

COVER STORY

New Sounds for 2009

**ACME GUITAR WORKS
TONE SHAPER****How Much** \$159 retail/\$120 street

Why It's Cool Most guitarists want more sounds out of their guitar, but very few want a bunch of extra knobs and switches cluttering up the look of their favorite instruments. That's where the Tone-Shaper comes in. This amazing device will give you complete control over your tone, with options for pickup selection, series/parallel operation, capacitor values, how and where your tone controls work, and much more—all without soldering, batteries, or fuss. Unreal!

Where acmeguitarworks.com**BABICZ FULL
CONTACT
HARDWARE****How Much** \$159-\$189

retail/\$125-\$150 street

Why It's Cool We all know Babicz can do amazing things with acoustic guitars. Now they're poised to kick some electric ass with these ingenious and attractive bridges and saddles. The idea is this: A typical guitar saddle uses only two small screws to set string height. That's not a lot of contact between string and body, which robs sustain and resonance. Babicz's Full Contact Hardware has 50 times more contact surface, for increased tone and sustain. Plus, these things are just gorgeous examples of industrial design.

Where babiczguitars.com**BUDDA SUPERDRIVE V-20****How Much** (head) \$1,795 retail/\$1,436 street; (1x12 combo) \$1,995 retail/\$1,596 street

Why It's Cool This 6V6-powered 20-watt beast was one of the sweetest-sounding amps I played at the show. The V-20 is simple to use, but it was impossible to get a bad sound out of it. The response is lightning fast, the feel is delicious, and the string-to-string clarity is downright astounding.

Where budda.com**CAD NB2 NOISE-
CANCELLING EARPHONES****How Much** \$149 retail/\$99 street

Why It's Cool The NB2s use phase cancellation to block out external noise -- making for a much more pleasant listening experience with your iPod -- and they also work as in-ear monitors with select systems. The NB2s utilize a 9mm driver with a neodymium magnet.

Where cadmics.com**CAKEWALK UA-
1G AUDIO
INTERFACE****How Much** \$99 street

Why It's Cool The UA-1G is a compact, stereo in/stereo out USB audio interface that offers superb sound quality via multiple connection options and a simple, guitarist-friendly design. It boasts great 24-bit/96kHz audio and low latency. This thing is also non-denominational, and works with WDM (Windows Vista, Windows XP) and Core Audio (Mac OS X). If you already have a recording program you like, use it. If not, the UA-1G comes with Cakewalk's SONAR LE digital audio workstation so you'll be tracking in no time.

Where cakewalk.com