

EGNATER VENGEANCE 120 WATT HEAD AND 412A CABINET

REG BARBER RIFFS HARD...WITH A VENGENACE.

Having recently entered the high gain amp market, Egnater recently released the Vengeance 120 watt head to appease the high gain players among us. The Vengeance is packed full of well thought out and useful features and a wide range of useful tones, going from the cleanest of cleans to modern metal tones and lots of places in between.

SO CLEAN YOU COULD EAT OF IT

The Vengeance 120 watt head is extremely versatile. It features two channels with identical control layouts and options, but voiced differently, channel two being higher in gain and capable of some very modern metal tones. Both channels have independent reverb controls and the inbuilt reverb is plentiful, more than you would ever need. Both channels feature three tone controls in bass, middle and treble, but it is the extra switches that give this amp its versatility.

The tight switch feature is a bottom end EQ cut which tightens up the bottom end considerably. The bright switch does exactly what you would expect, boosting the top end and there is plenty of tonal possibilities when tweaked along with the treble knob. The gain switch adds more gain to sound, and on channel one you can quickly and easily dial in some great crunch tones with a flick of the switch. The last switch, and it quickly became my favourite feature, is the mid switch. You can boost or cut the mid frequencies, cut them for a scooped metal tone and boost them for some great '80s hot-rodded Marshall type tones.

The master section on the Vengeance also has some cool features. The inclusion of a second foot-switchable master volume allows you to set up two volumes for both channels, very handy as a solo boost. The density control affects the amount of low end in the power amp section and you can easily cut some of the bottom end out to tighten up your sound. The presence control cuts or boosts the top end and like with all amps a cut at high volume will get rid of any of those highs that will cut heads off.

The back of the amp is just as feature packed, with some really useful and well thought out features. The amp is voltage selectable,

allowing you to tour anywhere in the world with your amp without the need for a step down transformer.

The footswitch on the Vengeance gives you complete control over your amp and gives you the ability to make use of all it has to offer from the front of the stage. The footswitch uses a regular XLR cable, and you can use cable lengths of up to 30 metres, very handy if you need to switch channels from your neighbour's house. The six-button footswitch allows you to switch between channels and the LED changes colour to easily show which channel you are on. You have mid switches for both channels, handy if you want a mid boost for solos or to cut through the rest of the band. There is a switch to engage the effects loop and a switch to allow this to happen on either channel or both. There is a reverb switch and a switch to engage the second master volume level, that you can use as a volume boost or cut, nice!

The Vengeance also has external bias controls, cutting down the time and effort it takes to change tubes, and even better you can use the Vengeance with a number of different power tubes as well as the EL34's it comes shipped with.

There is an effects loop with level controls and a push button to engage the effects loop in the signal path, the guys at Egnater have put a lot of thought into this amp.

The 4x12 cabinet that comes with the Vengeance head is loaded with 75 watt Celestion speakers. The bottom of the cabinet has very chunky removable castors that look like they would put up with years of abuse. These cabs are capable of running at 4 - 16 ohms in mono or 8 ohms in stereo and the switching plate automatically detects the impedance.

FROM BEAUTIFUL TO BRUTAL WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON

The Vengeance sounds amazing.

PRICE: VENGEANCE HEAD \$2450, VN-412A AND VN412B CABS \$1250 EACH

FEATURES

- Voltage selectable
- 120 or 60 watt output
- Two channels
- Tight and Bright switches
- Mid range cut or boost switches
- Two master volume controls
- Presence and density power amp controls
- High and low gain switches
- Six button foot switch
- External bias points
- Buffered effects loop with level controls

With all controls on 12 o'clock the clean channel sounds full and rich. The reverb is plentiful and very useable, more than you could ever possibly need. The clean channel tones on the Vengeance are amazing! With a bit more gain dialled in and the gain switch engaged channel one transforms into a crunchy rhythm rock beast. The mid switch really helps you dial in those rock tones; I would buy the Vengeance for channel one alone.

