



and then switching in the dirty channel and familiarising yourself with an overload effect which sounds more traditionally British valve-like than that from any solid-state combo on the market.

When you eventually begin to feel confident about what you're doing with the Sessionette, maybe after an hour or so, all sorts of sounds can be obtained. With my Gibson 335-S, the distorted sound I could get with Gain 1 up against Gain 2 on Channel A was incredible — certainly I have never got such a true simulacrum of a valve sound (so satisfyingly sweet and warm) with any amp set at such a low volume. The damned thing was even giving me controlled feedback at minute output levels! Take the volume up on Gain 2,

and the sound becomes impressively raunchy. The little Sessionette truly is a remarkable amp — the 12" Celestion speaker fitted to it is obviously excellent, fully deserving the reputation that this U.K. maker has of producing some of the best guitar speakers in the world. The reverb, too, comes from a world-class maker, Accutronics, and this application of their three-line model is remarkably good, one of the best I've heard. Constructionally, tonally, in terms of its facilities and its sound the Sessionette 75 combo is a jewel, a real triumph of an amp. Small it may be, but it's loud, and capable of sounding like a truly professional amp, ideal for stage use or for recording in the studio. There are numerous clever technical ideas



set the Eq 'out', and only the most finicky of players could tell that he wasn't plugged into a valve amp at full tilt — and only then because of the guitar's infinitely subtle tactile response and not through any real tonal difference.

Channel B's clean response was equally impressive. Even set clean, transistorised amps sound somewhat aseptic compared with a professional quality valve amp — but not the Sessionette. It was clean, yet alive and very responsive, almost uncannily close to a good clean valve amp of the old school. Mind you, take Channel B up to full power

inside this amp which all work together to make it quite unique. To begin with it's remarkably sensitive, a factor which would enable even guitars with ultra-low outputs to achieve a good overdriving rock sound (Strat owners, please note!). This is why it will enable you to get feedback at levels which are unprecedented in other products. The noise/hum potential with single coil pickups (another factor in this amp's success) stems, in part, from the use of a toroidal mains transformer — something which you tend to find more on ultra-high quality power amps than in the average guitar combo.

The tone controls, too, are unlike those used in virtually every other solid state amp — they work more along the lines of those found in traditional valve amps and work accordingly more convincingly than those on many other amps in delivering a tone which actually *sounds* good, rather than *looks* good on paper.

Getting the best out of the Sessionette 75 isn't something which you'll do in ten minutes. Don't approach one, wind everything up full and expect it to work to perfection. Take your time to learn how things work and you'll find yourself eventually getting sounds out of this combo

which you would previously have thought to be quite impossible.

Priced as it is and as good as it is we can have no doubt about awarding this amp the **MUSIC U.K. STAR BUY**. It fulfils all the relevant criteria — it's a product of very exceptional quality, selling at an excellent price. In terms of value for money it must represent a really first class buy. Congratulations, therefore, to Stewart Ward and Axess Electronics they've just won only the fourth **MUSIC U.K. STAR BUY AWARD** that we've given since the magazine began. That, if nothing else, should tell you, our readers, how highly we rate this product.

STAR BUY 4th AWARD WINNER: SESSIONETTE 75 GUITAR COMBO

Back in Issue 4 of MUSIC U.K. we announced that we were launching what has turned out to be a very important scheme in the musical instrument field — the **MUSIC U.K. STAR BUY AWARD**. We could see (as everyone who has ever bought a musical instrument or piece of related equipment knows) that the market these days is crowded with products, most of which are fighting for a limited amount of business and nearly all of which were of a roughly equal standard. The problem was, when most things are roughly similar, how do you draw someone's attention to those very few really *exceptional* products?

Our answer was to award **MUSIC U.K. STAR BUY** status to any product we reviewed which stood out from the crowd in terms of its sheer quality, exceptional low price or innovation.

Each product awarded this accolade would be allowed to carry the exclusive swing ticket proclaiming its status and, to ensure that it is understood to be totally independent of *any* commercial connotations for us whatsoever, these tickets are supplied to the manufacturers free of charge. Manufacturers are also allowed to use the copyright of the **MUSIC U.K. STAR BUY AWARD** logo in their advertising and promotional literature,

again, free of charge.

To date we've only made three such awards. Recipients have been the **Deanard V-Amp VA-30 combo** (issue 8), the **Pro-Amp 100 watt 2 x 10 combo** (issue 10) and the **Pilgrim acoustic guitar** (issue 13). Now this illustrious company is joined by the superb **Sessionette 75 combo**.

Needless to say, we make these awards quite without reference to any other product whatsoever and entirely without any considerations of trying to please any manufacturer or solicit advertising. Their sole aim is to make the readers of MUSIC U.K. aware of what, in our opinion, constitute the exceptional products among those we've reviewed. Competition among manufacturers to win one of these awards is rewardingly intense but the scheme will remain entirely free of any pressure whatsoever, otherwise it would be without any value to anyone.

Each product will, as always, be judged purely on its own merits — it may be awarded the **STAR BUY** because it's really low priced but of good quality, or because it's the best, regardless of price. The choice, however, will always be impartial. Congratulations, therefore, to Axess Electronics, manufacturers of the **SESSIONETTE 75** — your **STAR BUY** is well deserved.