

**At a glance****Marshall MG15FXMS**

**TYPE:** Solid state  
**OUTPUT:** 15 watt  
**SPEAKER:** 2x 1x10 cabinets  
**CONTROLS:** Gain, bass, mid, treb, reverb, vol, FX, master, channel, tap store  
**SOCKETS:** In, phones, aux in, speaker out, Footswitch  
**WEIGHT:** 18.7kg  
**DIMENSIONS:** 960x385x240 mm  
**CONTACT:** Marshall Amplification 01908 375411  
**WEB:** www.marshallamps.com

**Channel switch**  
 The switch glows green or red depending on which channel you've selected

**Tap switch**  
 This function adds extra control to the effects section

**Aux input**  
 The aux input allows you to play your MP3 player through the amp



£329

# Marshall MG15FXMS

Marshall delivers an all-round practice solution that lets you get a head

Practice amps have been given a bit of a bad wrap over the years. The nature of their cost-effective portable design can sometimes mean that your guitar is fed through a rudimentary circuit and then pumped out the other side by a small speaker. The resulting tone serves its purpose, but goes little way towards being truly impressive.

What if the humble practice amp could command some respect, rather than languishing unloved in the corners of hundreds of bedrooms over the country? It's a grand idea, but how is a practice amp ever going to be considered cool? Let's ask the Marshall MG15FXMS.

**The sizzle:** This isn't the first time Marshall has offered a stack in a smaller practice amp format – previous incarnations include the MG15MSII and Zakk Wylde signature model. But the MG15FXMS takes it a few steps further with four channels, five digital effects, three-band EQ and footswitch compatibility. The optional (£39) footswitch provides a display for the built-in tuner, and the presets are stored safely in the internal memory.

The head plugs into a pair of 1x10 cabinets, and when fully assembled the stack stands just shy of a metre high. Marshall uses the words "innovation,

functionality and tone" to describe the MG range of amps, and although we like the style of the mini stack, we're also keen to see if it has the substance to back it up.

**We say:** The head's four channels (Clean, Crunch OD1 and OD2) cover most bases. The Clean channel is exactly that, with its glassy tones staying true even with the gain turned up high. A flick of the first channel switch puts you in Crunch mode, which works well for indie and blues, giving a bit of dirt to your sound, while OD1 and OD2 are the go-to place for rock and metal tones. The distortion on the MG15FXMS is pure analogue and there's plenty of it too; you can go from classic to cranked with ease by using the EQ and gain controls. The effects section is simple but complementary on all channels, and the inclusion of the Tap switch is a valuable one.

Being designed for home use, this amp isn't about power, so the extra speaker cab serves as a way of delivering added depth and tone to your sound. Combine this with the footswitch option and auxiliary input and you're left with an all-round practice solution. It may cost a bit more than its single speaker combo equivalent but we reckon that for some, it's definitely worth it.

Stuart Williams

**SUMMARY**

**For:** Style and substance in an affordable package

**Against:** The FX section offers minimal control

★★★★☆

**TG says...** He ain't heavy... he's a mini-stack

