



TAYLOR BEACON

£47.25

Bring home the Beacon?

Taylor is looking to take the headstock crown with its new Beacon. More than just a tuner, this little multi-mode device has got a metronome, countdown timer, stopwatch and flashlight built in, as well as an internal rechargeable battery and a full-colour LCD display. At just shy of £50, it's up there with TC Electronic's PolyTune Clip, price-wise, but with an entirely different approach.

Getting started needs no explanation, the sprung clip and multi-axis, rotatable screen angle means you clip it on, angle it how you like and you're ready. There are multiple buttons on the Beacon – on the side there's the home button, which also fires it up; on the other side there's a 'Confirm' switch, while on the top we have up and down cursors and a Select button.

First things first, we have to comment on that screen. Visually, it's like having the sharp display of a smartwatch strapped to your headstock: crisp, bright and very easy to read. You cycle through each of the Beacon's modes using the Home, Select and Confirm button, which takes a bit of getting used to as you might want to use the arrows to move up and down through the list of options, but you can't! The tuner has chromatic, guitar, bass, ukulele and violin modes, and it's a doddle to use once you've got your button-pressing sequence in order.

Everything reacts at speed to the pitch of your notes and the colour display really makes a difference. The metronome can pulse at tempos between 30–208 BPM, in 11 different time signatures, and you get an audible 'bleep' with a visual representation too. The bleep can be set to three volume increments,

but there are no selectable sounds, so you'll have to stick with the bleep. Likewise, it will only produce a quarter-note pulse with no facility for subdivisions.

The timer modes will come in handy if you're timing a song, set or practice session, and the flashlight is engaged by pressing the two cursor arrows. The resulting light is similar to the flash on your phone, only less bright.

So, a bit of a jack-of-all-trades? We'd certainly recommend the tuner and metronome modes. The others are useful, but ultimately already taken care of by the phones we carry everywhere, so we'd see them as bonus features rather than reasons to buy. Overall, it's all about the tuning, display and time-keeping.

Stuart Williams

AT A GLANCE

FEATURES: Headstock tuner, metronome, countdown/stopwatch timer (90 mins), flashlight

TUNING MODES: Chromatic, Guitar, Bass, Ukulele, Violin

METRONOME: 30–208 BPM; one tone, three volume levels

DISPLAY: Colour LCD

POWER: USB-rechargeable battery

CONTACT: Taylor, taylorguitars.com

“THE SCREEN IS CRISP, BRIGHT AND VERY EASY TO READ”

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	PERFORMANCE	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL	★	★	★	★	★