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Bass Player Magazine, High End Corner:

Glockenklang Amp System

Plugging in a Fender Jazz Bass and cranking up the Glockenklang system, we were immediately impressed by its sound. Even with the EQ set flat, it's hard to imagine a more detailed, hi-fi, deep, and overall pleasing bass tone. Notes sound full, powerful and clean, and double-stops—even low-register fifths—resonate with surprising warmth yet without a trace of mud. Part of the reason is the power section's Class A circuitry: the oldest of the amp designs, Class A sacrifices efficiency for warmth and clarity and is the preferred design of hi-fi-stereo connoisseurs. (For information on other amp designs, see the November '97 power-amp Shootout.) If the flat tone weren't good enough, consider the EQ—its five bands are all exquisitely voiced and sound good no matter the setting. (Frequency centers: 60Hz, 130Hz, 750Hz, 4.2kHz and 12kHz.) We especially liked the low MID control; while clean, hi-fi tone sounds great solo, it often gets eaten up by loud guitars and drums, and the Glock's LOW MID circuit adds creamy warmth in just the right frequency slot. At various EQ settings, the lows never got sloppy, the high-mids never honked, and the highs didn't get harsh (although the TREBLE control did accentuate hiss, of course).

Other features of the Heart-Core head include passive and active instrument inputs, effects loop (activated via a front-panel switch or a footswitch), headphone jack, tuner-out jack (the speaker-out jacks can be muted via a front-panel TUNE switch or a footswitch), and XLR DI-out jack. A power-amp protection circuit kicks in momentarily if your signal exceeds a set threshold. The Quattro enclosure features Volt drivers made exclusively for Glockenklang, one Fostex tweeter, and two Neutrik Speakon input jacks.

At \$2,895 list, the Bass Art head is a bit less powerful (300 watts) than the Heart-Core, but it sounds just as good—perhaps even better. The Heart-Core has a slightly ballsier, heavier tone, while the Bass Art excels at top-end articulation. The Bass Art also has several additional features, including a 4-pole XLR LINE DRIVER IN jack (an alternate input for use with the optional Glockenklang line driver) and two bands of semiparametric EQ along with BASS and TREBLE controls.

Is a Glockenklang rig worthy of its over-\$5,000 price tag? If you're struggling to make ends meet, probably not. But if only the very best will satisfy your gear tones, check out a Glock—if for no other reason than to hear what near-perfect tone sounds like.

—Karl Coryat

Heart-Core Head

Made in: Germany
Power rating: 400 watts into 4 Ohm
Weight: 27 lbs, 9 oz

Quattro 4x10 Cabinet

Made in: Germany
Impedance: 4 Ohm (also available, in 5 Ohm)
Power rating: 800 watt
Weight: 75 lbs

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