also a digital tuner, speed trainer, fretboard and keyboard tools, a chord diagram generator, a scales tool and a metronome.

Guitar Pro 6 is a complete tool for beginning and accomplished guitarists alike to improve their skills, compose or simply accompany themselves with pro-sounding backing tracks. *Guitar Pro 6* is recognized as the standard in guitar TAB editing and is used by millions of guitarists worldwide with thousands of scores available on the internet.

Guitar Pro 6 sells for \$59.95 and works on Windows (XP/Vista/Windows 7), Linux (Ubuntu) and Macintosh (Mac OS X 10.4+). For more information, please visit emediamusic.com.



Hosa TRACKLINK USX-110

TRACKLINK USX-110 is a microphone-to-USB interface cable without a box, extra jacks or hassle. Totally plug n' play, TRACKLINK is a 10-foot long XLR-to-USB cable that connects to a dynamic, ribbon or just about any condenser microphone at one end and your computer's USB port at the other. So rather than using an audio interface box, specific software and at least two cables, TRACKLINK does it all cleanly in one connection. There are no drivers or software configuration required; it's compatible with MACs and Windows, and it supplies 48-volt phantom powering for condenser mics.

I received a TRACKLINK and it immediately went to work as a better sounding Skype microphone for an online chat. I also fired up *Audacity*, a free audio program, and found TRACKLINK to be transparent—whatever the quality of the microphone you've connected is accurately conveyed.

I tried three mics: an AKG D190E dynamic, Gauge Precision's ECM84 pencil condenser and Mojave Audio's MA101fet condenser. Both the AKG and Gauge sounded as if I had them connected to an expensive mic pre-amp. However, the phantom power was not sufficient to run the Mojave and that is a function of the limitation of the available current from any computer's USB 2.0 port.

In the end I found TRACKLINK to work perfectly from the very first time I plugged it in—on both my old iMac office computer and my much newer ProTools G5 rig. It's a great way to adapt your favorite sounding mic to USB for online chatting or for recording into any computer DAW.

The TRACKLINK USX-110 microphone to USB interface sells for \$69.95 and adds to the Hosa TRACKLINK line of USB tools that includes the USQ-110 Guitar-to-USB Interface and the USM-422 MIDI-to-USB interface. See hosatech.com.

