



# PLUGGED IN

VOL. 02 | MARSHALL MUSIC | APRIL '25



**FENDER PLAYER II SERIES**  
MODERN ICONS EVOLVED



**ADAM AUDIO D3V**  
PRECISION IN A COMPACT  
PACKAGE



**ALPHATHETA XDJ-AZ**  
CLUB-READY POWERHOUSE  
FOR THE MODERN DJ

## POSITIVE GRID

REVOLUTIONIZING GUITAR  
TONE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

**BEHRINGER 1273 - 2 CHANNEL MIC PRE & EQ**

**ELIXIR OPTI-WEB STRINGS**

**HENRI SELMER PARIS SUPREME 2025  
LIMITED EDITION SAXOPHONE**

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# Guitar Clinic & Exhibition

DUESENBERG

feat Andy Innes (Johnny Clegg), Barthlo Visagie, Hansie Roodt & Al Dirt

In case you missed it, on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, we had the pleasure of hosting the Duesenberg Guitars Clinic and Exhibition at Marshall Music Woodmead. The evening featured the incredible Andy Innes, Musical Director and guitarist for Johnny Clegg along with some of SA's top session guitarists Barthlo Visagie, guitarist and producer for Demi-Lee Moore, Hansie Roodt, who has shared the stage with almost every Afrikaans artist and Al Dirt!

During the evening the artists showcased the amazing versatility of Duesenberg guitars, playing everything from African, Boere-Musiek, Blues, Funk, Pop and Hard Rock.

Included in the program was a free set of Elixir electric guitar strings and a restringing during the event by JD Kustom! We just again want to thank Elixir Strings and JD Kustom for going above and beyond during the clinic to get every guitar restrung and ready to play!



We currently have (almost) the entire range of Duesenberg Guitars available at Marshall Music, do yourself a favor and swing by to check them out, you definitely won't be dissatisfied!



DUESENBERG





# Positive Grid®

## REVOLUTIONIZING GUITAR TONE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Positive Grid, founded in 2013 by a team of musicians and technology enthusiasts, has quickly established itself as a leading innovator in the music technology industry. The company's mission is to empower musicians by creating smart, connected tools that simplify the process of making music, inspire creativity, and offer access to a universe of tones.

From its early beginnings as a small team with a vision to combine mobile technologies with innovative sound design, Positive Grid has grown into a global community trusted by millions of musicians worldwide, from hobbyists at home to professionals on stage.

At its core, Positive Grid focuses on building "smart, connected tools" that seamlessly integrate hardware and software. Their product range spans across several categories, all designed with the modern musician in mind:

### Software:

Positive Grid's journey began with its groundbreaking software offerings, particularly the BIAS series. This includes:

**BIAS AMP 2:** This flagship software allows users to create their dream guitar and bass amplifiers down to the component level. Musicians can customize preamps, power amps, tubes, transformers, tone stacks, and more. A key feature is **Amp Match**, which enables users to digitally recreate the sound of their favorite amplifiers or even the tone of a specific song by analyzing an audio signal. BIAS AMP 2 also provides access to thousands of custom amplifiers on the **ToneCloud**, a community platform for sharing and downloading tones. Notably, Positive Grid has partnered with **Celestion**, the renowned speaker manufacturer, to integrate their official Impulse Responses (IRs) into BIAS AMP 2, providing incredibly realistic cabinet and microphone emulations.



**BIAS FX 2:** This award-winning guitar and bass effects processor turns a computer or mobile device into a fully customizable rig. It features a vast library of amps, effects pedals, and rack processors, all meticulously modeled. BIAS FX 2 offers deep customization options, allowing users to build complex signal chains with an intuitive drag-and-drop interface. The software also includes **Guitar Match II**, a technology that can transform the sound of any guitar into a collection of legendary models, including acoustic and bass guitars. Like BIAS AMP 2, it integrates with the ToneCloud for access to a massive library of presets and user-created tones. BIAS FX 2 can be used as a standalone application or as a plugin within popular Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs).



### Smart Guitar Amplifiers (Spark Series):

Perhaps Positive Grid's most recognizable product line is the Spark series of smart guitar amplifiers. These amps are designed to be more than just amplifiers; they are intelligent practice, jamming, and recording tools. Key models in the Spark series include:



#### Spark 40:

The original smart amp that started it all. This 40-watt combo features a wide array of amp models and effects accessible through the accompanying Spark app. It boasts features like Auto Chords, which displays guitar chords for millions of songs in real-time, and Smart Jam, which generates backing tracks based on the user's playing style. It also functions as a Bluetooth speaker and a USB audio interface for recording.

A compact and portable 10-watt version that retains many of the smart features of the Spark 40, making it ideal for practice on the go.

#### Spark MINI:



#### Spark GO:

An ultra-portable 5-watt amp and Bluetooth speaker that delivers surprisingly big sound for its size, powered by advanced acoustics and computational audio. It seamlessly integrates with the Spark app and includes a rechargeable battery.

The redesigned successor to the original Spark, boasting increased processing power, a built-in looper, HD gear updates, and optional battery power. It features a new speaker design powered by Sonic IQ Computational Audio.

#### Spark 2:



#### Spark LIVE:

A powerful 150-watt, 4-channel smart amp and PA system designed for live performance, capable of handling guitar, bass, vocals, and keyboards. It incorporates Positive Grid's Sonic IQ technology for enhanced sound quality and features a built-in G-Sensor that optimizes the tone depending on the amp's orientation.







The core of the Spark series lies in its integration with the Spark app, available on iOS and Android. This app unlocks a wealth of features, including access to over 100,000 tones on the ToneCloud, the ability to learn millions of songs with Auto Chords, AI-powered Smart Jam for generating backing tracks, and the capability to record and share performances.



### Accessories:

Positive Grid also offers a range of accessories to complement their amplifiers and software, such as the **Spark Control X** and **Spark Control** wireless footswitches for hands-free control of Spark amps and BIAS FX 2, the Spark LINK wireless guitar system, and the **Spark CAB**, a 140-watt powered speaker cabinet designed to work seamlessly with the Spark series and other modelers.



