



Line 6 LowDown Studio 110 bass combo £222



The rivals

Ashdown Perfect Ten	£129
SWR LA10	£170
Fender Rumble 60	£230

Choosing home grown equipment will always save you money and Ashdown's Perfect 10 combo will certainly do that. It has the luxury of a deep switch and as a practice amp it does a great job. The LA10 from SWR with preset aural enhancer, three-band active EQ, limiter, headphone jack and CD input is closer in performance and price but, at 35 watts, lacks the power. Fender's Rumble Series has a 10-inch version at 25 watts but for a similar outlay to the LowDown you can get the Rumble 60 that's loaded with a 12-inch driver that provides better bottom end and the amplifier produces a healthier 60 watts of output.

Could this tiny combo with studio quality sounds be too good to be true? We find out... by Roger Newell

Our first encounter with the Line 6 LowDown bass combo range was with the LD300 Pro combo (issue 281) and we were mightily impressed with its abilities and power rating. Now the latest addition to this popular range has arrived and the LowDown Studio 110 is both smaller and neater but every bit as impressive as its bigger brother. Although well appointed, the Studio 110 is not primarily intended for gig use, rather, as the name suggests, it's designed as a portable studio/practice combo and it's a real corker!

The cubic design is ultra compact and of course, being a Line 6 product, there's much more here than first meets the eye. So have we got modelling and effects? Well, yes, we have, not to excess it's true but surely enough to keep you amused while riffing away in the wee small hours of the morning. And having an earphone connection and a CD/mp3 input, there's absolutely no reason why you shouldn't do just that.

In keeping with the LowDown range this is an easy amp to use and the single input has a pad switch to match the output of any bass. Drive and



The four programmed settings are all highly useable

master handle the input and output volumes respectively, while the tone is manipulated by a four-band rotary EQ section that includes two mid-frequency adjusters. There's also a variable compressor to even out note attack and decay. Four factory-set amp models are included, each with an illuminating switch, and their names of clean, R&B, rock and grind leave no doubt about what they do. These can

There's surprising depth to the bass response from the Studio 110 considering it's so small. This is loaded with a single 10-inch driver, but your ears just won't believe it!



STUDIO 110 BASS COMBO TEST RESULTS

Build quality	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

■ **WE LIKED** Ultimate in portability, and all top quality sounds

■ **WE DISLIKED** At this price there's nothing to complain about

also be reprogrammed to your own sounds if you desire. Pressing down the R&B and rock buttons simultaneously activates the synth setting and this also changes the attributes of the rotary controls to give a highly adjustable patch with various effects.

SOUNDS: There's surprising depth to the bass response from the Studio 110 considering it's so small. Remember this is loaded with a single 10-inch driver, but your ears just won't believe it! And bearing in mind that Studio designation is the most important requisite here, the total lack of noise means this LowDown meets its mission statement with ease.

Activating the individual amp models provides instant tonal variations with sounds based on classic bass rigs, (think Eden, Ampeg and Marshall), so all are impressive and highly useable. We particularly like rock for well-defined notes with classic warmth, and grind, with its higher treble content that physically punches the notes out of the speaker.

Although many players avoid bass synth sounds like the plague, thanks to the high level of adjustment offered from the rotary controls this effect suddenly takes on a whole new life. Altering the likes of enveloping, resonance, attack and delay allows you



Six of the seven rotary controls can be used to adjust the synth effect

Whether you favour clean, distorted, synth-y, warm or punchy sounds, it's all on hand with the minimum of effort

to make the synth work for you rather than becoming its slave, and with a choice of nine waveforms (courtesy of the alternative use of the compressor control) the parameters are vast. So whether you favour clean, distorted, synth-y, warm or punchy sounds, it's all on hand with the minimum of effort.

Whatever sound you activate on the top panel is fed to the studio desk via the preamp out jack at the rear. Alternatively there's an XLR connection that provides mic'd cabinet simulation, so you can indulge your preference. To get such good results with so much impact from something so small and transportable makes using this LowDown a real pleasure.

Verdict

We're getting used to Line 6 packing a quart into a pint pot, but the LowDown

Studio is such a diminutive size it's that much more impressive. Having something this portable packed with so many quality sound abilities makes home rehearsal a joy, and don't rule it out entirely for gigging as there are certainly cases where this would do the job nicely. However, being designed specifically as a tool for session bass players is where it obviously scores most highly. Ultra compact, ultra quiet and ultra efficient, the LowDown Studio 110 really is tailor made for the job. Using this in the recording studio recently, we linked to the desk via the XLR connection and the results proved an absolute delight for both player and producer alike. Now that really is something to shout about. 🎸

Line 6 LowDown Studio 110

Guitarist RATING ★★★★★

LINE 6 LOWDOWN STUDIO 110 BASS COMBO

PRICE: £222

ORIGIN: China

TYPE: Solid-state bass combo

OUTPUT: 75 watts RMS @ 4 ohms

DIMENSIONS: 305 (w) x 305 (d) x 305mm (h)

WEIGHT (kg/lb): 11/24

CHANNELS: Single channel, active/passive switching

CONTROLS: Drive, bass, lo-mid, hi-mid, treble, opto comp and master rotaries

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

Modelling, programmable custom sounds, XLR direct out, CD/mp3 input, headphone out, preamp out

SPEAKERS: Single 10-inch bass driver

RANGE OPTIONS: The LowDown LD150 costs £351 and is joined by the LowDown LD175 (£445) and LD300 Pro (£504)

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