

Tech 21 Boost Comp

\$149 street

A compressor can help to fatten up your tone and increase sustain, and Tech 21 has made it easy to do all that with the Boost Comp. This analog pedal uses FET technology to deliver warm, clear sound, and it features a set of Level, Tone, Compression, and Presence controls, along with a separately footswitchable Boost function that can be used to bump up the output level as much as 21dB. The boost can also be used independently of the compression, which is great for players who like to keep a little boost going full time, and may only want to use compression for certain things, like slide playing, for example. One of the novel elements of this pedal is that the Presence control lets you adjust the tone *pre compression* to enhance crispness of the note attack, while the Tone control cuts or boosts *post compression* to allow for dialing in just the right balance of clarity and fullness. Using both of these functions made it easy to keep even highly compressed tones punching through with plenty of definition, and without necessarily having to jack up the volume. There are lots of good compressors around these days, but the way Tech 21 has implemented the pre/post EQ on the Boost Comp definitely makes it worthy of an audition. tech21nyc.com —ART THOMPSON

