





1 FRONT PANEL

The front panel is feature-packed, with everything accessible at your fingertips.

2 FORM FACTOR

Your eyes aren't playing tricks on you, it really is a micro-sized form factor.

3 RESPONSE

The response is amp-like, and the gain and volume controls allow interactive stacking with drive pedals.

IK MULTIMEDIA TONEX ONE £179

The most powerful amp modeller for its size, bar none

Last year, IK's Tonex merged its AI-equipped amp and effects software modelling with a large-format hardware pedal.

This enabled users to create a tone preset and take it anywhere, narrowing the margins between practice, studio and stage. Its new Tonex One is a tiny sibling to the impressive Tonex, coming in at just under half the price, and a fraction of the size, while still housing a powerful feature set.

As an amp sim, it's as good as units many times more expensive, but that stands to reason. The full-size Tonex is a workhorse, and this shares the same pedigree, albeit in a smaller, nano-sized form factor. Straight out the box, the Fender-like clean model is excellent. It allows you to get your bearings with some solid lower-gain tones. It's versatile, however – stack some drives in front and it will respond in an amp-like way to higher gain levels. If you were looking for a headphone amp for

silent practising, you could stop there. The dirty, Marshall-like voice on the other side of the A/B switch is less of a knockout, but still serviceable, particularly with a boost in front.

Whether this pedal is for you depends on two simple questions. First, how you plan on using it, and second, how much customisation you're happy to do. Although core settings and a number of models can be accessed from the pedal directly, you'll get the most out of it if you connect it to a computer and use IK's software. The software is as good as you'd expect from IK, but it is less tactile than a real amp. It's possible to access advanced features like disabling cabs via the pedal's setup mode, but more fiddly than via PC. Luckily, even if tweaking isn't where you get your kicks, you can still get a lot from this pedal even if you only use it as a pedal platform.

It follows that the best use for this is as a 'set and forget' unit.

As in, dial in a sound that works from the stock set of 20 models, or load the perfect one on from IK's software. Whether you're planning on using it direct into a PA, as a gigging backup into a power amp, or as an audio interface, it's hard to overstate the potential use of something so powerful and so small set up perfectly to your taste.

As far as it goes, the pedal itself is simple to use, with the key controls all on the front panel. There's access not only to a three-band EQ, gain and volume, but also gate, comp and reverb.

All in all, there's not much to complain about. The Tonex One isn't far off the cost of a starter amp and boasts convenience, great sounds and a huge range of additional options if you connect it to a computer. Of course, the user interface isn't as good as the larger unit, but that's the price you pay for it being literally pocket-sized.

Alex Lynham

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Amp model/amp sim

CONTROLS: Gain, Volume, Bass, Mid, Treble, Gate, Comp, Reverb

SOCKETS: Audio in/out, Power, USB-C

BYPASS: A/B, Bypass Modes

POWER: 9V DC Centre-negative

CONTACT: IK Multimedia, ikmultimedia.com

IT BOASTS CONVENIENCE AND GREAT SOUNDS

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