TONEX Plug

USER MANUAL

IK MULTIMEDIA

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TONEX Ecosystem

Welcome to TONEX, a new ecosystem aimed at capturing, playing and sharing the best-sounding amplifiers on Earth. This ecosystem comprises these parts:

- TONEX PEDAL: Guitar and bass stomp box to play Tone Models live.
- TONEX ONE: Streamlined guitar and bass mini-stomp box to play Tone Models live.
- **TONEX PLUG**: Powerful and compact headphone amp to play Tone Models anywhere.
- **TONEX Control**: Companion app for editing and seamless preset management anywhere you play.
- TONEX for Mac/PC: Standalone application to play and manage Tone Models.
- TONEX Editor: Edit and transfer presets from your computer to TONEX hardware and vice versa.
- TONEX Plug-in: Play any Tone Model inside your favorite DAW.
- AmpliTube 5 TONEX amp and stomp: Play any Tone Model inside AmpliTube 5.
- TONEX Capture: Hardware device specifically designed for modeling any amplifier.
- ToneNET: Free tone-sharing platform for Tone Models.

TONEX Pedal

TONEX ONE

TONEX Capture

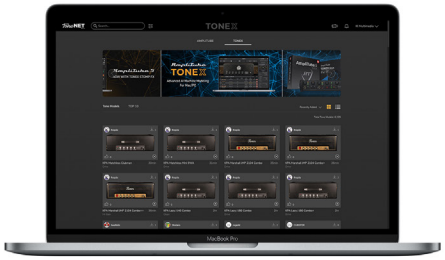
TONEX for Mac/PC

TONEX Plug

TONEX Librarian

TONEX for iPhone/iPad

TONEX Control



TONEX in ToneNET

What is a Tone Model?

A Tone Model captures a real guitar or bass rig with all its nuances and non-linearities. It aims to provide the same sound characteristics inside a computer, so you no longer need the actual rig for performing and recording. You can collect thousands of amplifiers, stomps and cabs inside TONEX, which will become a digital locker for all your gear.

A Tone Model can have various types:

- Stomp(s)
- Stomp(s) + amp
- Stomp(s) + amp + cab
- Amp
- Amp + cab

Stomp(s) can be any combination of guitar gain pedals: boost, overdrive, fuzz, distortion, EQ, or preamplifier.

N.B.

The stomp cannot be a time-based or phase-based pedal, such as a compressor, reverb, delay, chorus, phaser, flanger, etc.

Additionally, some vintage fuzzes and overdrives with parallel paths inside cannot be modeled.

What if I have no amplifier to capture?

Don't worry; even if you don't have an amplifier to capture, you can still use all the Tone Models available in TONEX Plug, TONEX Pedal, TONEX ONE, and TONEX for Mac/PC, along with any Tone Model created by other users on our free platform ToneNET (tone.net).

Presets

Tone Models are used to create TONEX presets. These are the building blocks to create your own sounds for recording, playing live, or practicing.

TONEX presets include all your saved settings and consist of the following effects for tweaking any Tone Model:

Noise gate

Compressor

Modulation

Tone Model

Tone EQ

Delay

Reverb

A preset provides the ideal foundation for any guitar tone. A **Tone Model** is split into two parts: **amp** and **cab**. This setup enables us to replace any amp or cab module with another Tone Model's amp or cab module to create new rig combinations.

A preset can contain any combination of Tone Models and FX. You can turn off the cab block when using with a real cab or swap any cab Tone Model or use IK's VIR cabs or custom IRs to dial in your tone.

NOTE: If a stomp is captured with an amp, creating a "stomp + amp" or a "stomp + amp + cab" Tone Model, the stomp is embedded into the amp. Swapping the amp will also remove the embedded pedal tone.

What's in the Box

- TONEX Plug device
- USB-C charging and data cable
- Registration Card

Device Overview

1. **Headphone Output**: 3.5 mm jack to connect headphones
2. **USB-C Port**: Charge the internal battery or use as an audio interface
3. **Preset Up**: Skip to the next preset
4. **Preset Down**: Return to the previous preset
5. **POWER**: Turn the device on or off
6. **LED Indicators**: Show the volume, selected preset, intonation, or charge level
7. **Volume +**: Increase the output volume
8. **Volume -**: Decrease the output volume
9. **Instrument Input**: ¼” standard jack to connect your instrument

Basic Operations

Plugging in and Powering on

- Press the POWER button for 1 second to turn it on.
- To turn it off, hold the POWER button for 3 seconds.
- Hold the POWER for 8 seconds to shut down.

Volume Control

- Press or hold Volume + or Volume – to raise/lower the volume.
- 3 LEDs show volume like a progress bar – from dim to bright white.

Presets and Banks

The device comes with 30 sound presets, organized into 10 banks (3 presets each).

Switching Presets

- Press Preset Up or Preset Down to scroll through presets in the current bank.
- The lights show which preset is active.

Check Battery Level

- When the device is powered on, press the POWER button once to display the battery level.
- The LEDs glow in GREEN/YELLOW/RED to show how much charge is left:

Battery Level	LED Feedback
100% - 76%	
75% - 51%	
50% - 26%	
25% - 15%	
14% - 0%	

When the device battery drops below 1%, the unit will automatically shut down. If you try to turn it on, the central LED will flash RED to show a low battery and that it needs recharging.

Charging the Battery

1. Connect the device to a USB power source using the USB-C cable.
2. Ensure the power source provides 5V DC / 1A output.
3. Allow the device to charge for approximately 2 hours until the battery is full.
4. Check the Charging LED:
   - **White ON:** Charging in progress
   - **OFF:** Battery fully charged

Advanced Functions

Bluetooth Audio

To stream audio from your mobile device to TONEX Plug, you must enter Bluetooth Pairing Mode, even if the app is already connected via Bluetooth.

- To enter Bluetooth Pairing Mode, press and hold both Volume+ and Volume- for 2 seconds.
- The LEDs will begin flashing blue in a forward–backward sequence, indicating that the device is now discoverable as “TONEX Plug.”
- Once connected through your smartphone’s Bluetooth settings, the LEDs will turn solid blue and the device will leave Bluetooth mode, returning to the preset view.

Press any button to exit Bluetooth Pairing Mode if no device has been paired.

Built-in Tuner

- To enter Tuner Mode, press both Preset Up and Preset Down buttons.
- The three LEDs will indicate the deviation from the reference pitch:
  - **GREEN**: In Tune
  - **RED**/**YELLOW**: Sharp/Flat
- Press any button to exit Tuner Mode.

You can adjust the tuner settings (Mute/Bypass, Reference Frequency A=440Hz) through the TONEX Control app in the “settings” menu. Tuning is also possible via the app under “tools” section. See Control App section for more info.

Audio Interface

- Connect TONEX Plug to your computer using a USB-C cable.
- Use it to record or play audio directly through your DAW or any compatible recording software.
- The device is recognized as a 2-in / 2-out audio interface: the two inputs carry the processed Left and Right channels of your current preset, while the two outputs handle the DAW playback for real-time monitoring through headphones.

TONEX Control App

About TONEX Control

TONEX Control is the dedicated mobile companion app for the TONEX Plug hardware. It provides deep sound editing, preset management, practice tools, and integration with ToneNET, allowing you to have complete control of your tone directly on your smartphone.

