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› TC Electronic POLYTUNE 3 Ultra-Compact Polyphonic Tuner with Multiple Tuning Modes and Built-In BONAFIDE BUFFER Pedal
Instruction Manual

TC Electronic POLYTUNE3

TC Electronic POLYTUNE 3 Instruction Manual

Model: POLYTUNE3 | Brand: TC Electronic

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The TC Electronic POLYTUNE 3 is an ultra-compact polyphonic tuner designed to provide fast, accurate tuning and serve as a high-quality tone tool in a single unit.

Key Features:

- Ultra-compact polyphonic tuner for fast, accurate tuning.
- Multiple tuning modes: polyphonic, chromatic, and strobe.
- Built-in all-analog BONAFIDE BUFFER circuitry to preserve tone over long cable runs and complex pedal boards.
- Polyphonic tuning lets you tune all your strings at once.
- Lightning-fast chromatic tuner offers 0.5 cent accuracy.



Figure 1: Angled view of the TC Electronic POLYTUNE 3 pedal, showcasing its compact design and display.

2. SETUP

Before using your POLYTUNE 3, ensure proper connection to your instrument and power source.

2.1 Connections:

- Connect your instrument's output to the **INPUT** jack on the POLYTUNE 3 using a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable.
- Connect the **OUTPUT** jack of the POLYTUNE 3 to your amplifier or the next pedal in your signal chain using another 1/4-inch instrument cable.
- For power, connect a 9V DC power supply (not included) to the **9V IN** jack. The pedal requires 1 9V battery, but external power is recommended for consistent performance and to avoid frequent battery changes.



Figure 2: Rear view of the POLYTUNE 3, highlighting the input, output, and 9V power connections.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The POLYTUNE 3 offers versatile tuning options for various instruments and playing styles.

3.1 Power On/Off:

- Press the footswitch once to activate the tuner. The display will illuminate.
- Press the footswitch again to bypass the tuner and return to normal signal flow.

3.2 Tuning Modes:

The POLYTUNE 3 supports polyphonic, chromatic, and strobe tuning modes. The default mode is polyphonic.

- **Polyphonic Mode:** Strum all strings simultaneously. The display will show the tuning status of each string, indicating which ones are in tune (green) or out of tune (red/orange). This allows for quick checks and adjustments.
- **Chromatic Mode:** Play individual strings. The display will show the note name and a needle-style indicator for precise tuning.
- **Strobe Mode:** Offers extremely high precision (0.5 cent accuracy). Play individual strings, and the display will show a rotating strobe pattern that slows down as you approach perfect pitch.

3.3 Adjusting Reference Pitch:

The default reference pitch is A=440 Hz. Refer to the full user manual (link in Section 6) for instructions on how to adjust this setting if needed.



Figure 3: Front view of the POLYTUNE 3, illustrating the clear LED display in polyphonic tuning mode.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your POLYTUNE 3.

- Keep the pedal clean and free from dust and debris. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning.
- Avoid exposing the pedal to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.
- When not in use for extended periods, disconnect the power supply and, if applicable, remove the 9V battery to prevent leakage.
- Handle the footswitch with care. While durable, excessive force can cause damage.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your POLYTUNE 3, try the following solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No display/No power.	Incorrect power supply, dead battery, loose connection.	Ensure 9V DC power supply is correctly connected. Replace 9V battery if using battery power. Check all cable connections.
Inaccurate tuning.	Ambient noise, incorrect mode, old strings.	Ensure a quiet environment. Try chromatic or strobe mode for higher precision. Replace old strings. For extended range guitars, polyphonic mode may require individual string tuning for optimal accuracy.
Signal loss when bypassed.	Faulty cables, internal issue.	Test with different cables. If the problem persists, contact TC Electronic support.
Display difficult to read.	Lighting conditions, visual impairment.	Adjust ambient lighting. The display is designed to be bright and clear, but individual visual acuity may vary.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Item Weight:** 9.5 ounces (0.27 Kilograms)
- **Product Dimensions:** 4.76 x 1.77 x 2.87 inches (12.09 x 4.50 x 7.29 cm)
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric (9V) / 1 9V battery required (not included)
- **Hardware Interface:** 1/4-inch Audio
- **Signal Format:** Analog
- **Color:** MultiColored
- **Accuracy:** 0.5 cent (strobe mode)

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official user manual or contact TC Electronic directly.

A PDF version of the user manual can be found[here](#).

Protection plans are also available for purchase, offering extended coverage for your product:

- 3-Year Protection Plan
- 4-Year Protection Plan
- Complete Protect: One plan covers all eligible past and future purchases

For more information on protection plans, please visit the product page on Amazon.com.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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