





BOSS KATANA-AIR £400

A different kind of air guitar...

One person's innovation can be another's solution to a problem that doesn't exist, but we should always be looking for new ways to make access to guitar playing easier for us, especially in our homes. Boss has an advantage here, the Katana-Air is an extension of an already impressive range of modelling amps. Now it's gone wireless with this new 30-watt head – offering us the chance to finally leave the old

models – over 50 here via the Tone Studio app. We like the simplicity of the five-channel selection from acoustic preamp to the hugely satisfying Brown sound. The latter is Boss's high-gain custom channel that first appeared on its high-end Waza Craft head and is a superb showcase of the valve-like character and dynamic Boss has managed to capture here with its COSM technology. Elsewhere, there's clean to crunch and even a mode for your electro acoustics.

THE CONNECTIVITY WITH OUR GUITAR IS SEAMLESS

cable far behind. In fact, it's being touted as the world's first full wireless amp because there's the option for the amp itself to go battery powered too. So just how useful and effective is this package from Boss?

The innovation here would mean little if it was attached to an average product. Similar to Line 6's Amplifi 30, the Katana-Air balances traditional tactile controls on the amp with app functionality for dialling in effects

The Bluetooth connectivity with our guitar is seamless; plug the included transmitter into your guitar and turn the amp on. It's that simple and it works with ultra low latency as promised. We wanted to test how far away we could be and still use it; and got to nearly 20 meters with a wall between before we ran out of space to go indoors. We also had it working fine between floors... if you need that!

The size (think small toolbox rather than lunchbox) could certainly work well on a desk at home for lower volumes. But are cables themselves really a problem for most of us? We're not convinced the connectivity and the smaller 'lifestyle' dimensions are quite worth the extra money over the bigger giggable Katanas, but in terms of what it sets out to do, there's no doubt this does it particularly well.

Rob Laing

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★

1 TRANSMITTER
The transmitter is rechargeable, offering up to 12 hours of use and has a docking station on the amp

2 POWER
The amp itself is less practical on battery power; it runs at a lower 20-watts with a whopping eight AAs for approx seven hours with 2500 mAh alkalines and approx 10 hours with rechargeable Ni-MH batteries

3 CONTROLS
There are six onboard memories for storing different effects and amps to create a chain. They can be activated with a button on the Katana-Air and tweaked via the new Boss Tone Studio app for Android and iOS



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Desktop modelling combo with built-in effects, bluetooth guitar and app connectivity

OUTPUT: 30 watts of power when connected to AC, 20 watts when running on AA batteries; 2 x 3-watt speakers

CONTROLS: Power, Bluetooth, master, volume, gain, amp types (Acoustic, Clean, Crunch, Lead, Brown), bass, mid, treble, depth and model selection for BST (distortion)/MOD, delay/fx, reverb; tap button, Channel A and B buttons, panel

SOCKETS: Input jack: 1/4-inch phone type, aux in jack, phones/rec out jack, transmitter in jack, USB B port, DC IN jack

WEIGHT: 2.2kg

DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD] 181x350x144mm

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