Getting Started

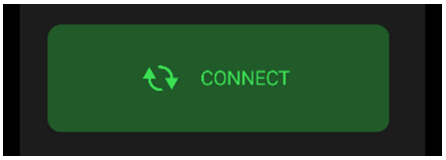
Installation

Download TONEX Control from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android).

First Launch and Permissions

On first launch, the app might ask for permission to access Bluetooth (for hardware connections) and storage (for backing tracks and preset management). Allow these permissions to ensure all features work properly.

Connecting TONEX Plug to TONEX Control



1. Power on TONEX Plug.
2. Open TONEX Control App.
3. Tap on CONNECT.
4. TONEX Control automatically scans for available devices. If only one TONEX Plug is detected within range, the app connects to it automatically.

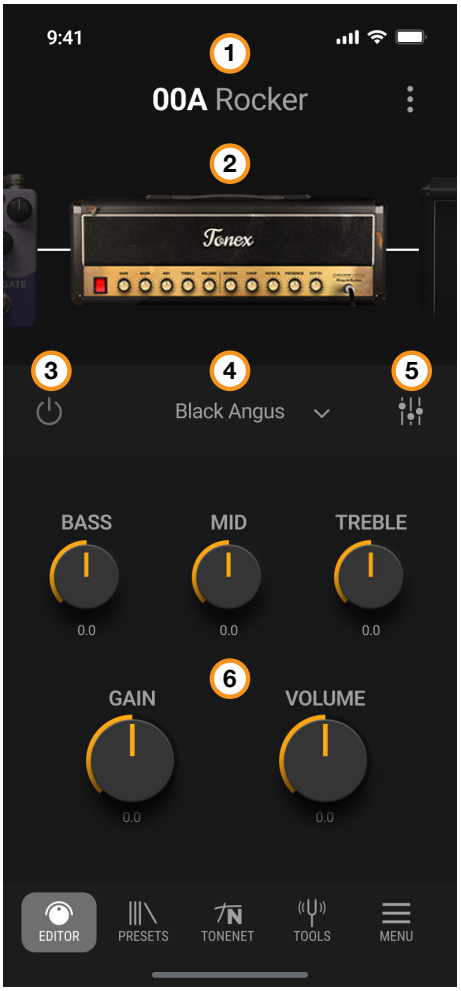
App Navigation and Main Sections

Editor

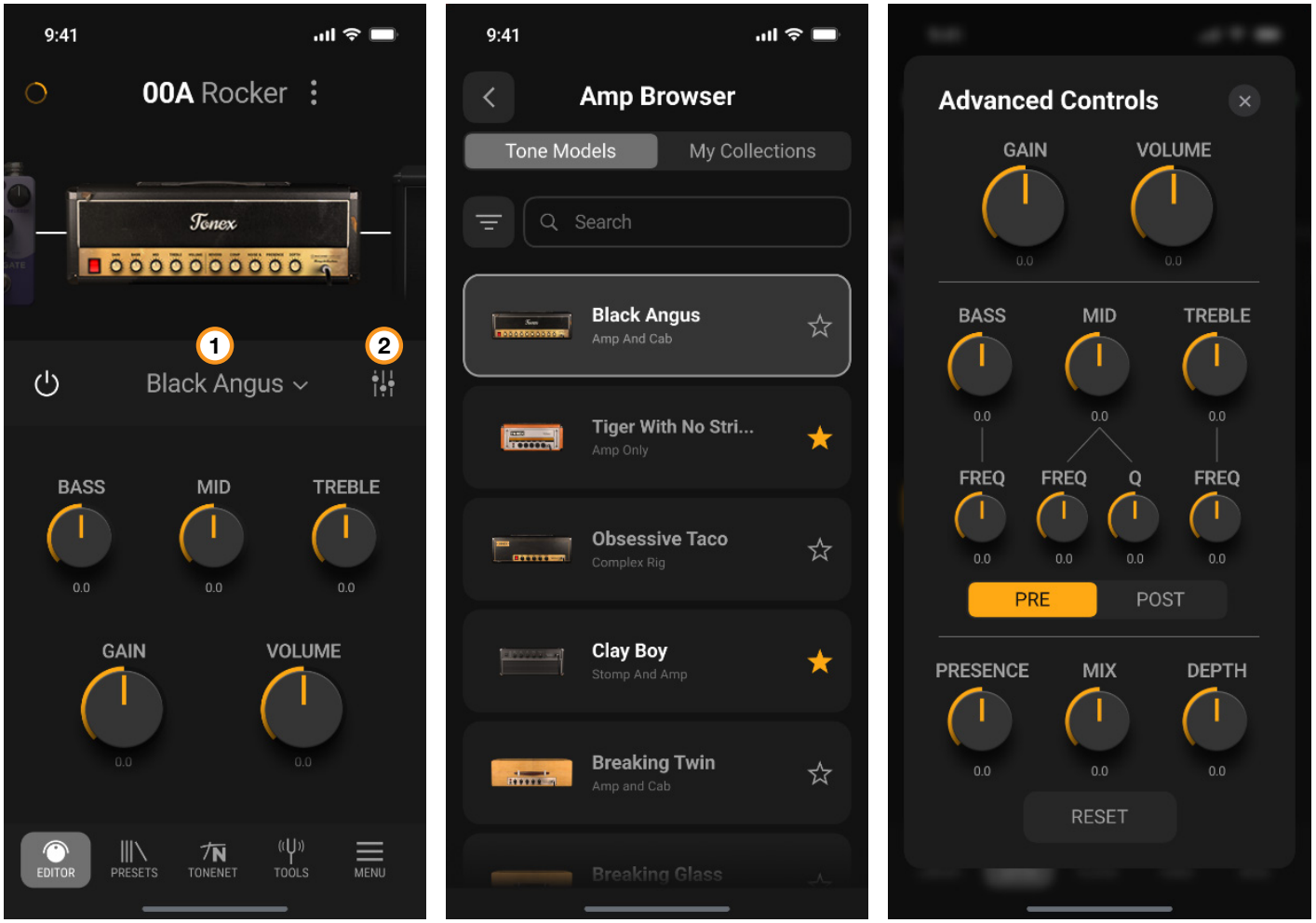
The Editor section is where you customize your presets. Here, you can select and swap Tone Models for amplifiers and cabinets, load Impulse Responses (IRs) or advanced VIRs, and fine-tune your effects such as reverb, delay, modulation, compressor, and noise gate.

The following diagram shows the standard sections of all the blocks in the gear chain within the Editor.

1. **Preset Name:** Displays the active preset in use; the More Options menu (three dots) allows saving changes.
2. **Gear View:** Provides a graphical view of the selected block.
3. **Power Button:** Lets you enable or disable the current block.
4. **Model Selector:** Opens a dropdown menu of available types of Amps, Cabs, and FXs based on the selected block.
5. **Settings Icon:** Offers access to extra configuration options, like advanced settings or effect block modifications.
6. **Control Knobs / Buttons:** Provide direct control over the key tone-shaping functions.



Amp Section



1. Amp Browser

By tapping on the name of the Tone Model, the Amp Browser section opens. Here, you can browse all available Tone Models or view My Collections to find purchased Tone Models.

- Use the search bar to locate a specific Tone Model quickly.
- The star icon lets you save your favorites for quick access.
- Swiping left on a Tone Model reveals quick actions like “Info,” “Favorite,” or “Delete.”

