1 AMP MODELS
The Mustang LT covers all the tonal ground you're likely to need, from classic Fender cleans to higher-gain models

2 EFFECTS
With 25 effects built-in, the Mustang has you covered for dynamics, modulation, filters, pitch-shifting, delay, reverb and more!

3 USB
This lightweight combo can also double as an audio interface for recording your guitar to your computer

FENDER MUSTANG LT25

£139

Modelling, effects and recording made easy

From apps to computer software, mini headphone amps to rackmount modellers, there's no shortage of products available for us to plug into in order to practise playing the guitar. If anything, the amount of choice can be somewhat overwhelming, with interfaces replacing your amp, your amp doubling as an interface, all with pretty much everything you actually *need* under the hood.

Fender is no newcomer to the modelling amp game, its Mustang amps have always impressed us with the number of features, sound quality and ease of use. So what's the LT25 all about, then? Well, it's a modelling combo featuring an eight-inch speaker, 20 amp models, 25 effects, USB connectivity, and an auxiliary input. In an era where seemingly everything connects to everything else over bluetooth, requires some sort of smartphone integration and will switch your lights off if you press the wrong button, you'll forgive us for actually feeling quite refreshed as we connect our guitar with a jack cable and start trying out sounds.

That's not to say the Mustang isn't well-stocked – there are 30 on-board presets designed to get you playing and show off the variety of sounds within. Scrolling through each one is made easy by using the large encoder to the right of the screen. If you want to tweak the preset by swapping amp models or effects, it's as intuitive as pressing the encoder and scrolling through each category. When you're done customising, you can save your sound or just jump presets to discard your changes. Operationally, it's a joy in that we barely need to put our pick down – making our playing session uninterrupted.

That's great, then. But it's moot if the tonal weight isn't there to back it up. When we think of Fender amps, we're obviously transported to the super bright, clean spank of a Twin, or the smooth, mild breakup of a Champ being pushed into overdrive. But the LT isn't just about clean or pushed sounds. There are some meaty higher-gain emulations on offer too, and they're equally as impressive at times as the more 'Fender-y' tones. Effects vary from utilitarian compression and gates, through to some more exotic sounds such as an octaver, an auto-wah and some surprisingly high-quality delays and reverbs.

Call us luddites, but we think the Mustang LT is pitching itself perfectly. By Fender's own description, it's aimed at beginners and students, and while the feature set here isn't crazy compared to some late-2019 offerings, what it does, it does very well. We enjoyed the un-fussy simplicity and interesting sounds, and most importantly, it made us want to keep playing! This part of the market features some strong competition, but the 'Stang has proved itself once more.
Stuart Williams

"UN-FUSSY SIMPLICITY AND INTERESTING SOUNDS"

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Digital modelling amp

AMP MODELS: 20

EFFECTS: 25

CONTROLS: Gain, volume, treble, bass, master

SOCKETS: Input, headphones, aux-in, footswitch, USB

OUTPUT: 25 watts

CONTACT: Fender EMEA, www.fender.com

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