

# Fishman TriplePlay

## Plug-and-Play Wireless Guitar Control

Fishman's latest offering, the TriplePlay Wireless Guitar USB Controller, represents the company's first entry into the world of MIDI guitar and cements its reputation as a manufacturer of game-changing technology.

Introducing TriplePlay might seem like a departure from Fishman's typically acoustic-focused line, but its development actually began with a pickup design, something company founder Larry Fishman has had extensive experience with dating back to his early work with Parker Guitars. In developing its MIDI controller, Fishman had a clear set of goals in mind. "We wanted to meet the needs of the discerning MIDI user as well as remain accessible to the newbies," said Chris DeMaria, director of marketing and artist relations. The TriplePlay accomplishes this by offering the first plug-and-play solution for MIDI guitar that installs easily on a variety of electric models and produces incredibly accurate tracking.

The TriplePlay excels in many areas, but ease of use establishes it as an innovative product. Experienced MIDI guitarists are well aware of the difficulties involved with previous solutions, which require a special MIDI guitar or mountable MIDI pickup system as well as an external MIDI converter that can translate the special 13-pin hex output signal. In sharp contrast, Fishman's TriplePlay comes complete with everything you need to get up and running quickly and painlessly, and all for the slim street price of \$399.95.

The first step in using the TriplePlay is mounting the pickup and controller unit to your guitar, and Fishman provides several mounts suitable for instruments of different sizes and shapes. Installation requires no permanent modification to your instrument, and the hardware can easily be removed and reattached in seconds using a magnetic mounting bracket and quick-release pickup holder. I was able to set up two guitars—a solid-body and an archtop—with the provided hardware. Once mounted, simply plug in the wireless USB receiver to your computer or iOS device, power up, and in most cases your computer will instantly recognize the TriplePlay as a MIDI device. Users with MIDI-

capable software already on their computers are good to go, but for first-time MIDI users, or to really take full advantage of the TriplePlay, you'll want to download and install the suite of bundled software.

Fishman provides its own standalone TriplePlay software, which gives the user full control over the system. Here you can calibrate the individual string sensitivity of the pickup, select from a variety of included factory sound patches, load any external software instrument, create custom patches and save custom settings to the controller itself. Fishman bundles a host of third-party software with the unit including Native Instruments' *Komplete Elements* and *GuitarRig LE*, Notion Music's *Progression 2*, IK Multimedia's *SampleTank 2 XT* and *AmpliTube Custom Shop*, and PreSonus' *Studio One Artist TriplePlay Edition*. The TriplePlay software can be run as an AU or VST plug-in from within your favorite DAW. The hardware controller unit itself houses a volume knob, a rotary pad control for navigating settings menus and scrolling patches, and a selector switch that allows you to choose between synth-only sounds, analog guitar sounds or even mix the two together.

The tracking capabilities are amazing with TriplePlay. It handles both fast-paced single-note lines and multi-string chord passages accurately and triggers external sounds with extremely low latency. I love the bundled *Progression* notation software, which provides the ability to instantly transcribe your playing in both standard notation and tablature. I can safely say that this is an exceptional product that sets a new standard in terms of simplicity and functionality.

DeMaria pointed out that "although Fishman is known for innovation, it is not yet known for its MIDI technology." That's all about to change.

—Keith Baumann

Ordering info: [fishman.com](http://fishman.com)