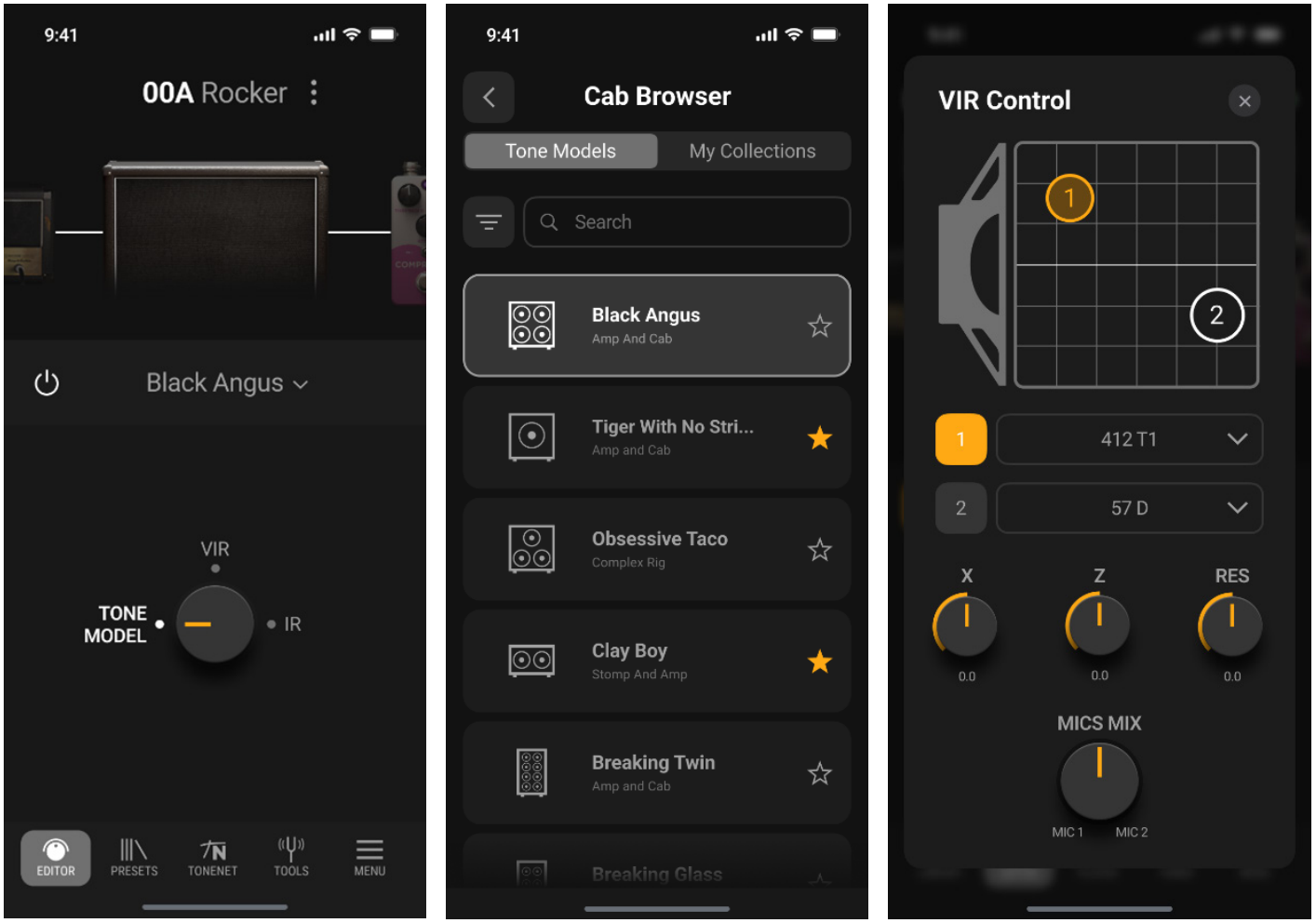
2. Advanced Controls

By tapping the Advanced Options button, the Advanced Controls screen opens. This view offers access to detailed tone-shaping parameters beyond the basic controls.

- **Gain and Volume:** Adjust the input drive and overall output level.

- **Bass, Mid, Treble:** Control the main EQ bands.
- **Frequency and Q:** Fine-tune the midrange response with frequency and bandwidth controls.
- **Pre/Post Switch:** Select whether EQ is applied before or after the main amp stage.
- **Presence, Mix, Depth:** Shape the high-end clarity, effect blend, and low-frequency resonance.
- **Reset Button:** Restore all advanced controls to their default values.

Cab Section



The Cabinet section allows you to refine and customize your amplifier's sound by adjusting the speaker and microphone settings. It offers three main control areas: Tone Model, VIR, and IR.

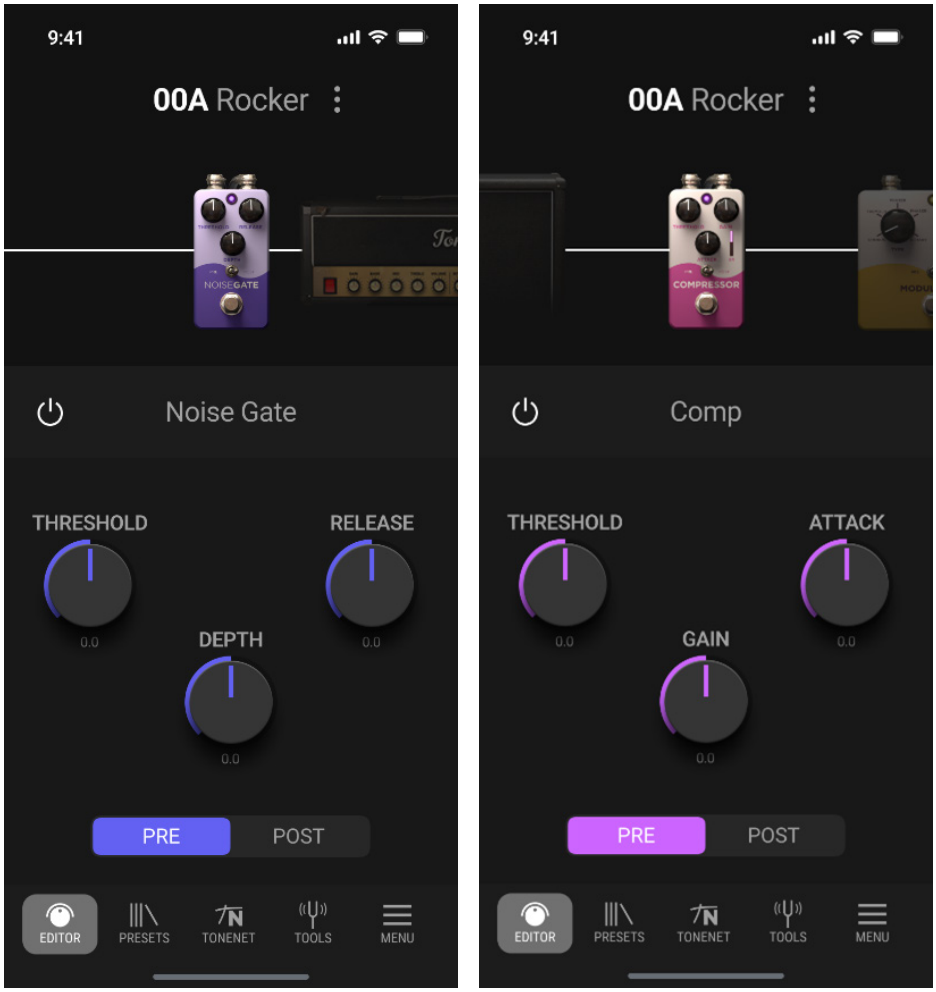
In the Tone Model area, you can open the Cab Browser to explore and select from all the available "Cab" Tone Models.

