

STOCKING STUFFERS

2018

BY BARRY RUDOLPH



▼ AUDIONAMIX XTRAX STEMS 2

At just \$99, XTRAX Stems 2 offers faster, cleaner stem separations, backing tracks and a cappella vocals at the same low price. Created for DJs, music producers and remix artists, XTRAX STEMS allows users to separate any song into its vocal, drum, and remaining music components for easy sampling, remixing and unmatched control during live sets. This is standalone Mac or Windows software that targets vocal and instrumental melodies and can separate out drum audio as well. audionamix.com/technology/xtrax-stems

▶ VOVOX CABLES

Swiss company VOVOX cables celebrates their 15th anniversary with the Jubilee Edition of the sonorus protect. An instrument cable with straight phone plugs or angled-to-straight phone plugs, both in 3.5 meter (11.5-ft) length. I have experience with these marvelous cables in the studio and besides sounding awesome; they are rugged and look great too. You can find a dealer through Audio Plus Services at audioplusservices.com or (800) 663-9352. Special price for the Jubilee Edition is \$119 USD each—they are normally \$159 USD. vovox.com/en



▼ RØDE SC6-L MOBILE INTERVIEW KIT

Soon to be fully-reviewed in one of my upcoming "New Toys" columns in *Music Connection*, the RØDE SC6-L Kit has everything you need to conduct professional sounding, one-on-one interviews using high quality RØDE technology, the free Røde Reporter recording app and your iPhone. The kit comes with two, miniature RØDE smartLav+ pro-level lavalier microphones with clips and windscreens. These are omnidirectional condenser capsules with Kevlar® reinforced cables. You can record in high-quality 24-bit/48kHz ready for video post-production use or either AAC or MP3 quality for immediate online upload. The SC6-L interface sells separately for \$79 and the entire kit with the microphones included sells for \$199. rode.com/microphones/sc6-lik



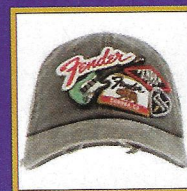
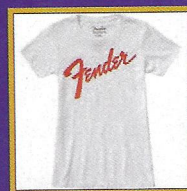
▶ SHEPTONE TRIBUTE 2 GUITAR PICKUPS

Guitarists looking for a warmer midrange tone will feel much warmer this Christmas morning with Sheptone's new Tribute 2 neck and bridge pickups for electric guitar. Hand-built with Alnico 2 degaussed magnets, 49.2 mm pole spacing, butyrate bobbins, nickel silver base plates, and vintage braided lead wire, Sheptone's Tribute 2 pickups are designed to replicate the classics but with a personality all their own.

Typically with Alnico 2 magnets, the bottom end is "squishier" in the bridge pickup, while a muddier, darker tone comes from the neck pickup. Sheptone scatter winds 57-58 spec 42-enameled wire to a specific number of turns per bobbin. This technique creates more air space in the coil and lowers the distributed capacitance so more treble comes through plus increasing the resonant peak of the pickup. Sheptone's Tribute 2 pickups are available in a variety of bobbin color combinations or with nickel silver covers plated in nickel, chrome or gold. They start at \$129 each, or as a bridge-and-neck set. sheptone.com

▶ FENDER SHOP HATS AND SHIRTS

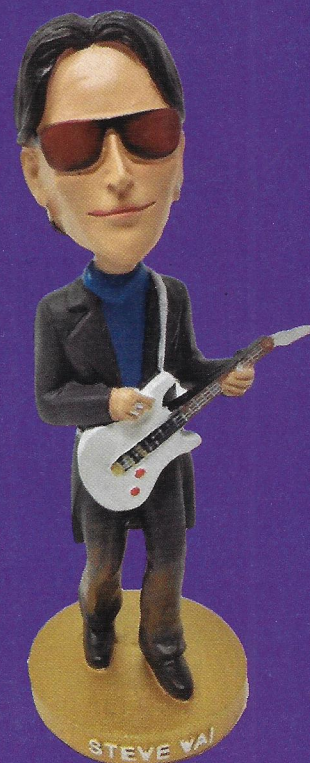
Music brings people together, and Fender hats and shirts make some of the best music conversation starters. Show off your passion for the continuing tradition of the often imitated, but never duplicated Fender tone in unquestionable style. Baseball style hats start at \$21.99 and T-Shirts start at \$19.99 for the Fender® Deluxe Reverb® T-Shirt. shop.fender.com/en-US/hats-and-shirts



▶ GUITAR GODS COLLECTIBLES

The next figure in the Guitar Gods Series is none other than legendary guitarist Steve Vai. These are officially licensed and numbered limited-edition collectible bobble-head figures.

This particular figure representing the musician is limited to 1,000 numbered units, stands at 7-inches tall, and is made of a lightweight poly-resin. Other Guitar Gods Collectibles guitarist bobble-heads available include Johnny Winter, Wayne Kramer, Zakk Wylde and James Williamson. They sell for \$29.95. guitargodscollectibles.com/Products/Detail/30



MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!