Channel two goes from rock to high gain metal territory. For the price this amp blows other high gain amps out of the water. The mid minus switch becomes a very useful feature on channel two, and with the minus switch engaged and the mid switch boosted you can get some great metal tones. There is more than enough bottom end and the choice of 75 watt Celestions makes this an extremely tight amplifier for the chug chug, tweak the density control and you can dime in a tight metal tone in seconds.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Vengeance is well worth checking out. Both the head and cab sound amazing, they are packed full of useful features, and for the price there is nothing out there in the high gain market that comes close. **98**



► WHAT WE RECKON

PROS

- Feature packed
- Great foot switch options
- Sounds amazing

CONS

- Too much reverb

CONTACT

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HIWATT T40 COMBO

AFTER SOME BRITISH MID RANGE HONK, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE T40. BY **REG BARBER.**

Hiwatt are a name synonymous with rock music of the '60s and '70s. Everyone from the Who, Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones has at some stage been associated with the name Hiwatt. They have a reputation for building quality amplifiers that can withstand the rigours of touring. The T40 combo is an affordable entry level Hiwatt, a 4 x EL84 tone machine that delivers rocking tone in spades.

PLUG IN AND CRANK OUT THOSE WINDMILLS

The Hiwatt T40 is a 40 watt combo featuring two 12 inch Fane speakers. Although the name Fane is not as well known as that other brand of speaker, Fane were the speaker of choice for many manufacturers in the '60s, being the first speakers to ever be rated at 100 watts, required to keep up with the increasing wattage of amps being built at the time.

The T40 features a 3-band EQ with a push/pull frequency shift on the middle control allowing you to dial in the exact amount of frequency boost or cut you require. The EQ controls on this little beast are quite responsive and you can quickly dial in a tone to suit your tastes.

The T40 can switch you between 20 and 40 watts, a feature used in some of the more expensive Hiwatt amplifiers. This makes it ideal for use in either the studio or home recording situation, or in a live context where this little 40 watt monster has more than enough volume to keep up with the rest of the band.

Weighing in at 25kg this combo is about the same weight as some of your modern high gain heads, and if lugging gear every night is a consideration for you then this might be the amp your looking for.

The front panel features a normal/overdrive button, which essentially gives you an option between a clean and dirty channel. There is a gain control for each channel, but both channels share EQ controls.

CLASSIC ROCK TONES WITHOUT THE ROCK STAR PRICE TAG

The Hiwatt T40 features two 12AX7's and one 12AT7 driver tube in its pre-amp section so it's not a high gain amp by modern standards. The clean sounds it can produce are clear and bell-like. The break up that occurs when you crank the T40's power amp is natural and compressed. Because there is very little

pre-amp distortion in this amp the break up has to come from driving those power tubes and the result is a tight low end and beautiful mid range rich distortion. Channel one will get you into the classic blues break up territory and for the price of this amp it is worth the money for this channel alone.

Channel two has more gain on tap and with the master volume just past the point of break up you can get some great rock'n'roll crunch that will have you wind milling all round the room like Pete. Add your favourite pedal in front of this little monster and you can get some singing distorted tones.

There is a foot-switchable reverb built into the T40, which is very useable in cleaner settings, although not an amazing sounding reverb. The foot-switch also allows you to switch between the clean and overdrive channels of the amp but the foot-switch must be purchased separately.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Hiwatt T40 is a more affordable version of the custom Hiwatt line, but it still has some of that classic Hiwatt sound. The T40 is not the most versatile of amplifiers, it is not the most amazing clean sound you will ever hear, and it is not a high gain amplifier in terms of modern

PRICE: \$999

FEATURES

- 3 band EQ
- Push/pull middle frequency control
- Independent gain controls for each channel
- 20/40 watt power section switching

metal, but it does do that Hiwatt rock tone. This little beast can rock and it is loud enough to use in a band situation, and although it is not quiet enough to play in your apartment at 3 am the 20 watt feature makes it useable at home.

If you're into a great power tube distortion and/or you use a pedal board then the Hiwatt T40 would make a great amp for home or as a second amp in your live set-up. The price makes the T40 a great amp to tide you over till you save up for that Hiwatt custom. **AB**



► WHAT WE RECKON

PROS

- ▲ 20 or 40 watts
- ▲ Simple layout
- ▲ Great tone when dined
- ▲ Solid construction

CONS

- ♥ Foot-switch not included

CONTACT

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