

Accessory of the Year?

Bob Kilgore's Harmonic Capo

THE HARMONIC CAPO is one of those ingeniously simple gizmos that makes you smack yourself on the forehead and say, "Now why didn't I think of that!" It's a darn clever tone tool and one that's sure to reinvigorate the acoustic-fingerstyle scene. Even electric players can get in on the act.

Unlike a conventional capo – which clamps the strings to the fingerboard – this capogently rests on the strings at the 12th fret, producing typical harmonics that are an octave above the open strings. The real innovation is that when you fret notes below that, your open strings will now sound as harmonics. Suddenly, your guitar playing is a wash in beautiful, natural harmonics – sort of like having a bell choir or celeste accompanying your six-string work. Pretty cool.

How does it work? Six rubber pads are affixed to the metal-and-plastic structure that arcs over the guitar's strings. An elastic band goes around the next string, the

they're resting on the strings and making harmonics, and you're in business. Conversely, it only works on guitars with clear access to the 12th fret, negating its use on classical guitars, 12-strings, and dobros.

Ultimately, the Harmonic Capo almost functions like a third hand – the capo triggers the harmonics, leaving the fretting hand to play guitar as usual. Its potential applications are immense, too. First off, acoustic fingerstylists are going to eat this beauty up. Inventor Bob Kilgore is a fan of Michael Hedges' guitar method and, sure enough, DADGAD'ers everywhere will surely find fresh ways to integrate the Harmonic Capo into their music. In one of his YouTube videos, Kilgore even demonstrates its use on an electric solidbody, cranking out some Van Halenesque taps with seemingly half the usual effort. (Feel free to smack your forehead again.)

All told, the Harmonic Capo is a clever, simple device that brings new, interesting sounds to the guitar lexicon. I give it a big thumb's up. – **Pete Prown VG**

HARMONIC CAPO

Price: \$34.95.

Contact: www.weaseltrap.com.



other way, to affix the Harmonic Capo to the neck. One side of the unit is adjustable, so you can make it fit the correct width of your guitar. Otherwise, that's it for features: Just push the rubber pads down until