



# DARK TO AMBIENT

## Gurus Amps' Echosex 2

**T**une into any classic-rock radio station and listen for silence. Four times out of five, it will be followed by a lush G-minor chord, the ticking of clocks, and jarring bells – or dead air before yet another insufferable used-car salesman claims about how he's "gone crazy."

If you are lucky enough to catch the first three, they likely need no explanation or introduction. The tones found on the likes of *Wish You Were Here* and *Dark Side Of The Moon* are timeless and hallowed among guitar players.

While the tones of David Gilmour have been debated to no end, one aspect of that tone is arguably the most important: the Binson Echorec, an Italian-made tape echo that runs on magnetic disk rather than a tape loop, and would have been lost to history if not for its liberal use on almost all of Pink Floyd's early catalog.

Gurus Amps Echosex 2 is an Italian re-creation of the Echorec, with a sound, timbre, tone, and feel that recaptures the original to an extraordinary degree.

The Echosex comes in a beautiful pack-

age, with a clear Plexiglas faceplate that lights up to a warm orange when engaged. It has controls for Echo (time), Length of Swell (feedback), EQ, Volume Echo (wet/dry), and Age of Damage, which replicates various stages of aging to the machine's mechanical parts. Nestled in the middle, and illuminated by a green signal indicator that bounces along with whatever is being played on guitar, is a Gurus-branded vacuum tube, which adds grit, warmth, and power to the repeats. The only cons are a lack of stereo outs (which wouldn't be true to the original) and swell control.

With a nod to David Gilmour, the Echosex was tested with a D. Allen Echoes-equipped Strat into a Hi-Tone

Price: \$399 (street)  
Info: gurusamps.com

DR-30. With complete ease and a bit of fuzz, the Echosex spilled out of the speakers and filled the room with positively drenched fuzz tones à la *Live At Pompeii*.

In fact, the Echosex 2 is capable of a vast array of sounds, from dark and cavernous to quick and ambient. The repeats decay in a way that's unique to the Binson, which consistently shaves off lows and highs with each repeat. And its dark nature enhances a bright guitar in a way that would make Gilmour himself proud. – **Yoel Kreisler**



### RIO GRANDE THUNDERBASS PICKUPS

Rio Grande's Thunderbass pickups are replacement units for Thunderbird-style basses. They have two- and three-point mounting options (each with a different footprint), four-conductor leads, Alnico V magnets, and measure an average output of 16k-ohm (neck) and 18k-ohm (bridge).

## GEARIN' UP



### MOD KITS DIY STEP LADDER

Mod Kits DIY's The Step Ladder is a passive-input attenuator with true-bypass mode and toggle switches to control attenuation. Its treble-bleed capacitors retain high frequencies at maximum attenuation and its closure measures 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>".



### CARVIN VX CABINETS

Carvin VX cabinets are hand-made in the U.S. from Baltic birch with internal bracing, removable rear ports for sealed-/open-back sounds, 100-watt speakers, and 1x12, 2x12, and 4x12 configurations in black or optional vinyl coverings.

To be included in Gearin' Up, contact us at [vguitar@vintageguitar.com](mailto:vguitar@vintageguitar.com).