### The Positive Grid Philosophy:

Positive Grid's success can be attributed to its commitment to innovation, user-friendly design, and the creation of a connected ecosystem for musicians. By leveraging advancements in digital modeling, artificial intelligence, and cloud technology, they have created tools that not only sound great but also enhance the learning, practicing, and creative processes for guitarists and bassists of all levels. Their dedication to pushing the boundaries of music technology ensures that Positive Grid will likely remain a significant force in shaping the future of music creation.



# **BEHRINGER DH100 PROFESSIONAL HEADPHONES FOR DRUMMERS**



**CLOSED-BACK HEADPHONES OPTIMIZED FOR DRUMMERS**  
**PADDED HEADBAND AND EAR CUSHIONS PROVIDE ALL-DAY COMFORT**  
**CLOSED-BACK PROVIDES UP TO 19DB OF ISOLATION**  
**40MM NEODYMIUM DRIVERS DELIVER A CLEAR AND AUTHORITATIVE SOUND**  
**INCLUDES A BUILT-IN SPIRAL CABLE AND 1/4-INCH ADAPTER**



**behringer**



# FENDER PLAYER II SERIES STRATOCASTER & TELECASTER MODERN ICONS EVOLVED

Fender's Stratocaster and Telecaster are arguably the two most iconic and influential electric guitars ever created. For decades, they have been the go-to instruments for countless guitarists across genres, prized for their distinctive tones, comfortable playability, and timeless designs. The **Player Series**, launched in 2018, aimed to provide these legendary instruments with modern features and reliable quality at an accessible price point. Now, Fender has unveiled the next evolution: the **Player II Series**, building upon the success of its predecessor with thoughtful upgrades and a renewed focus on the player experience.

The Player II Series encompasses both the Stratocaster and Telecaster, along with other Fender classics like the Jazzmaster, Jaguar, Precision Bass, and Jazz Bass. This article will focus specifically on the Player 2 Stratocaster and Player II Telecaster.

## A Legacy Refined: What's New in the Player II Series?

While the core DNA of the Strat and Tele remains intact, the Player 2 Series introduces several key enhancements designed to improve playability, comfort, and aesthetics:

**Return of Rosewood Fingerboards:** A significant change is the reintroduction of rosewood as a fingerboard option across the Player II range, replacing the Pau Ferro used in the previous Player Series. Many players prefer the darker look and smoother feel of rosewood. Maple fingerboards remain available as well.

**Rolled Fingerboard Edges:** Inspired by the Player Plus series, the Player II guitars now feature rolled fingerboard edges. This subtle but impactful modification provides a more comfortable and "broken-in" feel, making the neck feel smoother in the player's hand and enhancing the overall playing experience, especially for techniques like thumb-over chording.

**Upgraded Pickups:** The Player II Series features revised Alnico V single-coil pickups for both the Stratocaster and Telecaster. While still delivering the classic Fender tones, these pickups are described as offering a versatile range of vintage-inspired sounds with a touch more output for modern playing styles and pedal interaction. The Stratocaster retains its traditional SSS (three single-coil) configuration, with some models also available in an HSS (humbucker in the bridge) configuration featuring an Alnico II humbucker for added versatility. The Telecaster maintains its traditional dual single-coil setup.

**ClassicGear Tuners:** The Player II models are equipped with Fender ClassicGear tuners. These tuners offer a vintage-inspired look with modern 15:1 gear ratios, providing smooth and accurate tuning stability. The design, with the string end inserted into the middle of the tuner post, also enhances tuning stability by ensuring more string wraps.



**Upgraded Bridges:** While the fundamental bridge designs remain true to their heritage (2-Point Synchronized Tremolo with bent steel saddles for the Stratocaster and 6-Saddle String-Through-Body Tele bridge with block steel saddles for the Telecaster), some models, like the Player II Jazzmaster and Jaguar, feature upgraded Mustang bridge saddles for improved stability. The Stratocaster's tremolo system is known for its smooth operation, allowing for expressive vibrato and pitch bending. The Telecaster's string-through-body bridge contributes to its sustain and focused tone.



**Modern "C" Neck Profile:** Both the Stratocaster and Telecaster in the Player II Series retain the comfortable and versatile Modern "C" neck profile with a satin urethane finish on the back and a gloss finish on the headstock face. This profile is designed to suit a wide range of playing styles and hand sizes.

**9.5" Radius Fingerboard and Medium Jumbo Frets:** These familiar features from the Player Series are carried over, providing a comfortable playing surface for bending notes and a modern feel under the fingers.

## **Player II Stratocaster: Timeless Tone and Enhanced Playability**

The Fender Player II Stratocaster continues to embody the iconic Stratocaster sound and feel, now elevated with the Player II Series enhancements. The Alnico V single-coil pickups deliver the articulate highs, musical mids, and tight lows that have made the Strat a legend. The 5-way blade switch allows access to the classic Strat pickup combinations, offering a wide sonic palette suitable for countless musical genres.

The improvements in playability, particularly the rolled fingerboard edges and the smooth satin neck finish, make the Player II Stratocaster a joy to play for extended periods. The 2-point synchronized tremolo provides smooth and reliable vibrato, while the ClassicGear tuners ensure stable tuning, even with expressive tremolo use. The availability of rosewood fingerboards and new vintage-inspired colors adds to the aesthetic appeal, allowing players to choose a Strat that resonates with their personal style.



## **Player II Telecaster: Classic Twang with Modern Refinements**

The Fender Player II Telecaster stays true to its heritage, delivering the crisp, cutting clarity and punchy twang that the Telecaster is famous for. The Alnico V single-coil Telecaster pickups offer a versatile tonal range, from bright and articulate lead tones to warm and full rhythm sounds. The traditional 3-way blade switch provides access to the neck, bridge, and combined pickup configurations.

The Player II Telecaster benefits significantly from the rolled fingerboard edges, enhancing the comfort of the often more substantial Telecaster neck profile. The satin neck finish further contributes to a smooth and fast playing experience. The 6-saddle string-through-body bridge with block steel saddles provides excellent intonation and sustain, contributing to the Telecaster's focused and resonant tone. The ClassicGear tuners offer reliable tuning stability. The new color options and the availability of chambered ash bodies on select models add a touch of modern flair to this timeless design.





