

### 1 DISPLAY MATRIX

90 BRIGHT LEDs mean that you'll be able to tune in any onstage lighting conditions. A separate set of LEDs displays the name of your note

### 2 POLYPHONIC TUNING

THE polyphonic tuning mode is simple to use: each row of LEDs represents a string. Just strum and the HT-6 figures out which ones are out of tune

### 3 SIZE

THE HT-6 is the same size as HardWire's other pedals. That means it's chunky and well built, but takes up more space than, for example, TC Electronic's PolyTune



# HARDWIRE HT-6 POLYPHONIC TUNER

£99

The true bypass champion reveals its hand with its latest tuning development



**THERE'S** no better catalyst for progression than a bit of healthy competition and you're seeing the latest trend unfolding right now. That's right, we're talking about polyphonic tuning. Yes, tuning your guitar might have all the rock-star appeal of completing a tax return on time, but much like your annual fiscal documentation, it's got to be done, so why not do it in style?

HardWire's HT-6 polyphonic tuner follows on the heels of TC Electronic's PolyTune. It features the all-important polyphonic

tuning mode as well as regular single-string tuning, with either 'normal' or 'strobe' display settings. In addition to this, there are some extra features courtesy of its custom tunings and fret offset function. It's all a far cry from a trio of coloured lights.

The display gives you a matrix of 90 LEDs. That's six horizontal rows with 15 lights for each string. It's fast and doesn't skip around too much, which is a flaw in a lot of tuners. Just strum all the strings and the HT-6 will work the rest out for you. Much like that long-extinct breed of bloke down the

pub who, with a lit fag perched behind the nut, was able to tune his guitar perfectly just by strumming a chord and sensing which notes were out.

The fret offset feature is handy if you're using standard-interval low tunings or a capo to transpose in the opposite direction. Say, for example, you'd tuned down a whole tone across the strings. Then, with the guitar roughly in tune, you'd hold the footswitch down for a couple of seconds and strum the strings. The HT-6 detects your guitar's pitch and calibrates itself to work at that tuning.

You can also offset it manually by pressing the Mode (down) or Tuning (up) switches after holding the footswitch down. It'll go up to six semitones in either direction, but it's worth noting that you have to be within the ballpark of the tuning you're trying to hit first for it to work at its best. There's also a drop D mode, which functions polyphonically too, but if you want to tune to any other dropped or open tunings, you'll need to use the single-note mode.

Take a look at the back of the pedal and you'll see two power

sockets. One is for plugging in a power supply (the HT-6 also works from a standard PP3 battery), the other is for daisy-chaining power from your adaptor to the rest of your pedals. In addition, there's a micro-USB socket, which will eventually offer the ability to upgrade the HT-6's software for different tunings.

The HT-6 equals its rival in many areas and, if we're splitting hairs, beats it with its LED count. It's also arguably easier to use, since the display's transition between polyphonic and single-string tuning is less disruptive.

Where it will divide opinion is over its looks, size and price. Depending on your point of view, it's either sturdy and purposeful, or big and slightly ugly. Get over this, plus the £30 price difference, and the HT-6 is a serious contender for your cash.

Stuart Williams



The HT-6 has enough LEDs onboard to blind a small rodent

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