The VIR section provides a more advanced level of customization. Here, you can select from a wide range of cabinet models and experiment with different microphones and their placement on the speaker cone. Using the VIR Control grid, you can move microphones along the X and Z axes, adjust resonance, and fine-tune the tonal response.

The Mics Mix control lets you balance two microphones to achieve the perfect blend, offering truly studio-like flexibility.

The IR (Impulse Response) section lets you load your own custom cabinet simulations directly from your smartphone's storage in standard .wav format. This simplifies the process of integrating third-party impulse responses.

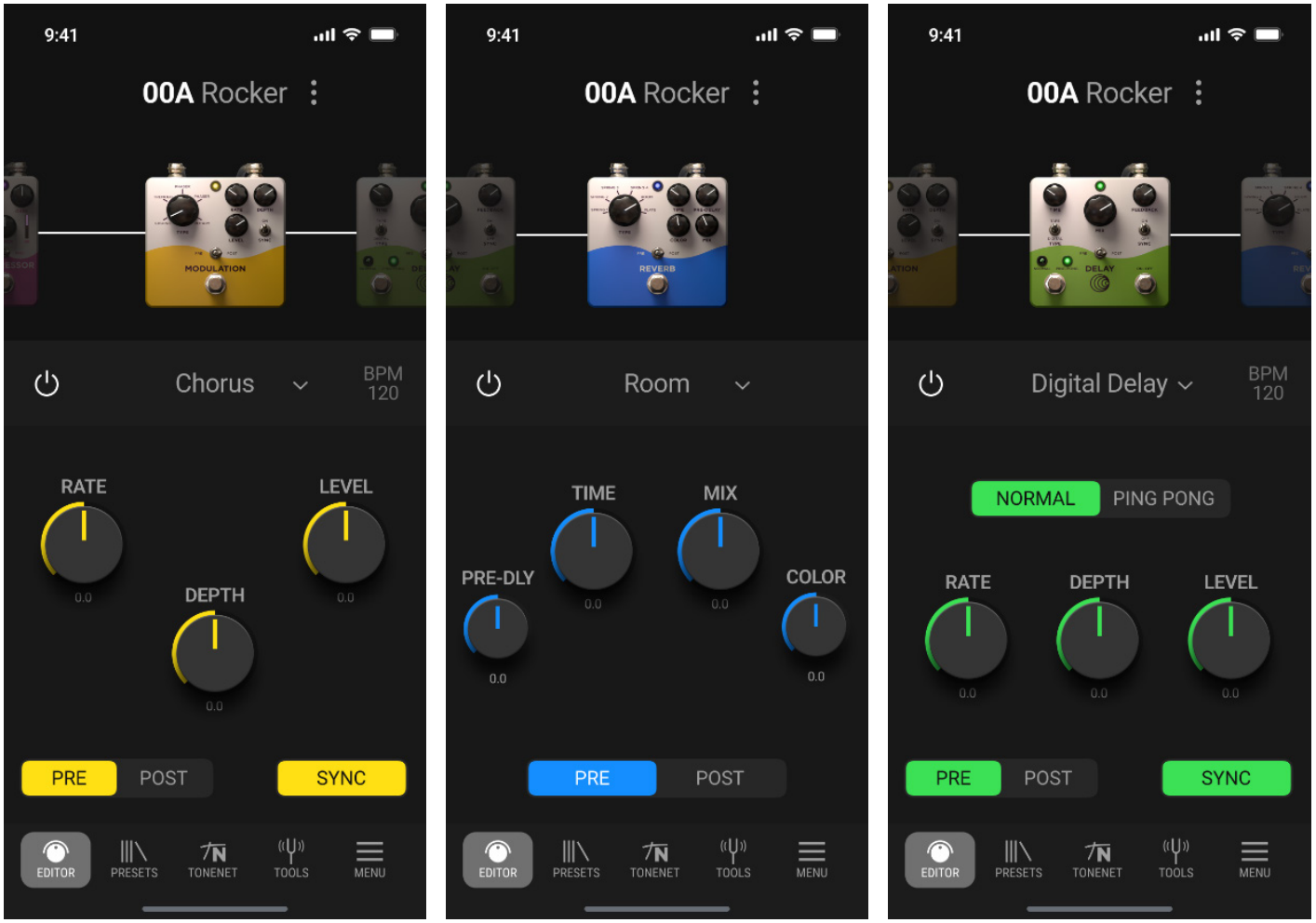
Noise Gate and Compressor



The **Noise Gate** block can be configured pre/post the amp/cab and helps reduce unwanted hum, buzz, and background noise while maintaining the natural dynamics of your playing. The Threshold control determines the level at which the gate activates, and Release controls how quickly the gate closes once the signal falls below the threshold. The Depth control adjusts how much attenuation is applied when the gate is active. By balancing these settings, you can achieve anything from subtle noise reduction to a tight, percussive cutoff, making the Noise Gate a dependable tool for both high-gain tones and precise clean sounds.

The **Compressor** block can be configured pre/post the amp/cab and evens out the dynamics of your playing by reducing sudden peaks and boosting softer notes, leading to a more controlled and polished sound. The Threshold sets the level where compression starts, while Attack determines how quickly the compressor responds to the incoming signal. The Gain control adjusts the output level after compression, making up for any volume decrease. When used lightly, the compressor can add sustain and clarity; when used more aggressively, it produces tight, steady tones ideal for both rhythm and lead playing.

Modulation, Reverb, and Delay



The **Modulation** block can be configured pre/post the amp/cab and offers classic effects like chorus, flanger, and phaser, adding movement and depth to your sound. Controls differ based on the chosen effect but generally include Depth, which controls the intensity of the modulation, and Rate, which determines the speed. All modulation effects can be synchronized with either the global BPM or the preset BPM, ensuring perfect timing with your playing or backing tracks. This flexibility enables subtle tonal color or broad, expressive textures.

