

TUNE-O-MAGIC

Graph Tech ResoMax NV Harmonic Bridge System and TUSQ XL nuts



* BY ERIC KIRKLAND

GRAPH TECH'S SLIPPERY bridge, nut and saddle components have been a boon to guitarists, reducing string breakage and binding while improving sustain, resonance and overall tone. Graph Tech's proprietary formulas keep string contact points permanently lubricated, allowing the strings to resonate freely. This is important, because the integrity of string contact points has an important effect on tone.

Most recently, Graph Tech has applied its knowledge of resonant materials to a complete Tune-o-matic and stop-tail bridge assembly it calls the ResoMax NV Harmonic Bridge System. The system considerably augments every aspect of an instrument's sonic performance and can be retrofitted to practically any Tune-o-matic-equipped guitar without permanent modification. Five

finishes are offered, and the quality is comparable to that of high-end products. Graph Tech offers three types of bridges—the NVS, NV1 and NV2—each designed for specific tonal applications. I tested the ResoMax NVS bridge and a ResoMax NVt tailpiece with guitars that were also equipped with Graph Tech's Tusq XL nuts.

FEATURES

RESOMAX BRIDGES AND tailpieces are crafted from a uniquely resonating alloy and triple-plated in a handsome but durable finish. They boast an AutoLock feature that magnetically couples the bridge and/or tailpieces to their posts, so that the pieces don't fall onto your guitar's finish during restringing. The NVS comes equipped with Ultra Low Friction (U.L.F.) saddles on a ResoMax bridge and the NVt is the matching ResoMax



RESOMAX BRIDGES ARE A SIMPLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE IMPROVEMENT FOR ALMOST ANY TUNE-O-MATIC BRIDGE.



tailpiece. Tusq XL nuts are made from Graph Tech's proprietary self-lubricating man-made ivory.

PERFORMANCE

THE BRIDGE SYSTEM'S ResoMax base material seriously improved the sustain and string clarity on my test guitars. The guitars' audible harmonic output was practically doubled. The tone was more detailed, with greater articulated string response, but without making the sound thicker or fatter. Previously harsh notes sounded smoother and sweeter.

The NVS's U.L.F. saddles contributed the majority of these attributes, while they reduced some of the attack, whereas the NVt contributed the least harmonic accents but still added a measure of musical enhancement. The Tusq XL nuts provided incomparably slick string slots and notably increased punch over the standard plastic nuts that they replaced.

SPECS

LIST PRICES: ResoMax NVS bridge, \$113.95-\$119.95; ResoMax NV1 bridge, \$94.95-\$99.95; ResoMax NV2 bridge, \$94.95-\$99.95; ResoMax NVt tailpiece, \$64.95-\$69.95; Limited-Edition NVS boxed bridge and tailpiece with Swarovski crystal embellishments and NVS guitar strap \$199.00; Tusq XL nut (vintage white), \$14.95; Tusq XL nut (black), \$13.65
MANUFACTURER: Graph Tech Guitar Labs, graphtech.com

THE BOTTOM LINE

GRAPH TECH'S RESOMAX bridges are a simple and cost-effective improvement for almost any Tune-o-matic bridge, offering improved harmonic content and instrument-energizing resonant qualities. They also come in a variety of finishes and configurations to suit any stylistic or tonal palette. Tusq XL nuts have no rival for string-friendly lubrication and balanced tonal response. **SC**

+PRO	-CON
IMPROVED SUSTAIN AND DETAIL + AUTOLOCK MAGNETIC POST BINDING	SOME ATTACK IS LOST ON THE MOST RESONANT BRIDGE SYSTEMS

BUZZ BIN NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR

CARP AMPLIFICATION 1030

ONE OF THE ALL-TIME classic tone combinations is a single 6V6 power amp tube and a single 12AX7/ECC83 preamp tube, which is the magic behind the Fender Champ and dozens of gritty and glorious vintage Supro, National, Gretsch and Gibson combos. While these small combos often sound great, most were married to tiny transformers, wimpy speakers and tube rectifiers that sag like stock prices after a bad day on

Wall Street.

The Carp 1030 is a super-charged eight-watt version of a classic 6V6/ECC83 amp in head form. It has a solid-state rectifier; four-, eight- and 16-ohm speaker outputs; and volume, tone and gain controls to give guitarists more headroom and greater tonal flexibility. When connected to a 1x12 or 4x12 cabinet, the 1030 delivers supersaturated harmonically complex distortion

like only a 6V6 can, but it also provides a surprising amount of clean headroom, gig-worthy volume output and tight bass.

Though there are just three knobs, don't let that fool you: the Carp has a whole lotta tone lurking in the depths of this solidly built amp, from crystal-clear country clean to badass beefy blues bluster and raging rock ruckus.

—Chris Gill

SPECS

LIST PRICE: \$999.00
MANUFACTURER: Carp Amplification, carpamps.com

