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GuitarWorld.com/July2015



Bigger Rig

IK MULTIMEDIA IRIG 2 By Chris Gill

GUITAR PERFORMANCE AND recording apps have progressed significantly since the first iOS- and Android-based portable studios started emerging about five years ago. While IK Multimedia's iRig has remained one of the best guitar interfaces for these applications since its introduction back then, IK realized that an upgrade was overdue, and they've delivered with iRig 2.

FEATURES While iRig 2 still offers the same simple plug-and-play convenience—just connect iRig 2 to a mobile device's mini 1/8-inch jack input and an instrument to iRig 2's 1/4-inch instrument input—it also offers significantly improved sound quality and a host of other features that guitarists have requested. Most notable is its gain control, which makes it easy to adjust the input level to get the best sound quality from an electric guitar or bass or line-level instrument such as a synth no matter what type of portable device it is connected to. iRig 2 now also features a 1/4-inch amplifier output and an FX/

Thru switch that allows users to send either a wet or dry signal to an external amp, powered speakers, or recording device.

PERFORMANCE Perhaps the most significant upgrade beyond the improved sound quality is iRig 2's greatly expanded compatibility with a wider variety of portable devices and apps. It will work with any app that accepts an audio input, and in addition to iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, and Apple Mac/PC computers, iRig 2 also supports Android 5 and Samsung Professional Audio devices, like the Galaxy Note 4, Galaxy Edge, and Galaxy S5 and S6. iRig 2 ships with IK Multimedia's own AmpliTube Free software and a complete suite of other IK music applications to get users started. Despite adding several new features, iRig 2 is still smaller than a pack of cigarettes, and it can turn your mobile phone into a portable multitrack recording studio and performance rig that literally fits into your pocket.

● THE BOTTOM LINE

With its improved sound quality, increased compatibility with more devices, and inexpensive price, iRig 2 is an essential upgrade for anyone who records or performs music with an iOS or Android device.

CHEAT SHEET



LIST PRICE

\$39.99

MANUFACTURER

IK Multimedia,
irig2.com

Buzz Bin



Monster Grips

▶ You know you've done it plenty of times. Right in the middle of strumming aggressively, your pick flies right out from under your sweaty hand, swiftly disappearing onto the dark and cluttered stage. Or even worse, it falls into the sound hole of your acoustic guitar because your grip is about as firm as a wet fish. For many guitarists, this common mishap could easily be solved if you crazy glue your pick onto your index finger or thumb. But let's be serious, that's never going to happen. Thankfully, Monster Grips has a simple solution to this reoccurring dilemma with a clever self-adhesive guitar pick grip that allows you to get a hang on things.

Monster Grips is a small, circular self-adhesive that conveniently attaches onto the surface of your guitar pick with an exterior dimpled grip that makes a firm connection with your fingers, especially if you stick it on both sides of the pick. It features a patented silicone based material that's non-sticky with a textured grip that feels naturally comfortable and paper-thin, so it doesn't feel cumbersome or interfere with your articulation. After an hour of use, its solid hold feels so seamless that you'll want to stick it on all your picks. Monster Grips comes packaged with sixteen grips, which are more than enough to never let that pick slip away from you again. —Paul Riario

STREET PRICE \$9.99

MANUFACTURER Monster Grips,
monstergrips.com