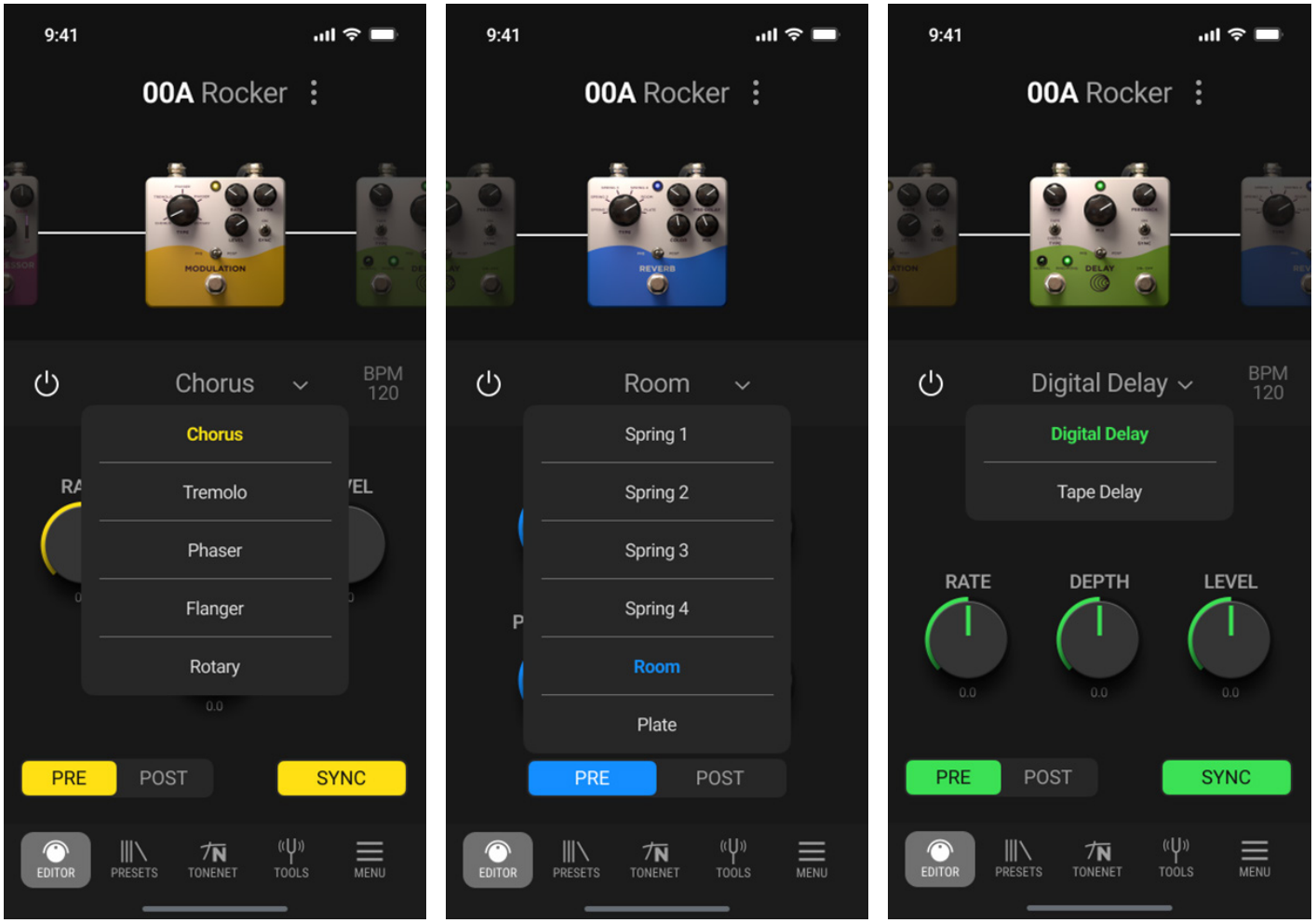
The **Reverb** block can be configured pre/post the amp/cab and mimics the sound of acoustic spaces, from small rooms to large halls. The Pre-Delay control sets the time before reverb reflections begin, while Time determines the overall decay of the reverb. The Mix parameter controls the balance between dry and affected signals, and Color shapes the tonal quality of the reverb, from darker to brighter sounds. These controls let you create anything from subtle room ambience to full, atmospheric reverbs.

The **Delay** block can be configured pre/post the amp/cab and effects the repeats of your guitar signal, creating rhythmic echoes or spacious layers. The Rate control adjusts how fast the modulation happens on the delay,

adding movement to the repeats. Depth determines the strength of this modulation, while Level controls how much effect blends with the dry signal. With these controls, you can make subtle, lively echoes or rich, evolving delay textures that stay perfectly in sync with your performance.

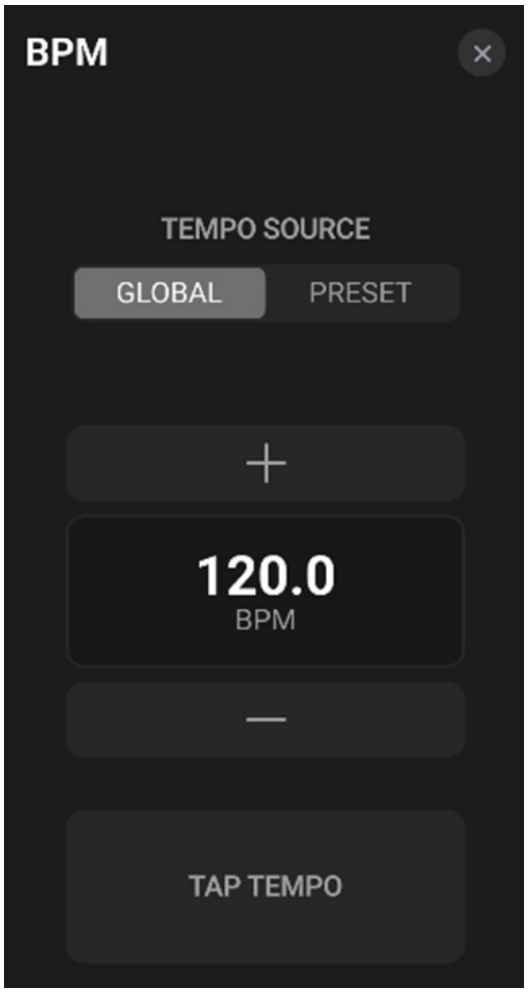
FX Type Selection

Within the Reverb, Chorus, and Delay sections, you can choose different effect algorithms from the FX Type dropdown menu. Each algorithm offers a unique character and response, helping you customize the effect to match your style.



BPM and Tempo

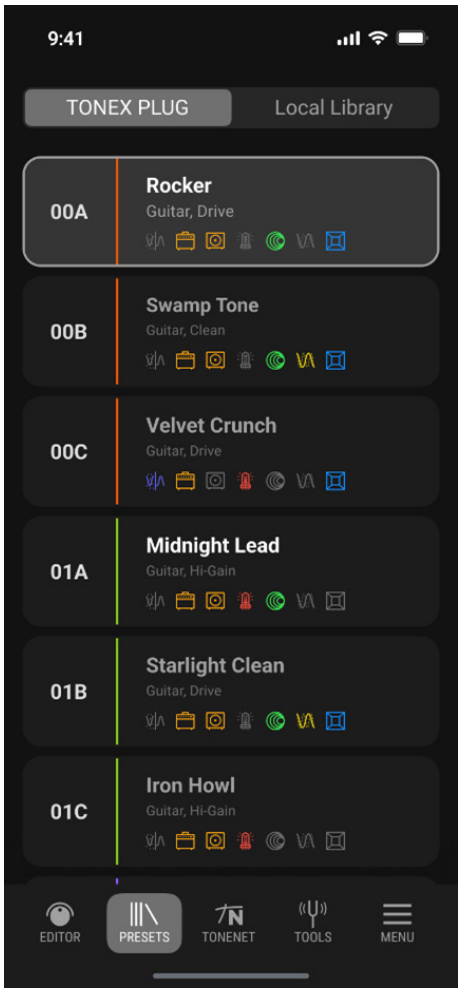
Next to the FX Type menu, the BPM button opens the tempo control window. Here, you can set the delay or modulation timing by tapping the tempo, entering a BPM value manually, or choosing whether the effect follows the Global BPM (shared across all presets) or uses a Preset BPM (specific to the active preset).



Presets

The Presets section is your main area for browsing, managing, and saving sounds. It is split into two separate sections, each with a different purpose.

