

BEST GUITAR ACCESSORIES

WINNER Planet Waves NS Capo

Reviewed October 17/8 Price: £17.70
Contact: Summerfield ☎ 0191 414 9000
Web: www.planetwaves.com

The quest for the perfect capo has taken another twist with the Planet Waves NS. Made of aluminium, it's ultra-light but reassuringly solid, and smartly finished in black with a thick rubber pad that contacts the strings and a thinner pad protecting the back of the neck. A thumbwheel micrometer screw makes the NS capo grip, allowing precise control over pressure to ensure that the strings ring true without being pushed sharp. It can also be fixed to the guitar with the open end up or down (but one-handed adjustment is best accomplished with the thumbwheel on the bass side, or it's likely to fall off). The NS capo fixes and releases easily – anywhere on the neck – without requiring a re-tune every time it's moved, and it doesn't add too much extra weight to the neck. It's a really good capo.



Vinci Strings

Price: £3.99
Reviewed August 17/6
Contact: Smartsound ☎ 01883 346 647
Web: www.smartsounddirect.com

Apparently the Vinci Strings Company revolutionised the string industry in 1953 by inventing the world's first automated string winding machine. Now countless other manufacturers are using the same equipment – so what's so special about Vinci?

These electric guitar strings have a Swedish steel core and nickel-plated wrap wire with a high iron content to produce a 'brighter, more vibrant sound'.

They're also supplied in a hermetically sealed package to keep them factory-fresh. Inside you get an extra top E thrown in for free, and all of them are longer than usual, so they'll suit guitars like Bigsby-equipped ES-335s. They sounded a little brighter than our regular strings, but we didn't notice any difference in feel. After two days of solid playing they still sounded fresh and bright, and four months later they're still corrosion-free and sounding as bright as they look. At £3.99 a packet, Vinci strings seem like good value for money.

BEST FOR...

All electrics with penny-watching owners, especially habitual top-E snappers



Award Session

ClearTone Cables
Price: £8.95
Reviewed Nov 17/9
Contact: Award Session ☎ 01256 477 222
Web: www.award-session.com

Perhaps only the worker bees on a guitar magazine could be thrilled by a guitar cable, but that's exactly what happened when these came snaking over our threshold. It's a simple formula: take three metres of Klotz instrument cable and a pair of genuine Neutrik jackplugs, solder the whole lot together professionally, and you have a simple

recipe for sonic happiness – but charge just £5.85 and you'll have every electric musician in England hopping around the room in joy. If this news isn't enough to get you all excited, you can buy the same lead with a Neutrik Silent Switch jack for just £8.95. This nifty gadget has a high-quality spring-loaded moving magnet and a reed switch so when you unplug the cable switches itself off, so you'll get no more nasty electrical thumps when you swap guitars. And the good news goes on – these leads come in lengths up to 10m, and you can buy them directly over the internet. Sheesh, life is good.

BEST FOR...

No-hassle, noise-free connection between your two best friends

