

# Guitar Player

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## AIR BRAKE

**KUDOS**  
Lowers amp volume without causing tone depression.

**CONCERNS**  
May force some to admit they have been playing too loud.

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## ACCESSORY FILE

### DR. Z AIR BRAKE

Guitarists are always getting bagged for playing too loud, and while an obvious way to address such ridiculous assertions is to use a power attenuator, many players fear their sound will suck if they do. Designed by Trainwreck's Ken Fischer, the Air Brake is a transparent-sounding attenuator that does not kill tone. Features include a 5-position switch that provides 3dB attenuation in the first position, and an additional 1.8dB (which is user adjustable if you desire more) each step thereafter. A Bedroom Level control provides an attenuation range of 7.2dB to 30dB—enough to wail without waking the kids—and the device



handles up to 100 watts. Other details: a welded-aluminum enclosure, high-quality Ohmite resistors, and a costly Ohmite wire-wound pot. Connected between a 50-watt Marshall head and a 4x12 cab, the Air Brake did an amazing job of reducing the blast without neutering the amp's tone or altering its touch sensitivity. The Marshall sounded just as badass—and had the same dynamic response—but at a volume that could make even the grumpiest bartender smile. Simple and effective, the Air Brake gets an Editors' Pick Award.

—Art Thompson

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