

GEAR REVIEW

FENDER SUPER-SONIC TWIN COMBO



1 VINTAGE CHANNEL

FENDER'S Vintage channel offers two modes: Twin Reverb for crystalline cleans or mid-rich punch in Bassman mode

2 BURN CHANNEL

THE two-stage cascaded gain controls take the drive sounds from mean and edgy to smooth and sustaining

3 SPEAKERS

A PAIR of Celestion Vintage 30s in a seriously weighty cabinet mean rock-solid lows and bright, cutting highs

AT A GLANCE

- TYPE:** Valve combo
- OUTPUT:** 100 watts (switchable to 25 watts)
- VALVES:** 4x6L6, 7x12AX7, 2x12AT7
- CONTROLS:** 'Vintage' channel with Twin Reverb/Bassman switch and gain, treble, bass, mid and volume, 'Burn' channel with gain 1, gain 2, treble, bass, mid, notch tune and volume, master reverb, Arena/Club switch, effects loop send and return level, Automatic Bias adjustment, Loose/Normal/Tight damping switch, speaker out impedance selector (4/8/16 Ohms)
- SOCKETS:** Input, effects loop send and return, preamp out, power amp in, main and external speaker outs
- SPEAKERS:** 2x12-inch Celestion Vintage 30
- WEIGHT:** 37.65kg
- DIMENSIONS:** [HxWxD] 514 x 667 x 28.7mm
- CONTACT:** Fender GBI 01342 331711 fender.co.uk

FENDER SUPER-SONIC TWIN COMBO

£1,799

Pure valve power and modern features combine in Fender's latest high-performance stage combo

MEET the new top dog of Fender's Pro Tube amp range. Like the Super-Sonic 22 and 60 before it, the Twin Combo has a Vintage channel with Twin Reverb and Bassman modes for clean Fender tones, and a Burn channel that promises the kind of modern, high-gain overdrive sounds you don't traditionally associate with Fender amps.

Notable new features include master volume and a full three-band EQ on both channels, while Burn also gets a Notch Tune knob that tweaks the mid range for

more American (mid-scooped) or British (mid-rich) sounds.

Starting on the Vintage channel, the Twin Reverb mode is all about clear highs and solid lows – the classic Fender clean tone. Full, bright and chiming with tons of clean headroom, it's also the perfect place to start with adding some sweeping delay and modulation effects. Switching to Bassman mode adds more dirt and beefs up the mid-range for a much thicker, warmer clean sound.

The Strokes and Alkaline Trio's Matt Skiba are Super-Sonic fans,

and pushing the Vintage channel to breaking point can definitely yield great results for this sort of overdrive. But when it comes to dirt, the Burn channel is the place to be. The first gain knob takes you from Texas blues to all-out grind, while winding up the second cascaded gain control adds thickness and smooth sustain. The Notch Tune knob is a great tone-shaping tool. It's a little heavy handed at either extreme, but together with the EQ and damping control (which governs how the pair of Celestion Vintage 30 speakers handle low end: from loud and loose to tight and controlled), you can shape the tonal response to suit any guitar.

There's more tweakability at the rear, too, with the addition of the Arena/Club switch, which takes the punishing 100-watt output down to a more manageable 25 watts for smaller venues. But even in Club mode, this amp is probably still too loud to use at home.

Valve virgins will be glad to see Fender's new Automatic Bias adjuster. This monitors the bias of the four 6L6 output valves (the

control voltage that keeps them operating correctly) and lets you adjust it to run 'hotter' for more overdrive at lower volumes or 'cooler' for more clean headroom. If one valve fails during a gig, the unit will shut it and its partner off so the amp can keep running on a single pair of valves. When the time comes to re-valve, you can just plug in a new matched set and let the amp take care of re-biasing.

Those looking exclusively for a bedroom amp or high-gain metal sounds will find other amps better suited to their needs. But where this Super-Sonic scores is with its full variety of classic clean and overdriven tones, with added aggression on tap. It's a serious gigging tool – for serious money – but you're rewarded with pro features and flexible tone-shaping.

David Greeves



The Super-Sonic Twin offers up heaps of tone-shaping options

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	USEABILITY				
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★				