



# Telenordia TA-24 Treble Booster, TA-100 Overdrive & TK-23 Kompressor £169, £149 & £179

Hailing from Berlin, this trio of no-nonsense vintage-style effects is ideal for the tone conscious by Adrian Clark

## TELENORDIA TA-24 TREBLE BOOSTER

**PRICE:** £169  
**ORIGIN:** Germany  
**TYPE:** Treble booster pedal  
**FEATURES:** Germanium transistor, five-position high-pass filter  
**CONTROLS:** Gain, tone, treble  
**CONNECTIONS:** Input, output  
**MIDI:** No  
**POWER:** 9V battery or DC adaptor (not supplied)  
**OPTIONS:** None  
**Vintage & Rare Guitars**  
 020 7240 7500  
[www.telenordia.de](http://www.telenordia.de)

Here's a name we haven't encountered before: Telenordia is a small company based in Berlin, with a collection of rugged-looking stompboxes to its name. The pedals are all fairly traditional in character; familiar analogue effects built using high-quality components. The three samples here are typical of the whole range, with unadorned die-cast boxes and simple layouts. Battery access involves removing the entire baseplate, which can be a pain, but stompboxes like these shouldn't consume battery power too quickly, and there's also the option of using a 7-18V DC adaptor.

**Sonically, the TA-100 is most reminiscent of some of the better TS808 clones: just slightly less aggressive than the Keeley-modded TS808, for example**

## TA-24 Treble Booster

It's been a long time coming, but the treble booster, a mainstay of rudimentary sixties guitar rigs, is enjoying something of a renaissance. Like so many of the classics, the Telenordia TA-24 uses germanium transistors, providing up to 22dB of boost. The gain and tone controls are self-explanatory, but there's also a high-pass filter with five settings, accessed

by means of a rotary switch.

One characteristic of proper vintage booster/drive pedals, which can be quite alarming to players brought up on BOSS and Line 6, is that the output is often very low, and you have to turn the level control up full to get any sort of boost. The TA-24 isn't quite like that, but all of the actual boosting happens in the top half of the gain control's travel. With both controls at 50 per cent, there

is little discernible signal boost. The same goes for the tone control: if you want to hear the proper treble boost bite, don't be shy with the tone knob!

We initially found the sound unusually dull, but then realised the filter switch was in the 'darkest' position. This high-pass filter does nothing to affect the treble boost, but instead cleans up the low end. In the fourth position, we find it a little too thin and scratchy for many applications, but this setting would work well on a neck pickup. On that subject, our favourite sound involves using a Strat's neck pickup and turning all of the pedal's controls to the max.

Here, the TA-24 does a fine job of producing the vintage treble boost sound, with the smooth sustain and tightly focused mid-range bite.

## TA-100 Overdrive

Sonically, the TA-100 is most reminiscent of some of the better TS808 clones: just slightly less aggressive than the Keeley-modded TS808, for example. Once again, most of the action happens at the upper end of the control ranges. Unity gain seems to be around 50 per cent, although a 50 per cent setting on the tone control creates a very slightly darker sound than the source guitar tone. However,



TA-24 TREBLE BOOSTER TEST RESULTS	
Build quality	★★★★
Features	★★★★
Sound	★★★★
Value for money	★★★★

**WE LIKED** Unusually versatile for such a simple effect type  
**WE DISLIKED** Just a tad more bite would be nice

## The rivals

TREBLE BOOSTER	
D'A'M Red Rooster	£135
Roger Mayer Concorde+	£135
BSM Treble Boosters	£various

Despite the improvement in fortunes for the humble treble booster, there still aren't all that many around. BSM are leading the pack with a bewildering array of vintage replicas and custom variations but, as you'd expect, Roger Mayer's Concorde+ has plenty of vintage vibe. D'A'M's Red Rooster has the added benefit (via the range control) of being able to boost lower frequencies instead of the usual treble booster bite.

**The TA-24 does a fine job of producing the vintage treble boost sound, with the smooth sustain and tightly focused mid-range bite**