1. TONEX PLUG:

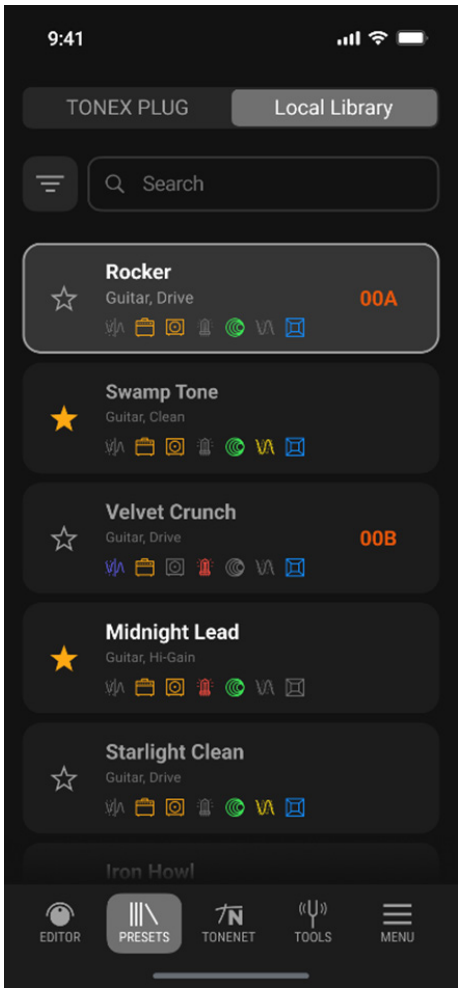


This is the device's internal library, which stores up to 30 presets. These presets are always accessible directly on the unit, even when the app isn't connected.

- Presets are organized into banks of 3 slots each, for a total of 10 banks.
- Each bank is color-coded, making it easy to identify during live performance or quick navigation.
- Each preset within a bank is also named by slot (A, B, C).
- Any preset saved here is permanently stored in the hardware memory until overwritten.

Saving Presets

2. Local Library



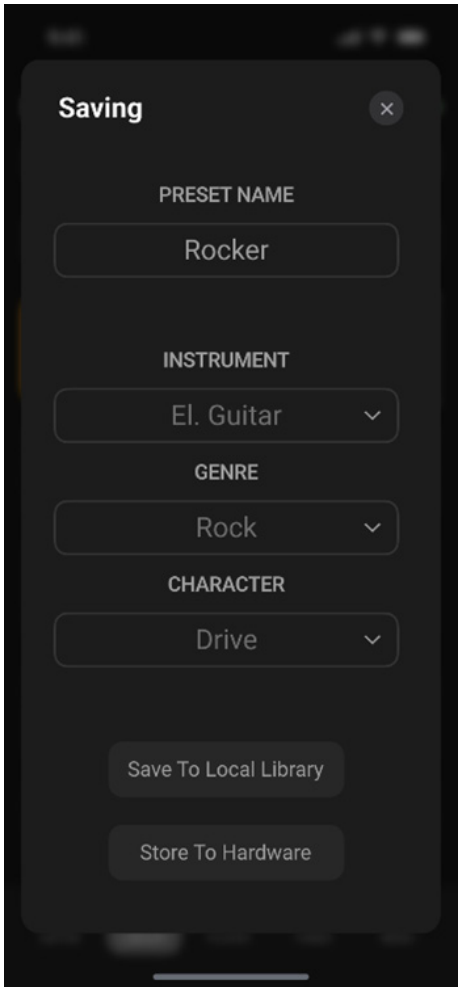
This is your **unlimited library** stored on your device's memory (smartphone or tablet). It offers maximum flexibility for organizing and expanding your collection.

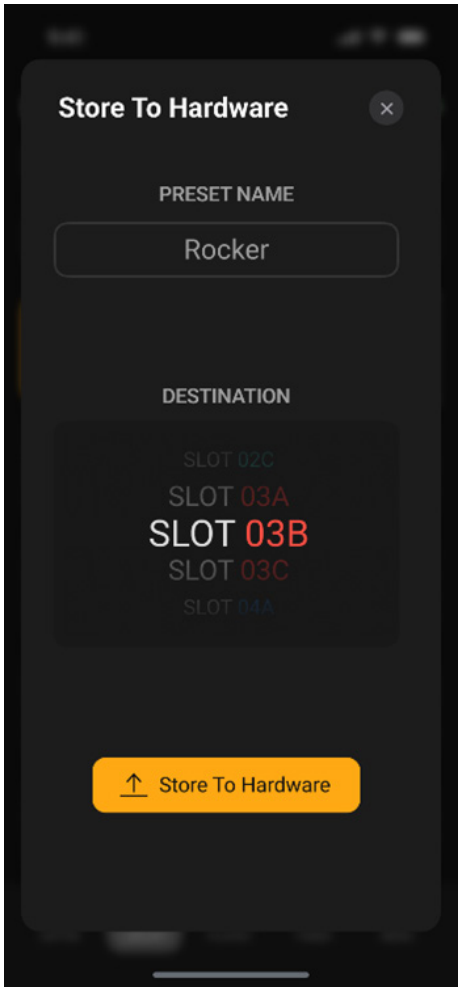
- Presets stored here can be created, imported, or backed up without limitations.
- Tapping on a preset will instantly activate it on the hardware, allowing you to use it right away. In this case, the preset is loaded temporarily and won't overwrite the hardware memory unless you explicitly save it through the Editor.
- Swiping on a preset in the Local Library reveals a Store to Hardware shortcut. This lets you quickly assign the preset to a specific bank and slot on the TONEX Plug, streamlining the workflow between your mobile library and the hardware.
- The local library also shows a status indicator that reveals whether a preset is assigned to TONEX Plug, along with the specific bank and slot number where it is stored.

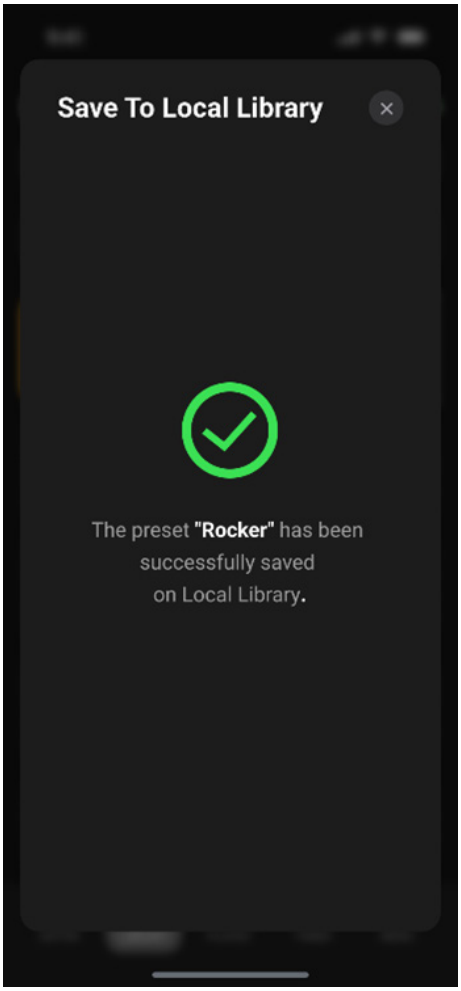
From the Editor screen, you can access the save options by tapping the three-dot menu next to the preset name. This opens the save menu, which includes two options: Save and Save As.

Selecting Save will immediately overwrite the current preset in its existing Bank and Slot within the TONEX Plug memory.

Choosing Save As allows you to select where to store the new preset, either in the TONEX Plug memory or in the Mobile Device memory and to enter a new name and preset information before saving.