# BEHRINGER 1273

## 2-CHANNEL MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFIER AND EQUALIZER - A TASTE OF BRITISH AUDIO HERITAGE



The "British preamp/EQ" sound is legendary, a cornerstone of countless iconic recordings from the 1970s rock era through to modern pop. Known for its warm, punchy character and musical equalization, this sonic signature is highly sought after. The Behringer 1273 2-channel Microphone Preamplifier and Equalizer aims to bring this classic sound to a wider audience, offering a two-channel unit inspired by a revered vintage design.

### A Nod to the Classics: Design and Inspiration

The Behringer 1273 openly pays homage to the classic Neve 1073 preamp and EQ, a module that has graced the consoles of legendary studios like Abbey Road, Sound City, and Capitol Studios. Behringer states that the 1273 was developed with input from one of the original engineers involved in the classic design, aiming for an authentic recreation that meets the demands of modern production.

The unit features a Class A, all-discrete circuitry, a key element in achieving the sonic characteristics of the original. Both the input and output stages employ custom-built Midas transformers, which are crucial for maintaining signal integrity, adding subtle coloration, and contributing to the overall sonic character. The front panel boasts a familiar layout with clear labeling and vintage-style knobs and switches, housed in a sturdy 2U rackmount chassis.



### Features and Functionality

Each of the two channels on the Behringer 1273 offers a comprehensive set of features:

- **High Gain Preamplifier:** The electronically controlled, resistor-stepped rotary gain switch provides a generous **80dB of gain**, allowing it to handle a wide range of microphones, including low-output ribbon and dynamic mics, without excessive noise.
- **Versatile Inputs:** Each channel features transformer-balanced **XLR microphone inputs** (both front and rear), **1/4" TRS line inputs** (both front and rear), and front-mounted **1/4" TRS instrument inputs** with a high impedance for direct recording of guitars and basses. Convenient **XLR/TRS combo jacks** are also included on the front panel.
- **"Tone" Switch:** A dedicated "Tone" switch adjusts the input transformer impedance, allowing users to optimize the preamp's interaction with different microphones, particularly vintage and ribbon mics, for potentially enhanced sonic performance.
- **Comprehensive EQ Section:** The inductor-based equalizer section provides three bands of boost/cut:
  - Low Frequency: Selectable shelving at 35, 60, 110, or 220 Hz with  $\pm 15$  dB of gain.
  - Mid Frequency: Sweepable peaking EQ with selectable center frequencies at 360, 700, 1.6k, 3.2k, 4.8k, or 7.2 kHz and  $\pm 15$  dB of gain.
  - High Frequency: Selectable shelving at 10, 12, or 16 kHz with  $\pm 15$  dB of gain.



# BEHRINGER 1273

2-CHANNEL MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFIER AND EQUALIZER -  
A TASTE OF BRITISH AUDIO HERITAGE

- **Additional Controls:** Each channel includes dedicated switches for Phase Invert, engaging the EQ, selecting Line or Instrument input, engaging the "Tone" function, and activating 48V phantom power. An Insert send and return (1/4" TRS) is also available for integrating external processors into the signal path, positioned between the preamp gain stage and the EQ.
- **Output Level Control and Metering:** Each channel features an output level knob and a high-visibility 7-segment LED meter for monitoring signal levels.

## Sound Quality: Capturing the "British" Character

The Behringer 1273 aims to capture the essence of the classic British preamp sound, known for its ability to add warmth, punch, and a touch of musical coloration to recordings. The Class A circuitry and Midas transformers are key to achieving this.

User reviews suggest that the 1273 does indeed impart a noticeable character to the sound, often described as adding "thickness" and "warmth," particularly when driven. It performs well on a variety of sources, including vocals, guitars, and drums, adding a vintage-inspired flavor. The EQ section is reported to be musical and effective for shaping the tonal balance of recordings, with the inductor-based design contributing to its characteristic sound. The selectable frequencies on the EQ offer flexibility for various instruments and sonic goals.

While direct comparisons to vintage Neve units or high-end clones often highlight subtle differences in terms of ultimate fidelity and nuanced harmonic distortion, many users find the Behringer 1273 to be a valuable tool that gets them "close" to the desired sound at a significantly more accessible price point. Some reviews note that while the sound is excellent for the price, the components and build quality might not be on par with more expensive units.

## User Interface and Workflow

The front panel layout is clear and intuitive, making it easy to dial in settings quickly. The stepped gain controls are a welcome feature for precise level adjustments and recallability. The individual switches for each function provide immediate visual feedback on the signal path. The inclusion of front-mounted inputs adds convenience for quickly plugging in instruments or microphones.



## Connectivity

The Behringer 1273 offers a good range of connectivity options, including both front and rear inputs for microphones and line-level sources, dedicated instrument inputs, and insert points for each channel. The transformer-balanced XLR and TRS outputs ensure reliable signal transmission.

## Conclusion

The Behringer 1273 2-channel Microphone Preamplifier and Equalizer presents a compelling option for project studios, home recordists, and even professional engineers looking to add the classic "British" preamp and EQ sound to their sonic palette without breaking the bank. Its all-discrete Class A circuitry, custom Midas transformers, and versatile EQ section aim to capture the essence of a legendary design.

While it may not be a perfect clone of a vintage unit, the 1273 offers a significant sonic upgrade over many entry-level interfaces and provides a characterful and musical sound that can enhance a wide range of recordings. The comprehensive feature set, including multiple input options, insert points, and the "Tone" switch, adds to its versatility. For those seeking that sought-after warmth and punch with a classic-style EQ at an affordable price, the Behringer 1273 is definitely worth considering.



