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Glockenklang Bass Art Preamp

Summary

Similar Products	Tech 21 SansAmp RBI Rackmount Bass Tube Amp Emulator @ Musician's Friend Behringer Bass V-AMP PRO Rack Modeling Preamp @ Musician's Friend Tech 21 Sansamp PSA1.1 Preamp @ Musician's Friend
Manufacturer URL	http://www.glockenklang.com/
Features	N/A (0 responses)
Sound Quality	10.0 (1 response)
Reliability	N/A (0 responses)
Customer Support	N/A (0 responses)
Overall Rating	10.0 (1 response)

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Product: Glockenklang Bass Art Preamp
Price Paid: US \$2500 Each with line driver
 Submitted **07/11/2001** at **07:22pm** by **Eric**
 Email: Dr_Bookworm at operamail<dot>com

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Features ? : No Opinion

I ordered two of these from Luthier's Access Group, because they are the only US distributor. Udo builds these by hand in Germany and his production is very limited so I considered myself lucky to get them. Features are pretty straightforward, Gain, Bass, Treble, and two sweepable mids plus a volume knob. The EQ can be bypassed, and there's a -10 db pad for active pickups. Aside from this there is an optional direct line driver which is fed from the rack and totally eliminates signal sag from the cable. Rear panel features a foot-switchable full and high frequency only effects loops, a direct out, and a recording out. The power cord is detachable

Sound Quality ? : 10

I use an old Specter NS4 bass which Stuart built while he was working for Kramer, with Active EMGs in a P-J setup. I also use a stripped down composite wood fretless bass which also has EMGs in a similar configuration. The body/neck are from an old Ibanez Sound Gear bass because I love the action and ergonomics, everything else has been customized.

As far as the sound, it is by far the most natural-sounding, open and transparent preamp I have ever heard. There is virtually NO tone coloration, no sag, no compression. Everything sounds just like the instrument which was Udo's intention from the beginning. Overall, the design is superb and remarkably simple. There is nothing to hide behind. It will pick up every nuance and every slip and mistake in your playing. This remarkably expressive and "musical" preamp will show the world your true playing ability and won't let anything slip by. So perhaps it is the only piece of gear I have auditioned that sounds as good as the player playing it. Fortunately for me, being a practice junky, it's exactly what I have been looking for.

The Specter sounds rich and deep and bright, the fretless sounds deliciously woody and robust. I have also played Warwicks, Musicmans, Pedullas, a Warrior, Modulus and Tobias basses and for the first time I could actually "HEAR" the difference between Bubinga and Wenge and Graphite and Ebony.

Perhaps the true test of any preamp or bass head is to run different basses through it and hear just how "different" they sound. The more similarity in tone, the more the preamp/head has a part in that tone. This is not necessarily bad, especially if you happen to like the tone (such as Eden and EBC), but after hearing these basses through a Glockenklang I was shocked. It's like hearing a voice over the phone compared to the same voice live. The true "flavor" and "tonality" of the instrument came through LOUD and CLEAR. I could not give this a high enough rating!

Reliability ? : No Opinion



Advertisement

Has never let me down.

Customer Support : No Opinion

Never had to use it, but from what I hear since Udo makes them, Udo services them and that's a trip to Germany.

Overall Rating : 10

I know when you buy something for this kind of cash you desperately want to believe you got your money's worth. This is why I waited to write my review. I have had these beauties for almost 3 years and grow to love them more and more each time I plug in. I use them live and in the studio with a Crown K2 and two SWR Goliath 4*10s. Overall the sound is always clear and articulate. I don't ever use compression as I like to have the expressive dynamic headroom these deliver the goods every time. I would have loved to spend half the money, but just haven't auditioned anything else which compares. Many who have heard them will say the same.

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