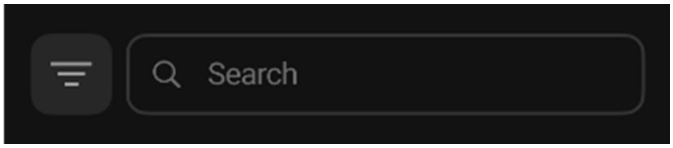






Smart Gestures

The Filter bar lets you refine the list view based on chosen criteria. Whether browsing presets or Tone Models, filters offer a quick and easy way to organize and find exactly what you're seeking.



Each list of Tone Models or presets, depending on the active view, supports smart gestures for quicker interaction. Swiping left or right on an item lets you access quick actions like Info or Delete, helping you manage your content easily and efficiently. Additional actions may vary by section, offering context-specific options for a faster workflow.

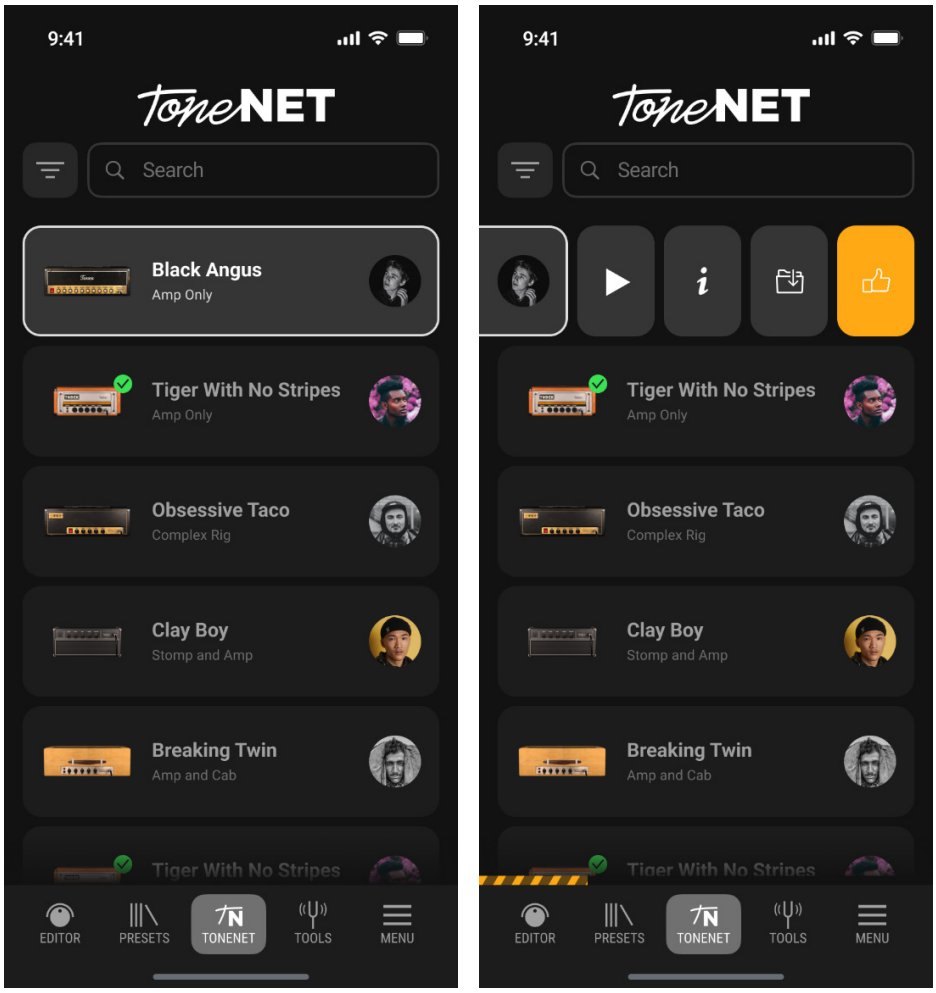
ToneNET

The ToneNET section provides direct access to the online Tone Models community, where new content is constantly shared and updated. After logging in with your user account, the app shows a live feed featuring the latest Tone Models available for exploration.

Each entry in the feed represents a Tone Model that you can preview, evaluate, and download. Swiping left on any Tone Model reveals a quick action menu with several options: Play Demo instantly plays a sample of the tone, Info offers details about the model's setup and creator, Download to Local Library saves the Tone Model directly to your smartphone for immediate use, and Like adds it to your favorites for easy access later.

NOTE: Tone Models downloaded from ToneNET will appear in the Amp Browser view since they are not presets.

Tapping on a Tone Model immediately downloads it into the app and loads it into the selected preset, allowing you to play and evaluate it in real-time. Then, you can go back to the Editor screen to adjust parameters or replace the Tone Model as needed.



Tools

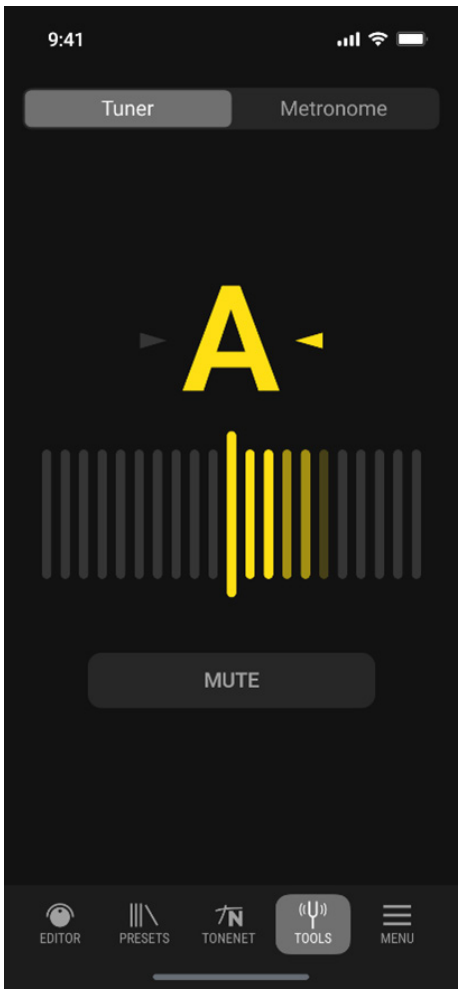
Tuner

The Tools section features the Tuner, a simple yet accurate tuning utility.

Here, you can choose to mute the audio output while tuning.

This makes the Tuner a practical and precise tool for both practice and live performances.

Pressing both Preset Up and Preset Down on the TONEX Plug will automatically switch to this view. Switching to this view will also activate the tuner on the hardware device, allowing you to have a tuner reference both on the app and the TONEX Plug LEDs.

