

# Quick Hits

## RADIAL

### JDX Direct Drive

By Jason Shadrack

We all love the warm sound of a burning tube feeding a broken-in speaker, but let's be honest: They aren't the most dependable creations. The Radial JDX Direct Drive aims to serve two purposes. It's a highly rugged DI for recording and a worthy backup for when those tubes hit the skids in the middle of your gig. Generally speaking, you connect your pedalboard into the Direct Drive and then can either feed a PA or recording interface. You can also add a stage amp into the mix, if you wish.

There are six different settings (three amp choices with bright and normal modes for each) available via two switches on the top of the intensely rugged chassis. Usually the real test for DI tones is a clean signal, so I dialed up a hint of compression and used the combo/normal setting. I didn't get totally into Nile Rodgers-type funk tones, but for a quick demo or a way to get through a gig, it would suffice. When I added some overdrive and a Les Paul the results were more convincing—especially in the stack setting. Lows and mids made themselves known without being too muddy. If your pickups are a bit on the darker side, however, the bright switch will help you considerably. Radial is known for making heavy-duty boxes that tend to simply make your life easier. The Direct Drive is a worthy heir to that tradition. 🎸



**TEST GEAR** *Fender Telecaster, Gibson Les Paul, Visual Sound Route 66, Focusrite Scarlet 2i2, Apple GarageBand*

#### RATINGS

\$199 street, [radialeng.com](http://radialeng.com)

Tones	★★★★☆
Ease of Use	★★★★☆
Build/Design	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆

**PROS** Solid construction. Dead simple to use. Plenty of I/O options.

**CONS** No EQ controls. Rather weak with cleaner tones.

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