

EGNATER REBEL 20 HEAD & CAB

20W HEAD /1X12" CABINET

Say hello to my little friend. By Jim Fear

Last month we had a play with the Egnater TourMaster combo, this time we're pretty excited about the TourMaster's smaller sibling - the Rebel 20 Head with matching 1x12 cab. This little puppy cries, screams and wails just as well as the alpha male version, but comes in a much smaller and cuter package.

REBEL WITH A CAUSE

The Rebel is a single channel beastie that pumps out anywhere between 1W and 20W with the nifty, inventively-named "Watts" control using a surprisingly flexible tone stack to shape the sound into whatever you can dream up. You've got a gain control, the usual three-band EQ, the Egnater Signature Tight and Bright voicing switches just like in the TourMaster, an effects loop that doesn't suck tone and a master volume. My favourite knob on the Rebel is the gain control - you can dial up a glassy clean, a crunchy mid gain and a thrashy high gain sound just by adjusting the gain - no other tweaking necessary! Of course you can then fiddle with all the other cool stuff and come up with a whole array of different sounds, but we were really impressed with the sounds we could get out of the Rebel by simply adjusting the gain. The manual gives you a great head start on getting the most out of your rebellious new toy. It's got a bunch of suggested settings, and great descriptions of how the controls work and interact with one another. With minimum effort we were able to dial up some lovely tones - first a glassy, shimmering clean that goes nicely with a single coil neck pickup, then pulling down the top end a bit and turning off the "bright" voicing switch you get a nice smooth jazzy clean. Push the gain up a bit harder to about 11 o'clock with both voicing switches in the bottom position and you get a nice bluesy tone which is very responsive to your fingers, a couple more notches of gain and scoop out some mids and you've got a nice chunky rhythm sound. Crank up the gain control and turn on the "tight" voicing switch to tighten up the bottom end a bit and you are getting into serious high gain territory - surprisingly enough this tiny amp can really scream, loud! Scooped mids and loads of bass for a thrashy metal tone, add those mids back in and you've got a nice even saturated chug.

BIG SOUND, SMALL PACKAGE

Under the hood the Rebel is chock full of tubes for such a small amp - 3 x 12AX7 preamp tubes, 2 x 6V6 AND 2 x EL84 power amp tubes! How does this work? Well, rather than a standard 2-way standby switch, the Rebel uses a 3 way toggle switch with standby in the centre position, EL84 mode on top and 6V6 mode on the bottom - so you can switch between the two pairs of power tubes for different power amp sounds. According to the Egnater web site, the Rebel has a "tube mix" control allowing for finer control - blending the signal from both sets of power tubes in varying degrees. Very cool, but unfortunately this feature wasn't available in the review model. We reviewed the Rebel 20 head with it's perfect companion, the 112X 1 x 12" cab. The 112X is made out of solid birch, with the same gorgeous cream and black tolex, salt and pepper grill cloth, and white piping and logo as the Rebel 20 head and TourMaster. It has a front port for maximum bass response and uses the same custom voiced Egnater Celestion Elite 80 12" speaker as the TourMaster. It's the perfect mate for the Rebel 20 head, both in looks and sounds.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This amp is deceptive - it's a whole lot of power and tone in a really small package. A lot of the competing products in this area are not much more than valve practice amps, unsuitable for gigging with, but the Rebel is LOUD and sounds KILLER. We would be more than happy to take this baby on the road, use it for recording, or confine it to the bedroom for some serious low-volume rocking out.

SPECS

Made China
RRP Rebel-20 - \$1450, Rebel-112X - \$695

Features - Head

- 20 Watt all-tube head
- 1 to 20W RMS
- 3 x GrooveTubes 12AX7 preamp tubes
- 2 x GrooveTubes 6V6 power amp tubes
- 2 x GrooveTubes EL84 power amp tubes
- Effects loop
- 100V/115V/230V switchable
- Tight and Bright voicing switches
- Shoulder bag included

Features - Cab

- 1 x 12" custom voiced Egnater Celestion Elite 80 speaker
- Front port
- Solid birch construction

CONTACT

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WHAT WE RECKON

PROS

- ▲ Killer tones
- ▲ Portable
- ▲ Quality construction

CONS

- ▼ Single channel

