

Rocked & Rated



Cabinet ■
The G5222 looks the part with its tweed cabinet

Logo ■
The Electromatic logo gives this amp a cool vintage vibe

Speaker ■
The single six-inch speaker puts out a whole five watts!

Gretsch Electromatic G5222 £159

You know the legendary axes, so meet this valve-powered pocket rocket...

There's something about Gretsch. It's the sense of class. It's the whiff of elitism. It's the hum of quality. It's the fact that most guitar shop assistants won't even let you touch one without looking you up and down. Since this US firm began trading in 1883, the reputation of classic models like the Duo Jet, White Falcon and Country Gentleman has been shouted from the roof tops – and that's probably why its amps have never enjoyed the same fanfare. Can the new Electromatic turn that around?

The sizzle: "Five watts, two tubes and never-ending Gretsch coolness!" says the manual, and it's a decent enough summary of this new compact amp. The G5222 is a genuine valve amp in the grand tradition, meaning

no trimmings, no switchable channels and hardly any buttons. Compensation's found in the form of the sweet-assed tube tone delivered through one

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six-inch Special Design speaker. The overall impression is of a boutique connoisseur's amp – until you spot the £159 price tag and realise you can afford it.

We say: Everyone loves Gretsch, but the G5222's minimalism is the divider. As we say, the control panel is practically bare, with the absence of a distortion dial meaning you'll have to crank the volume all the way up for filth, and the lack of EQ and FX

meaning cheap guitars will have nothing to hide behind.

However, the raw tone is sweet beyond belief, and when you twin it with a quality electric,

those characterful blues riffs will blow you away. So, yes, the G5222 is a bit of an indulgence. But at £159, we think you can afford to treat yourselves.

Henry Yates

At a glance

Gretsch Electromatic G5222

ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Valve combo
OUTPUT: 5 watts RMS
LOUDSPEAKER: 1x6"
VALVES: 1x 12AX7, 1x 6V6
FEATURES: External speaker output
CONTROLS: Volume, master power
WEIGHT: 7kg
DIMENSIONS [HXWXD]: 280 x 310 x 190mm
CONTACT: Fender UK 01342 331700
WEB: www.fender.co.uk

SUMMARY

For: Sweet-ass tone at a knockout price

Against: The stripped format raises practical issues

★★★★☆

TG says... Gretsch kudos without the price tag



Only one knob? This amp is old school, baby!