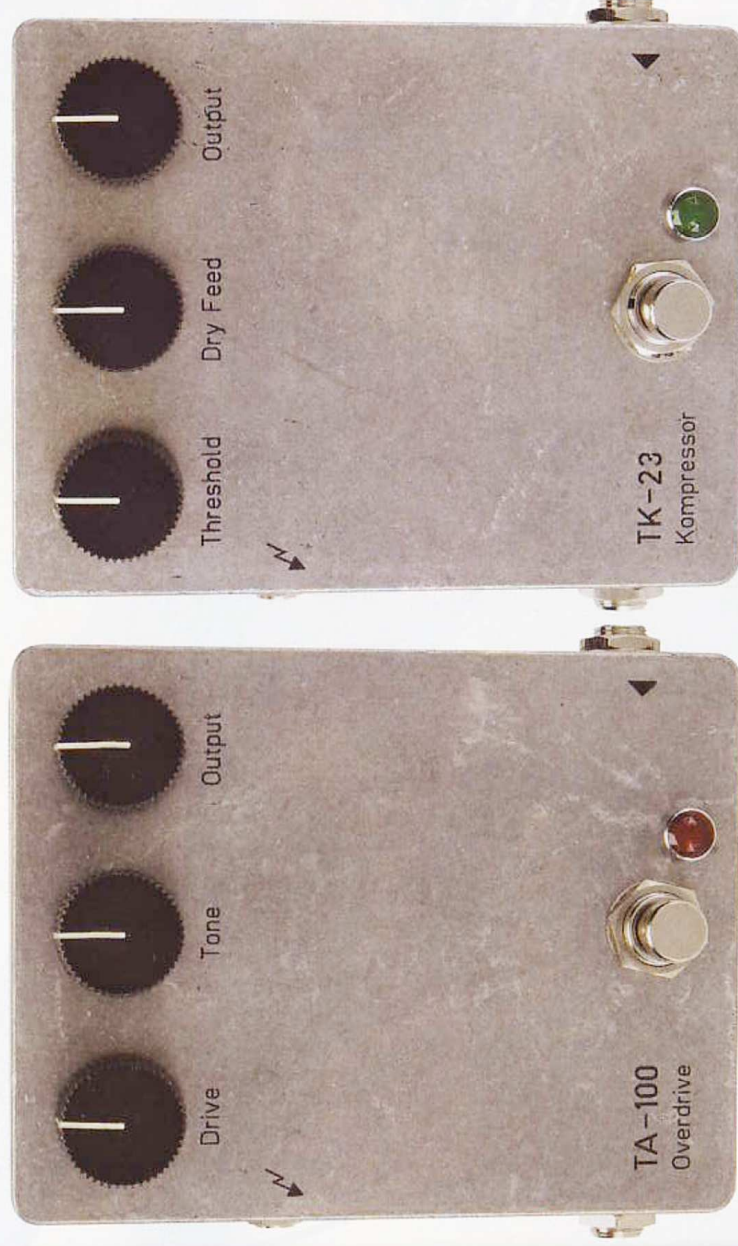
the tone control has enough range to provide quite a bit of extra bite should you need it.

Similarly, the pedal really comes to life when you boost the gain control beyond about 60 per cent, and the overall tone is rich and thick, but with a tight bottom end. Add to this the extra boost offered by the level control, and the TA-100 is quite a powerful beast, with up to 40dB of extra gain available. What's great, though, is how transparent it sounds... we started off with a Les Paul plugged into a (not exactly gain-shy) Cornford Harlequin and, even at meltdown levels, the intrinsic tonal qualities of the amp and guitar were still clearly audible.

## TK-23 Kompressor

The TK-23 uses electro-optical compression circuitry, often valued for its 'musical' approach to gain reduction. As with the Overdrive, we are immediately impressed by the



**TELENORDIA TA-100****OVERDRIVE**

As TA-24 except...

**PRICE:** £149**TYPE:** Overdrive pedal  
**FEATURES:** Germanium transistor**CONTROLS:** Dry feed, tone, level**TELENORDIA TK-23****KOMPRESSOR**

As TA-24 except...

**PRICE:** £179**TYPE:** Compressor pedal  
**FEATURES:** Germanium transistor, electro-optical compression**CONTROLS:** Gain, threshold, level**The rivals****OVERDRIVE**

Keeley TS808 Mod+ £179

Xotic RC Booster £129

HBE Power Screamer £139

With so many

overdrives on the

market these days,

you've a fair chance

of finding exactly the

sound you want. With

their powerful but

transparent sounds,

the Keeley TS808 and

Xotic RC booster are

closest in character

to the Telenordia

pedal, although the RC

Booster offers a little

more tonal flexibility.

The HBE pedal goes

a step further, with

switchable diodes and

an additional level of

boost too.

**KOMPRESSOR**

Keeley Compressor £185

HBE Compressor Retro £129

Vox Cooltron Snake

Charmer £149

With its transparent

sound and simple

layout, the HBE pedal

is closest to the

TK-23. If you like your

compression a bit more

obvious, the Keeley

has a lot more boost

to offer, although it's

not exactly cheap. For

flexibility, though, there

isn't much to match

the low voltage valve-

powered Vox Cooltron

unit... it has a two-

position gain reduction

switch, independent

attack and release

controls plus adjustable

high-frequency

emphasis.

→ transparency of the pedal's sound;

switching it on and playing a few notes

(Strat bridge pickup with a clean amp

sound) we initially wondered whether

the pedal was actually working!

However, once you dial in a suitable

threshold setting and listen to the

sustain, the effect becomes obvious.

Telenordia has tweaked the circuitry

so as to preserve the guitar's attack and

dynamics as much as possible, and it

has done a fine job. The effect upon

transients is barely noticeable, but the

TK-23 is capable of adding quite a bit

of extra sustain. It's probably not ideal

for lovers of really heavy-handed

squelchy compression, but for adding

crisp sustain, especially on clean-ish

sounds, the TK-23 is superb.

**Verdict**

For such simple effects, the Telenordia pedals aren't particularly cheap.

However, they are made from high-

quality components by a small

company, so you can't really expect

them to compete with the huge brands.

They're certainly excellent quality,

though, and ideal for guitarists with

a taste for classic vintage tones. The

transparency of tone is a real plus and

ideal for those players who want to

preserve the natural sound of their

guitars and amps. **B**

TA-100 OVERDRIVE	TEST RESULTS	TA-23 KOMPRESSOR	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★	Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★	Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★	Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★	Value for money	★★★★★
<b>WE LIKED</b> Rich, meaty overdrive with transparent tone		<b>WE LIKED</b> Lovely smooth compression without sacrificing attack	
<b>WE DISLIKED</b> Not a lot!		<b>WE DISLIKED</b> Rather pricey for a simple compressor	

**For adding crisp, transparent sustain, especially on clean-ish sounds, the TK-23 is superb**



The TA-100 boasts a superb, transparent sound

**Telenordia TA-24 Treble Booster**

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

**Telenordia TA-100 Overdrive**

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

**Telenordia TK-23 Kompressor**

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★