



Wheel of Fortune

PETERSON STOMP CLASSIC STROBOTUNER

By Chris Gill

EAGLE-EYED GEAR SPOTTERS have probably noticed the distinctive amber glow of a Conn or Peterson strobe tuner display on-stage with the biggest acts over the past four decades. Renowned for their incredible accuracy, Peterson strobe tuners are the preferred choice of pro guitarists and guitar techs who demand the most accurate tuning available. The Peterson Stomp Classic Strobotuner is a compact and affordable stomp box that combines the familiar look and performance of the vintage Conn ST-11 Strobotuner with numerous features found on Peterson's modern high-end strobe tuners.

FEATURES The heart of the Stomp Classic is its large, half-circle backlit LED, which provides exceptionally accurate and easy-to-use "spinning wheel" tuning feedback, even in darkness or direct sunlight. Like Peterson's high-end units, the Stomp Classic is accurate within 0.1 cents, making it five to 10 times more accurate than other pedal tuners (most of which are accurate to .5 or 1 cents). Reference pitch can be calibrated from A=390 to A=490 (compared to the A=435-445 range of most competitors), which makes it ideal for the growing number of guitarists who prefer A=432 over A=440. It also offers 25 "sweetened" tuning presets optimized for electric, acoustic, alternate-tuned, 12-string, resonator, bass and guitars that feature the Buzz Feiten tuning system, plus it has space for your own custom tunings. Construction is



solid and professional quality, and the pedal has metal screw lugs that let you fasten it securely to a pedal board, a feature that should be standard on all stomp boxes these days.

PERFORMANCE If you've never tuned your guitar with a Peterson strobe tuner, you've probably never actually heard it truly in tune. Because the tuner is very sensitive, it works best with a light touch both when plucking strings and adjusting tuning pegs, but once you learn how to get the wheel to come to a complete stop you are rewarded with dead-accurate tuning. The "sweetened" presets can make a guitar sound more musical and harmonious than you ever imagined it could.

CHEAT SHEET



LIST PRICE \$299
MANUFACTURER Peterson Electro-Musical Products, petersontuners.com

● THE BOTTOM LINE

Fitting the accurate performance and versatile features of a high-end strobe tuner into a stomp box, the Peterson Stomp Classic Strobotuner is essential for guitarists who want the best tuning capabilities available.



For video of this review, go to GuitarWorld.com/Nov2012

* optimized for iPhone, iPad and Android!

Buzz Bin

NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR



Celestial Effects Virgo Rock Overdrive

Whether you're a confirmed pedal junkie or just a casual player, you probably already own several overdrive and distortion



pedals. Well, get ready to make more room on your pedal board. The Celestial Effects Virgo Rock Overdrive delivers incredibly juicy and

luscious tones that are impossible to resist once you experience them, especially if you love beefy bottom end, fat midrange, shimmering, harmonically complex highs and touch-responsive dynamics. The Virgo serves up loads of crunch and bite, but its tones can also be as sweet as Miranda Kerr dipped in chocolate and honey.

While Celestial classifies the Virgo as an overdrive pedal, it features a dual op-amp circuit to produce hard-clipping distortion that sounds similar to a modified Marshall. A three-way switch selects symmetrical silicon diodes, an asymmetrical MOSFET/germanium diode mix or no diodes, allowing users to tailor compression and harmonic characteristics to their preferences. Tone and edge controls complement the guitar's natural tone instead of exaggerating it, and the pedal accommodates up to 18 volts to deliver improved headroom and dynamic response. Virgo's distortion makes your guitar sound bigger, harder, and more powerful—call it "tonal enhancement." —Chris Gill

LIST PRICE \$179

MANUFACTURER Celestial Effects, celestialeffects.com