



BOSS KATANA-MINI £99



Battery-powered mini monster

As evidenced by this month's TG Test, there's no shortage of ways to practise your guitar these days. If the spec'd-up models in our test have too many features for you, the Boss Katana-Mini is sure to grab your attention. It joins the Blackstar Fly3, Orange Micro Crush Pix and others on your desktop as a high-quality mini-amp, and there's just enough onboard to keep us interested, without becoming a distraction. Starting with the individual gain/volume controls and triple-voiced preamp section (Clean, Crunch and

Brown), which take you from some pretty crystalline clean sounds all the way up to saturated distortion. Crucially, Boss has included a three-band EQ section here, giving it the edge (in control-count, at least) over similar mini-amps. Being able to tweak the lows, mids and treble independently means you can come up with some great tonal variations. The next big feature is the onboard delay, which acts like a nice gluey ambience when played in the room through the Katana's 10cm (4") speaker, and is more noticeable as individual repeats through headphones. The

headphone output is also emulated to make sure you still get realistic sounds when you have to wear cans, and there's an aux input for jamming too.

Clearly, Blackstar's diminutive Fly is the battery amp Boss has set out to beat. It's bigger, so not quite as portable (you'll still fit it in your backpack), but also louder and has more gain on tap. The downside? It's almost twice the price. We'd recommend buying an adaptor or rechargeable batteries if you're planning on heavy use.

Stuart Williams

AT A GLANCE

- TYPE:** Battery-powered amp
- POWER:** 7 watts
- SPEAKER:** 1x4"
- CHANNELS:** 1 (three voices)
- DIMENSIONS:** [HxWxDmm] 181x230x116
- WEIGHT:** 1.2kg
- POWER:** 6XAA batteries, power supply (not included)

IT JOINS BLACKSTAR'S FLY3 ON YOUR DESKTOP AS A HIGH-QUALITY AMP

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