# UNVEILING THE HENRI SELMER PARIS SUPREME 2025 LIMITED EDITION SAXOPHONE



Prepare to witness a fusion of heritage, innovation, and breathtaking aesthetics. Marshall Music is proud to announce the arrival of the Henri Selmer Paris Supreme 2025 Limited Edition Saxophone, a truly exceptional instrument that celebrates 140 years of Selmer Paris's unparalleled legacy in crafting the world's finest saxophones. This is more than just an instrument; it's a collector's item, a work of art, and a testament to Selmer's unwavering commitment to musical excellence.

## A Celebration of 140 Years of Innovation:

In 2025, Henri Selmer Paris marks its 140th anniversary, a remarkable milestone in the history of musical instrument manufacturing. To commemorate this momentous occasion, Selmer has unveiled a series of limited edition instruments, including a highly exclusive run of Supreme saxophones – only 500 alto and 300 tenor versions will be produced worldwide, each individually numbered. Marshall Music is privileged to offer this rare gem to discerning musicians and collectors in South Africa.

## The Supreme:

### The Pinnacle of Selmer Craftsmanship

The Supreme model itself represents the zenith of Selmer Paris's design and manufacturing expertise. Launched after years of meticulous research and development, the Supreme seamlessly blends the most desirable characteristics of Selmer's iconic historical models with cutting-edge advancements. It offers a rich, complex tonal palette, exceptional flexibility, effortless playability, and remarkable projection, making it a saxophone that truly transcends musical genres.



## The 2025 Limited Edition: An Ode to Black Elegance:

- **Matte Black Lacquered Body and Keywork:** The body and keys are finished in a deep, matte black lacquer, providing a contemporary and elegant look while allowing the intricate engraving to truly stand out.
- **Glossy Black Crystal Keys:** Adding a touch of luxurious contrast, the key touches are crafted from glossy black crystal, offering a unique tactile experience and a visually stunning detail.
- **Exclusive Engraving:** The matte black finish serves as a canvas for a newly designed engraving that embodies an artistic vision of a musical score. This "calligraphy of musical notation" extends across the body-to-bell ring, the bell, and the guard, revealing the brilliance of the underlying brass. This intricate design beautifully symbolizes Selmer's rich history and ongoing innovation.
- **Black Synthetic Cork with Natural Cork Inlay:** Even the neck features a unique detail, combining black synthetic cork with an inlay of natural black cork, showcasing the meticulous attention to detail.
- **Matte Black Chrome-Plated Accents:** The neck tightening ring and screw, as well as the right and left-hand thumb rests, are finished in a sophisticated matte black chrome plating, further enhancing the instrument's sleek aesthetic.
- **Black Leather Pads with Matte Black Chrome Resonators:** The choice of black leather pads with matte black chrome resonators contributes to the instrument's focused sound and reinforces the overall dark and elegant theme.



# UNVEILING THE HENRI SELMER PARIS SUPREME 2025 LIMITED EDITION SAXOPHONE



## Uncompromising Selmer Quality and Sound:

Despite its unique visual appointments, the Supreme 2025 Limited Edition retains the same exceptional acoustic, mechanical, and ergonomic qualities that define the standard Supreme model. Players can expect:

- **A Rich and Versatile Tone:** The Supreme is known for its ability to produce a wide spectrum of tonal colors, suitable for classical, jazz, and contemporary music.
- **Effortless Playability:** The instrument's carefully designed keywork and ergonomics provide a comfortable and fluid playing experience across the entire range.
- **Precise Intonation:** Selmer's commitment to meticulous manufacturing ensures accurate intonation, allowing musicians to play with confidence.
- **Powerful Projection:** The Supreme possesses a focused and resonant sound with ample projection for any performance setting.



## A Rare Opportunity at Marshall Music

The Henri Selmer Paris Supreme 2025 Limited Edition Saxophone is an exceptionally rare instrument, with only a very limited number available worldwide.

This is a unique opportunity for serious musicians, collectors, and Selmer enthusiasts to own a piece of saxophone history.



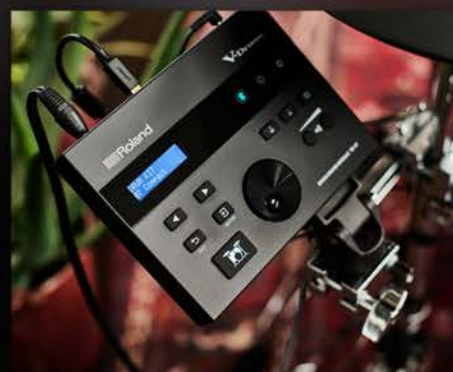




# ROLAND VAD103

V-DRUMS ACOUSTIC DESIGN

THE LATEST GENERATION OF V-DRUMS, STREAMLINED  
WITH SHALLOW-DEPTH ACOUSTIC-STYLE SHELLS



AVAILABLE AT MARSHALL MUSIC





# JAY-DEE'S PICKS

## UNIVERSAL AUDIO UAFX ANTE 1992

Okay, so I've been chasing that elusive "amp-in-a-box" tone for what feels like an eternity. You know the sound – the kind that makes your guitar sing with a certain aggression, a touch of hair, and a whole lot of attitude. I've cycled through countless overdrives and distortions, each promising to be "the one." Then, the Universal Audio UAFX Ante 1992 landed on my pedalboard, and let me tell you, things got interesting.

Right out of the box, the Ante 1992 oozes quality. It's got that solid, reassuring weight that you expect from UA, and the classic stompbox form factor fits neatly amongst my other sonic companions. The controls – Output, Gain, Bass, Mid, Treble, and the all-important Mode switch – feel substantial and offer a good amount of resistance, making precise adjustments a breeze.

But let's get down to the real reason this pedal piqued my interest: it's UA's take on the legendary British amp tones of the early '90s. We're talking those iconic high-gain sounds that defined a generation of rock music. And honestly? They've nailed it.

The Mode switch is where the magic happens. Flipping between Lead, Crunch, and Clean is like having three distinct amps at your feet.



**Lead Mode** is where I've spent most of my time, and for good reason. This mode delivers that searing, harmonically rich distortion that just begs for power chords and soaring solos. It's got that unmistakable growl and sustain that makes every note feel thick and powerful. What impresses me most is the clarity – even at higher gain settings, individual notes within a chord remain defined, and there's a real sense of depth to the tone. It's not just a wall of fuzz; it's a sculpted, articulate distortion that responds beautifully to my picking dynamics. Dig in, and it snarls; ease off, and it cleans up surprisingly well.



