



Apocalypse Wow

EGNATER ARMAGEDDON By Chris Gill

FROM THE HUMBLE Tweaker to the flagship Modular system, the entire line of Egnater amps offers guitarists great flexibility for crafting signature tones. However, some guitarists have complained that Egnater doesn't make a dedicated metal amp. While this isn't exactly true, the fact is that metal has been just one color in the rainbow of tones offered by Egnater's various amp models.

With the introduction of the 120-watt Armageddon head, Egnater is finally offering the fire-breathing high-gain amp that metalheads have asked for. But while the Armageddon has a more specific range of tones than other Egnater amps, it still provides guitarists the same

level of flexibility when it comes to dialing in their own sounds. Add in a bevy of professional features like built-in ISP noise reduction, a seven-button foot controller and MIDI, and the Armageddon promises to have guitarists banging their heads well beyond judgment day.

FEATURES The Armageddon is a 120-watt, three-channel head powered by four 6L6 and six 12AX7 tubes. The bias section on the rear panel makes it easy to swap out the 6L6s for other power-tube options (EL34, 6550, 6V6, KT66, KT77 and more) and adjust the bias accordingly. Distinctive features include a built-in ISP Decimator G-String noise-reduction circuit, a master midrange section that can be independently assigned to any or all of the three channels and engaged independently with a footswitch, and a footswitchable digital reverb circuit with individual level controls for each channel.

Channel 1 is a clean/overdrive channel that offers ample headroom or a moderate amount of crunch with the gain control all the way up.



For video of this review, go to
GuitarWorld.com/Aug2012
 *optimized for iPhone,
 iPad and Android!

Each of the three channels features its own tight, bright and gain switches for customizing voicing and response. Channel 1 has its own set of tone controls (bass, middle, treble), while Channel 2 and 3 share the same tone control section. Other front-panel controls include density and presence in the master section and a half (60-watt)/standby/full (120-watt) switch.



In addition to the bias section and reverb level controls, the Armageddon's rear panel offers MIDI in and thru jacks, DIP switches for selecting MIDI channels and other MIDI functions, an XLR cabinet-simulation record line output, and an effect loop with individual send and return level controls that also can perform a boost function. The seven-button foot controller allows users to engage each channel, the effect loop, master midrange, reverb and the ISP Decimator. Master midrange switches for each channel allow this feature to be assigned on or off when the channel is selected, and the loop button also provides mini switches for assigning the effect loop on or off to each channel individually.

PERFORMANCE Like Egnater's other amp models, the Armageddon is very easy to use, even though it offers a plethora of tone-modifying options. Channel 1 produces crisp spank and sparkle that's nicely complemented by the reverb circuit, and it produces satisfying crunch when the gain is cranked up. Channel 2 sounds markedly darker, thicker and more compressed, with rich, sustaining midrange and more-than-ample levels of gain for modern metal tones. Channel 3 initially sounds similar to Channel 2, but with different tight, bright and gain switch settings and the Master Midrange section engaged, it can take on its own distinct personality for solos or contrasting rhythm textures.

The ISP Decimator works exceptionally well, killing all extraneous noise while maintaining natural-sounding dynamics. The footswitch is incredibly versatile, providing access to numerous useful functions and a wide selection of tones. While the MIDI section makes it easy to incorporate the amp into a sophisticated pro rig, the footswitch controller makes MIDI a luxury instead of a necessity.

CHEAT SHEET



- **STREET PRICE** \$1,699.99
MANUFACTURER
 Egnater Amplification,
egnateramps.com
- The Armageddon is a 120-watt three-channel amp voiced for metal that provides all of the versatile tone-tweaking features that made Egnater famous.
- The built-in ISP Decimator, a seven-button foot controller, back-panel bias adjustment controls, MIDI, and adjustable effect loop deliver professional performance flexibility.
- **THE BOTTOM LINE**
 Metalheads envious of the tone-shaping capabilities of other Egnater amps have finally met their match with the Armageddon, which offers the high-gain tones metal guitarists demand.



Fender PAWN SHOP OFFSET SPECIAL GUITAR

The Pawn Shop Offset Special guitar is one of Fender's most offbeat designs ever. Its features include a semi-hollow double-cutaway body with an f-hole and sleek offset waist, a pair of large JZHB humbucking pickups with three-way toggle switch, and an Adjusto-Matic bridge with vintage-style floating tremolo tailpiece.

LIST PRICE \$1,079.99
 Fender, fender.com



Alfred Music Publishing SOUND INNOVATIONS FOR GUITAR

Taking a fresh approach to guitar instruction, authors Aaron Stang and Bill Purse present their method in the form of a usable musical vocabulary that includes riffs, commonly used patterns, chords and rhythm-playing techniques—all within a repertoire that spans traditional, rock, blues and classical music. Unlike guitar method books of the past, which start from the high E string and work down across the strings, *Sound Innovations* begins by introducing you to bass line-oriented riffs on the low strings. This approach makes for better left- and right-hand technique development and provides a logical and immediate introduction to chords. The accompanying DVD has video demonstrations for every musical example, as well as play-along audio tracks and software that lets you slow down the tempo without changing the pitch.

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