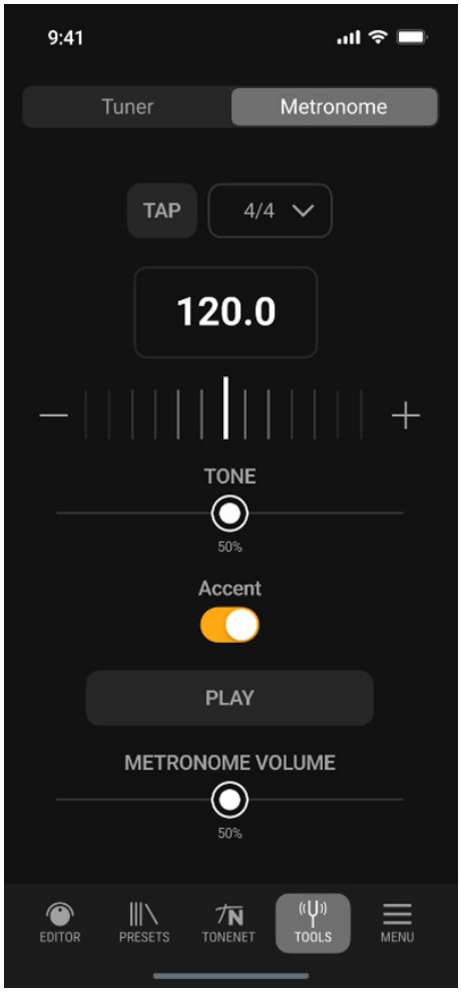


Metronome

Within the Tools section, you'll also find a built-in metronome that plays a practice track when your smartphone connects to the TONEX Plug via Bluetooth. This feature allows you to rehearse with perfect timing directly through the device's headphone output. Available controls include:

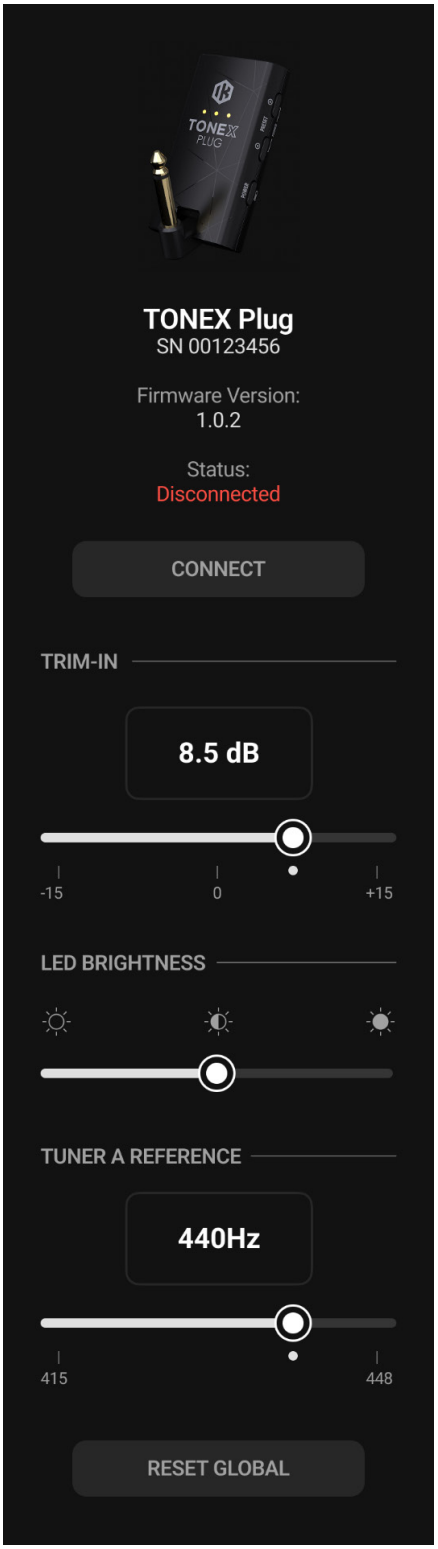
- Time Signature
- BPM Selector (with Tap Tempo)
- Dedicated Volume
- Accent
- Click Pitch

Fully customize the metronome to suit your playing style and practice needs.



Settings Menu

- **Connection Status:** Displays the current Bluetooth data connection between TONEX Control and TONEX Plug. The status indicator shows whether the device is connected or disconnected. You can use the DISCONNECT button to end the active connection.
- **Trim-In:** Adjusts the input gain to match the output level of the instrument, ensuring optimal signal levels. The slider allows fine adjustment from –15 dB to +15 dB, with the current value displayed numerically in the center.
- **LED Brightness:** Controls the brightness of the device's LED indicators. The slider allows you to set the intensity from minimum to maximum according to your preference.
- **Tuner A Reference:** Selects the reference frequency for the 'A' note of the Tuner.
- **Reset:** Restore settings to their default values.



System requirements

To review system requirements reference our website.

TONEX Control App:

www.ikmultimedia.com/tonexplug/specs

Support

For any questions you may have, please refer to the FAQ webpage at:
www.ikmultimedia.com/faq

Here you will find answers to the most commonly asked questions.

To submit a Technical Support Form, go to:
www.ikmultimedia.com/support

For warranty information, please visit:
www.ikmultimedia.com/warranty

For other requests such as Product, Sales, or Web info, please go to:
www.ikmultimedia.com/contact-us

IK Product Manager

The IK Product Manager gives you one central location to manage all the latest IK Multimedia products. It's your central command for registration, downloads, installation, authorization, checking for updates, and much more.

- Register hardware and software in one location
- Download, install, and authorize software
- Simplified sounds download with pause/resume
- Authorize and de-authorize computers
- Update software, sounds and firmware
- Easily manage your entire IK collection

Download IK Product manager at:
www.ikmultimedia.com/pm

Safety Instructions

Please read the following safety instructions before setting up your system. Keep the instructions for subsequent reference. Please heed the warnings and follow the instructions.

The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated “dangerous voltage” within the product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

Amplifiers and loudspeaker systems, and ear/headphones (if equipped) are capable of producing very high sound pressure levels which may cause temporary or permanent hearing damage. Use care when setting and adjusting volume levels during use.

Read these instructions.

Keep these instructions.

Heed all warnings.

Follow all instructions.

Do not use this apparatus near water.

Clean only with dry clothes

Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

Only use attachments / accessories specified by the manufacturer.

Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in anyway, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

WARNING - To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

WARNING — To maintain product safety, products with internal or external (battery pack) batteries: • Batteries and/or the product in which they are installed, shall not be subject to replacement of a battery with an incorrect type that can defeat a safeguard (for example, in the case of some lithium battery types).

WARNING — To maintain product safety, products with internal or external (battery pack) batteries: • Batteries and/or the product in which they are installed, shall not be subjected to disposal of a battery into fire or a hot oven, or mechanically crushing or cutting of a battery, that can result in an explosion.

WARNING — To maintain product safety, products with internal or external (battery pack) batteries: • Batteries and/or the product in which they are installed, shall not be subjected to leaving a battery in an extremely high–temperature surrounding environment that can result in an explosion or the leakage of flammable liquid or gas.

WARNING — To maintain product safety, products with internal or external (battery pack) batteries: • Batteries and/or the product in which they are installed, shall not be subjected to extremely low air pressure that may result in an explosion or the leakage of flammable liquid or gas.

Rated operating temperature: 0°C—45°C.

WARNING

When connecting TONEX Plug to your instrument, or unplugging it, a sudden loud noise may occur. To protect your hearing when using headphones or earphones, please follow these safety recommendations:

- Always turn off the device or set the MASTER VOLUME to minimum before plugging or unplugging TONEX Plug.
- If using headphones, it's recommended to disconnect them before attaching or removing the device from your instrument.

Handling the exposed plug or connecting TONEX Plug while it is powered and the MASTER VOLUME is raised may result in a sudden signal spike, comparable to connecting a live instrument cable directly into an active amplifier input.

Regulatory

Model: TONEX Plug (IK000202)

Made In Italy

FCC Statement

This device complies with Part 15.107 and 15.109 Class B of the FCC Rules CFR47: October 2010.

Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause harmful interference.
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

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All specifications are subject to change without further notice.

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