**Crunch Mode** dials back the intensity but keeps the character. This is your classic British overdrive – thick and punchy, perfect for chunky rhythm work and bluesy leads. It's got that satisfying mid-hump that helps your guitar cut through the mix, and it's incredibly responsive to the volume knob on my guitar. I can go from a slightly broken-up clean tone to a full-on rock crunch just by adjusting my guitar's output. This mode has quickly become my go-to for those classic rock anthems.

The **Clean Mode** was a pleasant surprise. While the Ante 1992 is primarily marketed as a distortion pedal, this mode offers a surprisingly pristine and slightly boosted clean tone. It adds a subtle warmth and fullness to my signal, making it a great option for pushing a slightly overdriven amp into even sweeter territory or simply adding a bit of girth to a clean sound. It's not the main attraction, but it's a genuinely useful addition.

What truly sets the Ante 1992 apart for me is the authenticity. UA has a reputation for meticulous modeling, and it shines through here. It doesn't just sound like a generic distortion pedal; it genuinely captures the nuances and feel of those legendary amplifiers. There's a certain "chime" and "grind" that's just right, the kind of sonic fingerprint that's hard to replicate.

Of course, no piece of gear is perfect. If I had to nitpick, I'd say that the Ante 1992 is squarely focused on those specific British high-gain and overdrive tones. If you're looking for something radically different, like a scooped American high-gain or a fuzzy vintage distortion, this might not be your first stop. However, for anyone chasing that iconic '90s British rock sound, the Ante 1992 is an absolute must-try.





# JAY-DEE'S PICKS

## GIBSON LES PAUL STANDARD 60S AAA TOP IN FIREBURST

The Gibson Les Paul. Just the name conjures up images of legendary guitarists, iconic riffs, and a tone that's been the backbone of rock and roll for decades. For years, I've lusted after a proper Les Paul, the kind with that classic silhouette, the warm mahogany body, and that unmistakable voice. Finally, I got my hands on a Gibson Les Paul Standard 60s with a AAA top in the mesmerizing Fireburst finish, and let me tell you, it's been an experience.



The moment I unlatched the hardshell case, the aroma of nitrocellulose lacquer hit me – that sweet, almost vanilla-like scent that just screams "Gibson." And then there it was: the Fireburst finish on that AAA maple top. Pictures don't quite do it justice. The way the amber center gradually fades into a rich, fiery red at the edges is simply stunning. The figuring in the maple is deep and three-dimensional, shifting and shimmering as the light catches it. It's the kind of top you just can't stop staring at.

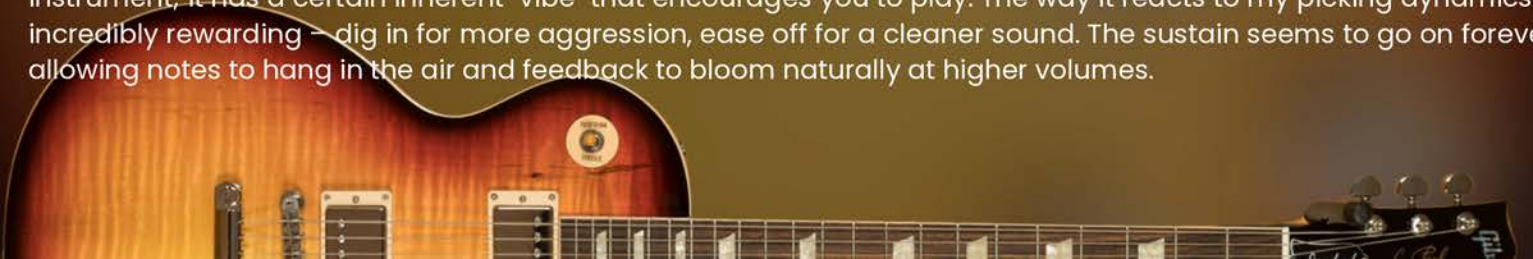
Picking it up, the weight feels substantial but comfortable. This isn't one of those ultra-light Les Pauls, and that heft contributes to the feeling of quality and, I suspect, to the sustain it promises. The mahogany body feels solid and resonant against my own. The neck, a SlimTaper profile as expected on a 60s model, immediately felt familiar and inviting in my hand. It's thin enough for comfortable shredding (if that's your thing), but still has enough roundness to feel substantial for chording. The rosewood fretboard is dark and smooth, and the medium jumbo frets are perfectly dressed, allowing for effortless bending and vibrato.

Plugging it in was the moment of truth. My amp was set to a clean, slightly warm setting, ready to let the guitar's natural voice shine through. The Burstbucker 61R in the neck position delivered that classic Les Paul warmth – thick, creamy, and full of sustain. It's the kind of tone that makes single notes sing and chords bloom with harmonic richness. Rolling back the tone knob unveils a beautiful, mellow jazz tone that's incredibly inspiring.

Switching to the Burstbucker 61T in the bridge position brought a whole different beast to life. This pickup has a hotter output and a more aggressive bite, perfect for crunchy rhythm work and searing lead tones. It's got that unmistakable Les Paul snarl and sustain that cuts through the mix with authority. Even at higher gain levels, the clarity remains impressive, preventing things from getting muddy.

Exploring the middle position, with both pickups engaged, yielded that sweet, slightly out-of-phase tone that's perfect for funky rhythms and bluesy licks. The balance between the two pickups is excellent, offering a versatile sonic palette.

What struck me most about the tone of this Les Paul is its character and responsiveness. It's not a sterile-sounding instrument; it has a certain inherent "vibe" that encourages you to play. The way it reacts to my picking dynamics is incredibly rewarding – dig in for more aggression, ease off for a cleaner sound. The sustain seems to go on forever, allowing notes to hang in the air and feedback to bloom naturally at higher volumes.

