

RECORD HIGHS

Eight home-recording products
— from pedals to plug-ins —
that'll make your tunes sound like they
were tracked at a swanky L.A. studio

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TECH 21 SANSAMP CLASSIC

\$329, tech21nyc.com

▶ The definition of a classic is “something that’s judged over a period of time to be of the highest quality and outstanding of its kind,” so when Tech 21 decided to re-launch their original all-analog SansAmp last year, it wasn’t hard for them to find the right word to summarize the fruits of their labors. Designed by the Hungarian musician B. Andrew Barta, the SansAmp revolutionized direct recording upon its launch in 1989. And all these years later, it’s still an incredibly resourceful recording tool for guitarists — featuring three preamp options for Lead (hot-rodged Marshall), Normal (Mesa/Boogie) and Bass (Fender) and then eight front panel DIP switches to fine-tune your tone from there. There are even controls for Speaker Edge and Close Miking — which, given that this was originally designed and released over three decades ago, is quite mind-blowing indeed. There might not be any USB connections or additional software packages, but it’s worth remembering it never needed those in the first place.