



By Ken Volpe - Guitar Jam Daily

It was just a matter of time before the marriage of a tube amplification giant and a DSP modeling giant came together. Who better to head up this unification of these two technologies than Line 6? Since the 90's, Line 6 has clearly been the leader in the world of guitar amplification modeling and beyond. They have an incredibly creative R & D department and have always shown a willingness to enter new territories. Joining forces with Bogner amplification is a brilliant move. Bogner tube amps have been well respected since the '90's. Being an owner of both previous Line 6 and Bogner products, it's cool to hear both camps in one amp. The amp contains 2 - 12AX7 preamp tubes and 2 - 6L6 power tubes. It also features a Celestion Vintage 30 speaker. My Spider Valve is a 1x12 40-watt combo and is extremely well laid out. They really thought about the ergonomics and practicality of the controls. The combo shell is beefy in both construction and projection of sound. The Spider Valve contains hundreds of presets and each preset is easily accessible through a variety of selection options. Amp settings and assorted effects are easily tweaked with the slight turn of the front panel knobs. I really liked the general amp/tonal categories such as Clean, Twang, Blues, Crunch, Metal, and Insane. The titles say it all; this is very straightforward but intuitive at the same time.

Let's jump into the presets. I really loved the preset, "50 Ways," an amazing big, airy clean tone with a perfect blend of assorted EFX. Another great clean preset is, "Albert Lee." As you can imagine this features a tasty, slap-back echo; along with a lot of top end chime. This preset is extremely useful for both Country lead and fingerstyle tones. For medium gain tones I loved the "Def Tones" preset. I found this one particular useful for classic rock crunch parts, ranging Zeppelin to AC/DC. For a blues-type crunch tone, my favorite was "Dirty Bird." My Strat was loving this one. I also tweaked "Dirty Bird" with a little less gain for one of my own custom presets. One of my other top favorite presets is called, "Sweet Lead." The name says it all, rich sustaining single note timbres were a breeze with this preset. Once again, I did a minor tweak by reducing the delay for another one of my own custom presets.

Gear Review: Line 6 Spider Valve 1x12 Combo

Thursday, 27 March 2008 08:21



My latest guitar rig is the



is a 1x12 combo amp that I've been using for a while now. It's a great amp for the price and it sounds like a real tube amp. I've been using it for a while now and it's been a great addition to my rig.