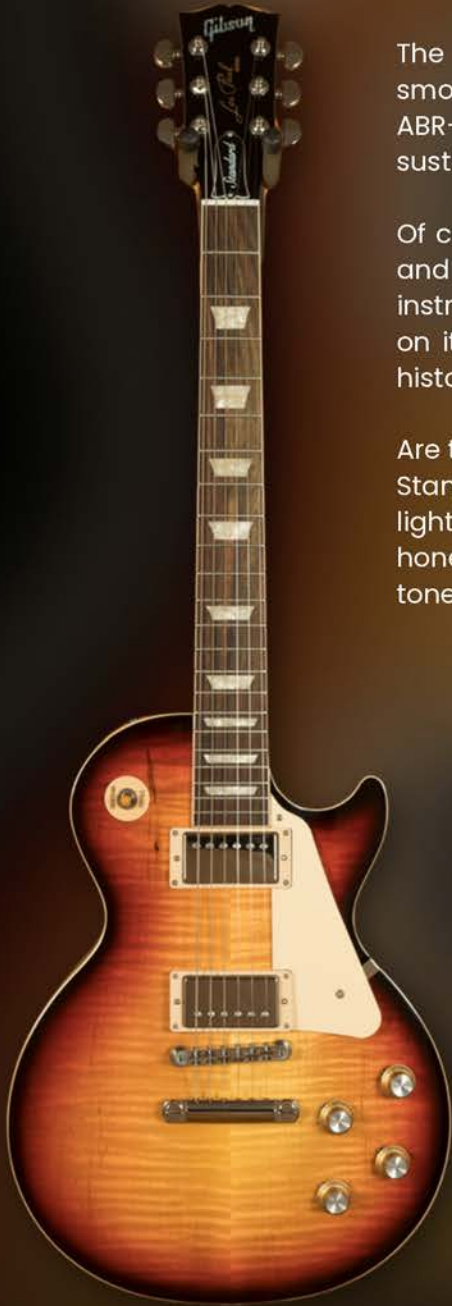






# JAY-DEE'S PICKS

## GIBSON LES PAUL STANDARD 60S AAA TOP IN FIREBURST



The hardware feels solid and reliable. The vintage-style keystone tuners are smooth and precise, holding their tuning well even with aggressive bending. The ABR-1 Tune-O-Matic bridge and stopbar tailpiece contribute to the classic Les Paul sustain and tone.

Of course, owning a Gibson Les Paul Standard is more than just about the sound and playability; there's a certain legacy and feeling that comes with it. Holding this instrument, knowing the countless iconic songs that have been written and played on its predecessors, is a truly special experience. It feels like a piece of musical history in your hands.

Are there any downsides? Well, the price tag is certainly a consideration. A Les Paul Standard with a AAA top is an investment. Also, as mentioned earlier, it's not a lightweight guitar, which might be a factor for some players during long gigs. But honestly, these feel like minor points when weighed against the overall quality, tone, and sheer desirability of this instrument.



### My Final Thoughts:

The Gibson Les Paul Standard 60s with a AAA top in Fireburst is everything I hoped it would be and more. It's a visually stunning instrument with a classic voice that's both powerful and articulate. The playability is superb, and the overall feel is one of quality and craftsmanship. This isn't just a guitar; it's an instrument that inspires you to pick it up and play, to chase that perfect tone, and to become part of the ongoing legacy of the Les Paul. If you've ever dreamed of owning a truly exceptional Les Paul, and if the Fireburst finish speaks to you as it does to me, then this guitar is absolutely worth considering. It's a keeper.



*Fender*<sup>®</sup>

# PLAYER II

## MODIFIED



**HOT-RODDED. READY TO GO!**





# ADAM AUDIO D3V

## PRECISION IN A COMPACT PACKAGE



Adam Audio has long been respected in the professional audio world for its innovative use of Air Motion Transformer (AMT) tweeters, delivering exceptional clarity and detail in the high frequencies. With the **D3V**, Adam Audio brings this renowned technology to a compact and versatile desktop monitoring system designed for producers, DJs, and discerning listeners who demand high-quality sound in smaller spaces.

The D3V is a fully active two-way monitor featuring a **1.5-inch D-ART (D-Accelerated Ribbon Technology) tweeter** and a **3.5-inch aluminum woofer**. Each driver is powered by its own dedicated PWM amplifier, providing a total peak power of **240W per pair** (80W for each woofer and 40W for each tweeter). A key design element is the inclusion of **dual-sided 3.5-inch passive radiators** on each speaker, which significantly enhance the bass response, allowing the D3V to reach down to an impressive **45 Hz (-6 dB)** for its size.

### First Impressions and Build Quality

Out of the box, the D3V monitors exude a sense of quality and Adam Audio's signature industrial design. The cabinets are constructed from a sturdy PC-ABS material, feeling solid and inert. The front baffle features softened edges, and the overall curved surfaces give them a modern and appealing aesthetic, available in both black and white finishes. The iconic yellow/gold AMT tweeter is immediately recognizable, a hallmark of Adam Audio's precision engineering.



The primary (left) speaker houses all the amplification and DSP electronics, along with a front-mounted multi-function volume knob that also acts as a mode switch for muting, standby, input selection, and channel swapping. A convenient 3.5mm stereo headphone jack is also located on the front, which automatically mutes the speakers when in use.

The rear panel of the primary speaker features two balanced TRS (1/4 inch) analog inputs and a USB-C port for direct digital connection to a computer, tablet, or phone. This eliminates the need for an external audio interface in many desktop monitoring scenarios. A mini-DIN connector links the primary speaker to the secondary (right) speaker.



# ADAM AUDIO D3V

## Sound Performance

The most striking aspect of the Adam Audio D3V is undoubtedly its detailed and transparent high-frequency reproduction, courtesy of the D-ART tweeter. The AMT technology excels at revealing subtle nuances, transients, and spatial information in the mix, making it easy to pinpoint details and make precise adjustments. This clarity extends to the upper midrange, providing excellent separation between instruments and vocals.

