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GARTONE

Regal 45



Many big manufacturers seem reluctant to provide accurate reissues of their most iconic models, but such obvious gaps in the market present opportunities for specialist manufacturers. Gartone Amps, hailing from right here in the UK, is an obvious example, and the Regal 45 is a stunning recreation of the mid-1960s Marshall 'Bluesbreaker' combo that Eric Clapton used with John Mayall.

Having identified the key ingredients, Gartone settled on Mercury Magnetics transformers and Harma KT66 valves along with a custom-voiced Tayden New Vintage speaker to recreate the chiming top end and player-friendly compression of the original Celestion alnico G12. The unloved tremolo was discarded, but the circuit is essentially stock JTM45 with minor alterations to the power supply and biasing. The turret board features vintage-correct components wherever

possible, and hiss and hum levels are vanishingly low. The wiring job is beyond neat: it's immaculate.

JTM45-style circuits are perhaps unfairly synonymous with overdrive and distortion, but the quality of this amp's clean tones is equally impressive and the Regal 45 has amazing dynamic response. Play hard and you'll get deep, growling power chords and single notes that sustain effortlessly with near vocal quality; play gently and the Regal 45 cleans up to display surprising sweetness.

Compared to solid state -rectified EL34- loaded Marshalls the Regal 45 is more complex, subtle and dynamic. It's less about brutal crunch and sheer aggression, and there's no sterility or stiffness to the response; this is a versatile, toneful and thoroughly remarkable amplifier.

Quality take on a British classic

PRICE: £1995
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