

TASCAM
DR-05 **£109**

The no-fuss way of capturing your ideas

TRUE inspiration is an elusive thing. When you want to capture one of those best-riff-I've-ever-written moments, you have a choice: hum into your phone (never really works, does it?), or boot up the computer, plug in your interface, load up... Oh forget it, it sounded like a Metallica B-side anyway!

The Tascam DR-05 is a stereo portable recorder. There's no overdubbing or effects – instead you get built-in stereo condenser microphones, a built-in tuner and an intuitive user interface. There are also sockets for an external mic/line device and headphones.

Recording is easy. The DR-05 has been designed so that button presses are kept to a minimum. Hit Record to put it in a record-

ready mode, set a level and hit Play to start rolling. Tascam's Peak Reduction recording mode enables you to set the recording levels, but the DR-05 will bring them down if a sudden loud burst occurs. Other modes include a full auto setting (not great for dynamic performances), and a Limiter mode to help avoid clipping.

There are plenty of smartphone apps that aim to do what the DR-05 does, but they don't have the quality microphones or features. Its simplicity is also where its appeal lies. This is for anyone who spends band practice trying to remember the song they wrote last week, or the casual songwriter who's lost one too many ideas. It's simple but highly effective.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE
TYPE: Stereo recorder
FEATURES: Built-in mics, built-in speaker, tuner, multiple level setting modes, microSD card slot (2GB included)
INPUTS: 3.5mm jack external input (mic/line, stereo)
OUTPUTS: 3.5mm line out/headphone socket, USB
POWER: 2x AA batteries
DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD]
 135mm x 52mm x 25mm
CONTACT: Teac UK
 0845 1302511 tascam.co.uk

SUMMARY	FEATURES	■	■	■	■	■	■
	SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	BUILD QUALITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	USEABILITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	OVERALL RATING	★★★★★					

T.REX TONEBUG
CHORUS + FLANGER **£145**

An 80s flavour from a dual-purpose pedal

IT'S widely agreed that two is better than one – after all, it's one more. That's the kind of thinking that lead to T.Rex designing the Chorus + Flanger. It's a single-size pedal with a streamlined control set (Rate and Depth) and two effects built in.

The Chorus + Flanger can nail 80s clean rhythm sounds and lead thickeners a treat, but it can also sound modern and unusual too. One factor in its versatility is that the Depth control means business. Keep it low for subtle flutters and ramp it up with a slow Rate setting for drunk-in-a-hall-of-mirrors-style modulation. Back it off towards the middle and you can mimic a stretched-cassette tape lo-fi sound.

The same applies to Flanger mode. Run it through some

distortion with high Depth and low Rate settings, and you'll get the jet plane soaring sound that's graced a hundred metal breakdowns. Play it with a dirty-clean sound with faster modulation and you'll be approaching Leslie speaker noises *a la Black Hole Sun*.

So it sounds great, but there's a catch. That simple control count limits your options a bit, and the biggest omission is a tap-tempo control to set modulation speeds. We could live with the basic control set on a cheaper pedal, but it feels skimpy here. So if you're buying with your ears, then this ToneBug's well worth the cash. But if tweaking your sounds, hands-free control and true bypass are your thing, give it some thought.

Stuart Williams



AT A GLANCE
TYPE: Chorus/flanger stompbox
CONTROLS: Rate, depth, chorus/flanger switch
SOCKETS: Input, output, power
POWER: Battery, PSU (optional)
CONTACT: Westside Distribution
 0141 248 4812 t-rex-effects.com

SUMMARY	FEATURES	■	■	■	■	■	■
	SOUND QUALITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	VALUE FOR MONEY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	BUILD QUALITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	USEABILITY	■	■	■	■	■	■
	OVERALL RATING	★★★★★					