For a speaker of its size, the bass response is surprisingly deep and well-defined, thanks to the dual passive radiators. While it won't replace a dedicated subwoofer for very low-end heavy genres, the D3V provides a solid foundation and accurate representation of the low frequencies, allowing for confident mixing decisions. The mid-bass has a good punch, and the overall low-end doesn't sound muddy or congested.



The midrange is well-balanced, providing a clear and uncolored presentation of vocals and mid-frequency instruments. Some users have noted a slight tendency for the low frequencies to overshadow the midrange in certain placements, particularly when the speakers are positioned very close to a wall or in a corner. However, the D3V offers onboard DSP-powered room adaptation switches on the rear panel to compensate for different acoustic environments. These include settings for speaker position (corner, wall, stand), desk size (small, large, no desk), and room acoustics (treble adjustment), offering a degree of flexibility in tailoring the sound to your specific listening space.

The D3V offers a wide sweet spot both horizontally and vertically, making them less critical in terms of precise positioning compared to some other nearfield monitors. The overall soundstage is well-defined, providing a good sense of depth and stereo imaging.

## Features and Functionality

The inclusion of a USB-C audio interface is a significant advantage, allowing for a clean and simple setup, especially for desktop use. The D3V supports up to 16-bit/48kHz audio via USB-C. While some might prefer 24-bit support, the convenience and sound quality over USB are still commendable for many applications. The analog TRS inputs offer connectivity to traditional audio interfaces and other professional gear.

The front-mounted multi-function knob provides intuitive control over volume and various settings with simple presses. The LED indicator on the front panel changes color to indicate the selected input or status.



The D3V also comes with detachable monitor stands that angle the speakers upwards by 15 degrees, optimizing the listening angle when placed on a desk. Additionally, a 3/8-inch threaded insert on the bottom of each cabinet allows for mounting on microphone stands, providing further placement flexibility.

## Conclusion

The Adam Audio D3V desktop studio monitors offer a compelling combination of exceptional high-frequency detail, surprisingly robust bass, and versatile connectivity in a compact and well-designed package. The inclusion of the USB-C audio interface, DSP-powered room correction, and thoughtful physical design make them an excellent choice for home studios, editing suites, gaming setups, and anyone looking for a significant upgrade from standard computer speakers.



# LEWITT LCT 1040

ULTIMATE MICROPHONE SYSTEM.

- STUDIO CENTERPIECE - ADAPT TO ANY SOUND SOURCE
- 4 ALL-ANALOG TUBE CHARACTERISTICS
- DEVELOPED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH GRAMMY-WINNING STUDIO PROFESSIONALS
- DETACHABLE REMOTE CONTROL FOR UNRIVALED WORKFLOW
- BLENDABLE FET CIRCUIT AND SEAMLESS POLAR PATTERN CONTROL



## Solid State Logic OXFORD • ENGLAND



# SSL 2+ MKII

CLASS-LEADING PERFORMANCE, IN THE STUDIO AND ON THE ROAD



# ELIXIR OPTIWEB STRINGS

## THE SWEET SPOT OF PROTECTED TONE AND NATURAL FEEL



For guitarists seeking a balance between the longevity of coated strings and the familiar feel of uncoated ones, Elixir Strings introduced the Optiweb coating. This innovative approach has garnered significant attention since its release, promising to extend string life without compromising the natural playability and bright tone that many players prefer. This article delves into the features, benefits, and sonic characteristics of Elixir Optiweb strings.

### The Challenge: Longevity vs. Feel and Tone

Traditionally, guitarists faced a trade-off: uncoated strings offered a vibrant, direct tone and a familiar tactile experience but were susceptible to corrosion and tone degradation from sweat, oils, and environmental factors. Coated strings, on the other hand, provided significantly extended lifespan by shielding the string from these elements, but some players found the coating to feel slick or slightly dampen the string's natural brilliance.

Elixir STRINGS	POLYWEB® COATING	NANOWEB® COATING	OPTIWEB® COATING
TONE	WARM	BRIGHT	CRISP
FEEL	SLICK & FAST	SMOOTH	NATURAL

### Elixir's Solution: The Optiweb Coating

Elixir, a pioneer in coated string technology with their Polyweb and Nanoweb coatings, aimed to bridge this gap with Optiweb. This coating is described as ultra-thin and precisely applied, designed to provide protection without feeling bulky or significantly altering the string's natural vibration.

### Key Features and Benefits of Elixir Optiweb Strings:

- **Extended Tone Life:** The primary benefit of Optiweb strings is their ability to retain their initial bright tone for significantly longer than uncoated strings. The ultra-thin coating acts as a barrier against the contaminants that dull and corrode traditional strings. This means fewer string changes, saving time and money.
- **Natural Feel:** This is where Optiweb aims to stand out. The coating is remarkably thin and light, providing a feel that is much closer to that of uncoated strings. Players who dislike the slick or sometimes slightly muted feel of thicker coatings often find Optiweb to be a comfortable and familiar alternative.
- **Bright and Crisp Tone:** Unlike some thicker coatings that can subtly dampen high-end frequencies, Optiweb is engineered to preserve the natural brightness and clarity of the string. Players can expect a vibrant and articulate tone that is often associated with uncoated strings.
- **Reduced Finger Squeak:** While not completely eliminating finger noise, the Optiweb coating can help to reduce the amount of squeak produced when fingers slide along the strings, contributing to a cleaner and more polished sound, especially in recording situations.
- **Consistent Performance:** The protective coating helps to maintain consistent tone and intonation throughout the string's lifespan, preventing the gradual degradation that occurs with uncoated strings.
- **Available for Electric and Acoustic Guitar:** Elixir offers Optiweb strings for both electric and acoustic guitars in a variety of popular gauges, catering to a wide range of playing styles and preferences.





# ELIXIR OPTIWEB STRINGS

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AND NATURAL FEEL



## Sonic Characteristics:

Players often describe the tone of Elixir Optiweb strings as being bright, articulate, and responsive, much like a fresh set of uncoated strings. They offer good sustain and clarity, making them suitable for various musical genres, from rock and pop to blues and country. While some subtle tonal differences might exist compared to a brand-new set of uncoated strings (as with any coating), many players find the Optiweb to be a very close approximation, especially after the initial "settling in" period.

