For those that don’t already know, Henry Widjaja of GFI System hails from Jakarta, Indonesia, where he designs and builds totally unique-boutique pedals that sport rackmount feature-sets in compact form-factors. His algorithms offer not only maximum flexibility, but characterful, original effects design—the Specular Reverb V2 I reviewed is among the lushest bloom boxes money can buy. When I heard about the feature set of the CabZeus for the first time, I found myself gassing hard for the utilitarian and toneful prospects on offer.

We have onboard stereo ins and outs, each with individually assignable speakers, cabs and roomic positions, built-in headphone input with volume control, selectable input pads for Swiss-Army-style source accommodation, MIDI, preset dial—the spec sheet alone could fill this review. This little beige-and-brown box is useful in so many musical scenarios, it is almost hard to imagine living without it once experienced. With the comprehensive (yet intuitive) supporting CabsLab software, one can open a world of stereo rig schemes. Every type of speaker, cabinet and even other cab sims and full-range speakers are cloned here, so whacking a drum machine or synth into an accompanying input won’t make them sound like they caught a cold. I’ll detail more sonic scenarios later, but for now, I’ll rip into what we pedal peeps are most likely to do right off the bat: putting CabZeus
at the signal chain caboose and strapping on the cans for a stereo pedalboard rig rammed right into our ears.

**LIVING IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE STUDIO**

The first thing I did upon unboxing was download the CabsLab Software to have a poke around. The Dashboard has two modes: Stereo Cabs and Stereo Mics. The former offers left and right channels: each sporting American and British speakers of all types and sizes for Guitar, Bass, Gears (Palmer Cab Sim Clone) and Full Range. We then have options of Sealed or Open (Ported) cabs. We can adjust the mic position from edge to center, create depth by delaying response between the two cabs, blend the two and even adjust the phase to mix.

The Stereo Mics mode gives us all the aforementioned speaker and cab options while adding the ability to blend between close and room mic simulations. What’s more is the ability to tweak the Room Characteristics with Size, Time, Depth, Color, mic proximity control and more. This allows us to go psychoacoustic and conjure up hyper-realistic ambience with early reflections, galactic fathoms of endless decay and everything in-between without the need for extraneous reverb or delay pedals. Of course, we are going to route them up and trip out in stereo-headphones anyway, at which this box excels. I whacked my top-shelf Dickinson D1 tube guitar preamp into a Source Audio Nemesis and ran the stereo outs into CabZeus with the headphones on and lost a valuable parent-of-two-young-kid’s night sleep . . . because I couldn’t stop sculpting amazing worlds of sound. I think I am going to chuck my Eventide H9 into the equation next. Goodbye, reality.

**WHAT WE LIKE**

This is the cab sim pedal to end all for the foreseeable future. Make no mistake, if you are a pedalhead and need to keep the noise down, CabZeus is an essential purchase. It could also be a labor- or life-saver. Run it into front of house from the board and if the valves go on the stage amp, the show goes on—provided one has an amp-like overdrive out front. Turn the pedalboard into a full stereo rig-plotter and indeed make it part of the plot. With or without the meticulously designed supporting software, this is a tool that imparts amazing tone as well as tactile enabling beyond comprehension. It brings a bit of DAW flexibility to real world musical scenarios, which is entirely unique. I’m addicted.

**CONCERNS**

It seems plain rude to suggest the CabZeus have any additional features, but selfishly I wish it had two headphone jacks for late night or mobile jamming with mates. I also wish it had a dedicated stereo aux input for mobile musical devices, but this is really reaching. Many features could be written on the sonic escapades enabled by CabZeus.