

Customer Help Line: +44 (0)1256 477 222 - 24 Hour Order Fax Line: +44 (0)1256 817 687

Award's UK:95 1x12 Combo



Photo: see footnotes

All Amps Are The Same... Not!

The boffs at Award in sunny Basingstoke, England always seem to come up with amps that are refreshingly different to those made by the big boys. If you're looking for a new amp, and you're not dazzled by famous badges, then you really must check out these UK made seems.

tones where the high notes sing, but, the low open notes stay relatively clean (watch out BB). Dial in 'Heavy' and I found enough OTT distortion to make the Sex Pistols sound like they're on valium! No complaints in this department.

It's Super-T EQ system is based

"...this UK:95 gives every boutique valve amp I've heard a serious run for their money... and leaves the rest standing."

Ever since their first all-valve amp, the 15:30 Studio Combo back in 1979 and the introduction of the mega selling Sessionette:75 in 1981, their reputation for great sounding affordable gear has been deservedly earned. Witness the old '75 on most Eurythmics records.

Not surprisingly, the UK-95 is the only amp I've ever come across cupipped with humbucker emulation, which Award call PA-Ftone. Basically, it's an electronic filter which mimics the tone of a humbucking pickup. You just push in a switch and, as if by magic, your single coil ace's tone gains a distinct Kalamazoo accent! PA-Ftone seems to be placed post overdrive, as it rather nicely gives overdrive, as it rather nicely gives overdrive a well rounded smooth character (FX processor pedals sound really warm

The FlexiDrive distortion is selectable between two ranges. 'Crunch' for clean through to crunch and 'Heavy' for crunch to demolition man! In the crunch mode, it's dead easy to set up some really nice blues

on the EQs found in old 'tweed' amps. However, Award say that the mid control has been given four times the usual range. I confirmed this by setting all EQ controls to six. From this point, just turning the mid to



scooped metal to 'Brick in the wall'... delightful. Who needs programable amps? It achieved 'that' sought after warm British tonality, plus the rest.

The clean channel B has a two band EQ, volume and bright switch to add sparkle. It provided plenty of tonal range and the sound stayed clead right up to full output.

he Accutronics reverb sound is a

classic guitar amp thing. Award have done a nice job of producing a convincing sound from the triple spring unit used. It makes reverb that, somehow, digital types seem to miss

The inclusion of effects loop, main amp in, G12T speaker simulated DI out and extension speaker outputs make this amp a very performance friendly tool.

The 'Main Amp In' socket allows you to connect an acoustic guitar, an external pre-amp or any other instrument. This input is, thoughtfully, routed via the effects loop, reverb and master volume control... so, whatever extra instruments you connect here can take full advantage of the effects set-up you have for electric guitar. 'Main Amp In' works independently of the input on the front panel, so two players can use the amp simultaneously.

Somewhat tongue in check, I connected the amp's G127 speaker simulated DI output to my trusty Fostex multi-track recorder and recorded a variety of simple BB King style blues through to outright 'battleskull-bombastica' over some backing tracks... I was amazed at the tone coming off tape upon playback. Had I not have known, I would not have detected it was D1'd. Pull marks to Award for such a useful inclusion. At it's heart is Award's HiFlex

power amp section. This design is said to make the amp loud for the split second you hit a clean note. It seems to work, because I found the amp very loud when played this way! The UK:95 dishes a respectable 95 watts r.m.s. into it's internal eight ohm 12" G12T Celestion driver (sporting a chunky magnet which enables high acoustic output) and a staggering 140 watts of dynamic (HiFlex) output (important for clean playing). Bucking dubious trends. Award do not quote power ratings into four ohms and then fit an eight ohm speaker. Thus, forcing you to part with more money for an extension cah' if you want the full rated power. The UK:95 delivers all power into it's internal speaker.

Upon inspection inside the chassis (see power module plano) 1 noticed that there seems very little chance of the output stage blowing, as Award use grossly over-specified output transistors - no whimpish plastic types as found in some 'living-on-aknife-edge' makes. Obviously Award know that guitarists actually play gigs now and again! Although Awards reputedly have

an excellent reliability record, they still plan for that moment when something might go wrong.

Therefore, they build their gigging amps in a modular style, which makes servicing very easy - but adds to the cost. This is all built into an

impressively heavy duty 2mm thick steel chassis.

Another nice touch is the use of toroidal mains transformers, which reduces 50/60Hz hum radiation by up to 80%. This is great when you are using a single coil equipped guitar in deep overdrive... you'll find there is virtually no hum picked up by your guitar from the amp!

All amp's are hand assembled in Award's Basingstoke workshop and covered by a three year limited warranty. Naturally, the channel footswitch is supplied with the amp.

Conclusion

All in all, a damn fine sounding British made solid state amp that'll make almost any guitar noise you can think of. An amp made to be gigged.



The easily replacable HiFlex power section and toroidal 'low hum' mains transformer

I will even go as far as saying this UK:95 gives every boutique valve amp I've heard a serious run for their money... and leaves the rest standing

I have no doubt that players looking for a loud (and it is!) compact twin channel combo will find the UK:95 an extremely rewarding acquisition.

I'd wager that Hendrix might have used one if they'd been around in the sixtles. Certainly the likes of Ronnie Wood, Mick Jagger, Jan Ackermann, Mick Ralphs, Rory Gallagher, Martin Barre, Tony Hicks, Jerry Donahue, Eric Clapton and Roy Buchannan have* - Joe Lockwood.

Footnot

The UK:95 is known outside USA as the Award-Session Sessionette:75. Their performance is identical in every respect. The word 'Session' was registered in USA by Peavey in 1986.

*The artists referred to used Session amplifiers. EC recorded the 'August' album with them. Martin Barre used them on Jethro Tull's 'Broadsword'.

Award reserves the right to change specification without prior notice.

For Information in USA, contact: Sound Enhancements, Inc.: Tel. 847 639 4646: Fax. 847 639 4723

This relates to the American version of the Sessionette:75 -see footnotes.

USA Version