## Who are Elixir Optiweb Strings For?

Optiweb strings are a compelling choice for guitarists who:

- Desire extended string life without a heavily coated feel.
- Prefer a bright and natural string tone.
- Are looking to reduce the frequency of string changes.
- Appreciate a comfortable and familiar playing experience.
- Want to minimize finger squeak.
- Play frequently and need consistent performance.



## Potential Considerations:

- **Initial Cost:** Elixir strings, including the Optiweb series, typically have a higher initial cost compared to many uncoated string brands. However, the extended lifespan often justifies this investment for many players.
- **Personal Preference:** Ultimately, string choice is subjective. While Optiweb aims for a natural feel, some players may still prefer the raw, immediate feel of uncoated strings or the more heavily coated feel of Elixir's Polyweb or Nanoweb for specific reasons.



## Conclusion:

Elixir Optiweb strings have successfully carved out a niche by offering a compelling middle ground between the longevity of coated strings and the natural feel and bright tone of uncoated ones. Their ultra-thin coating provides effective protection against tone-killing contaminants while maintaining a familiar playing experience and a vibrant sonic character. For guitarists seeking extended string life without a significant compromise in feel or tone, Elixir Optiweb strings are a worthy investment that can ultimately save time, money, and frustration. If you're tired of your strings losing their brilliance too quickly but prefer a more traditional feel, give Elixir Optiweb a try – you might just find your new go-to strings



# AlphaTheta *XDJ-AZ*

## A CLUB-READY POWERHOUSE FOR THE MODERN DJ



The AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ emerges as a formidable 4-channel all-in-one digital DJ system, inheriting the DNA of Pioneer DJ's renowned club-standard setup. Inspired by the iconic CDJ-3000 and DJM-A9, the XDJ-AZ offers a seamless transition for DJs moving between standalone systems and professional club environments. This powerhouse caters to both seasoned professionals and ambitious newcomers, providing a comprehensive suite of features, intuitive control, and versatile connectivity options.



### Familiar Layout, Enhanced Performance:

The XDJ-AZ boasts a layout that mirrors the industry-standard CDJ-3000 and DJM-A9, ensuring an intuitive and creative performance experience. Full-size jog wheels, similar in feel and responsiveness to those on the CDJ-3000, allow for precise pitch bending, scratching, and mixing. The robust build quality and familiar placement of controls will make any DJ feel instantly at home.

### Standalone 4-Deck Power:

One of the most significant upgrades from its predecessor, the XDJ-XZ, is the XDJ-AZ's true standalone 4-deck playback capability. DJs can now load and control four tracks directly from USB drives without the need for external devices or a laptop. This opens up exciting possibilities for live mashups, intricate layering, and dynamic back-to-back sets.

### Cutting-Edge Connectivity and Streaming:

The XDJ-AZ is designed for the modern, connected DJ. Built-in Wi-Fi and an Ethernet port provide access to rekordbox CloudDirectPlay, allowing seamless integration with your cloud-based music library. Furthermore, it supports popular streaming services like Beatport Streaming (StreamingDirectPlay), expanding your music selection to millions of tracks. Compatibility with Serato DJ Pro also offers flexibility for DJs who prefer this software.



## Intuitive Control with a Large Touchscreen:

A vibrant 10.1-inch capacitive touchscreen enhances control and workflow. The high-resolution display provides clear visual feedback of track information, waveforms (displaying two at a time), and various features. Navigating playlists, accessing settings, and utilizing features like Touch Preview (allowing you to preview tracks without loading) become more intuitive and efficient. The screen can display up to 13 tracks simultaneously, a significant increase from the XDJ-XZ, facilitating quicker track selection.

## Creative Tools and FX:

The XDJ-AZ is packed with creative tools to elevate your mixes. It features eight performance pads per deck with multiple modes, including Hot Cue and the new Gate Cue (which plays only while the pad is held down). A comprehensive array of Sound Color FX and Beat FX, inherited from the DJM-A9, provides ample sonic manipulation possibilities. The inclusion of Key Sync and Key Shift functions across all four standalone channels allows for harmonic mixing and creative key manipulation.

## Versatile Input and Output Options:

The XDJ-AZ offers a wide range of connectivity options, including multiple USB ports (Type-A and Type-C), phono/line inputs for external turntables or media players, and microphone inputs. High-quality master and booth outputs ensure pristine audio delivery in any environment. The system boasts an improved 32-bit ESS Technology D/A converter for enhanced sound quality and dynamic range.



The AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ is a powerful and versatile 4-channel all-in-one DJ system that bridges the gap between standalone convenience and professional club-standard performance. Its intuitive layout, comprehensive feature set, cutting-edge connectivity, and enhanced creative tools make it an excellent choice for DJs of all levels looking for a top-tier, future-proof system. Whether performing in clubs, at events, or in the studio, the XDJ-AZ provides the control, flexibility, and sound quality needed to elevate any DJ set.





# musictribe SUPER PARTNER RELATIONSHIP

**Music Tribe has chosen Marshall Music as their Retail Super Partner** to spearhead the company's sales strategy in in South Africa and neighboring countries.

## What is Music Tribe?

If you're involved in the world of music or professional audio, you've almost certainly encountered products from the brands owned by Music Tribe. But what exactly is Music Tribe? It's more than just a company; it's a powerhouse conglomerate reshaping the audio industry.

Music Tribe, formerly known as Music Group, is a holding company with a massive portfolio of audio brands. Think of it as an umbrella organization. It's the parent company behind many of the names you recognize and rely on.

## A Tribe of Iconic Brands

Music Tribe's strength lies in the sheer diversity of its brands. They've brought together some of the most respected and innovative names in the audio world, including

**MIDAS**

**tc electronic**

**TANNOY**



**behringer**

**KLARK**

**Turbosound**

**LAB.GRUPPEN**

**Bugera**

"We believe in obsessively empowering you through our Brand Tribes – Empowering you to create and receive appreciation is the key to our happiness. That's why we exist."

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