



EBS Classic Session 60 bass combo £240

**Guitarist
CHOICE**

Practising your bass just got a whole lot more enjoyable, thanks to this capable little combo *by Roger Newell*

EBS has proven time and again that it's a very worthy contender in this portable bass combo field. Indeed, the firm's heavier duty combos and stacks produce awesome power and projection, which bodes well for the Classic Session 60 we have here – the unit's amp section is essentially a scaled-down version of the meaty Classic 450 head.

The handy tilt-back design is always welcome on something this compact, as it allows the sound to be projected directly at the player, therefore making working at lower volume levels more practical. This is

important, as there's obviously only so far that you can push the volume before a degree of distortion creeps in. That said, in our tests this little combo puts out far more clean sound than you might expect from something so small.

Compact and sturdily built, the EBS is loaded with plenty of exterior connections (not least the XLR balanced output, which you can use to hook up to a PA), making it ideal for both for practice and smaller gigs. The removable front grille reveals a ported baffle, 10-inch speaker and a tweeter for a full-range response.

Sounds

The single input jack means you must use the gain control sensibly for the cleanest results. However, overdo it a little and a valve-like, front-end distortion is introduced – the sort of growl many players like. But beware, if you push it too hard the sound becomes choked, as the amp goes into protection mode.

It wasn't so long ago that a good-sounding bass amp with a single 10-inch speaker was nothing short of an impossibility, yet here we are

The Rivals

The **SWR LA10** combo (£240) is also good as a first time buy or for practise, and features a built-in Aural Enhancer circuit and auxiliary connections. The **Eden E8JR** (£140) is another compact tilt-back design that offers a 25W rating from an eight-inch driver with a compression circuit and headphone jack included. Same power and tilt-back design, but the **Gallien Krueger 112 Backline Series** combo (£345) is a much tougher cookie in build and delivery, and it features a three-band active EQ plus a switchable contour control.

Thanks to the inclusion of the character filter (a preshape EQ), getting an instantly good sound from this baby Classic is easy. Simply press it in to scoop out the middle and boost the bass and treble – you’ve got an instant ‘smiley face’ graphic EQ setting beloved by many. This setting immediately gives body and warmth to the sound and will impress anyone the first time they push the switch. Add even more bass from the tone control and you’ll be amazed just how far you can go before the sound becomes, justifiably, woolly and unfocused.

In contrast, the enhance filter is a far more subtle effect, as it introduces a mid-range tone variation by altering the way the treble control operates. When engaged, advancing the treble reduces the middle frequencies, and reducing treble boosts the mids. This could be particularly useful in the studio, as it creates a cleaner note response. It’s simple, neat and very effective – using either or both of these filters, then finely adjusting the bass and treble as required, creates a whole host of good sounds.

Introducing a little of that front end crunch is perfectly acceptable; it stays warm and throaty before too much gain makes it less usable. The low end response from this cabinet/speaker/tweeter combination is quite remarkable, but it’s also worth noting that we find the bass response is actually better when the unit is positioned flat on the floor rather than in tilt-back mode.

Overall it’s a capable unit that performs well; it will even handle the demands of fretless basses and electronic uprights if you wish. And with the ability to hook it up to a larger PA this could be a good, low-cost choice for bassists without cars – it’s compact and easy to lug about, yet with good monitoring you could still conceivably use it for bigger stages.

Verdict

Having all the necessary connection opportunities for personal practice sessions, this compact combo seems ideal for home use. However, it also has the sound and performance quality to make it just as useful

in the studio, intimate small gigs or, via PA connection, larger venues altogether.

EBS is keen to keep its well-deserved reputation for quality, so even though these price-busting units are built in China they benefit from Swedish design, expertise and experience. Add that to the sturdy construction and a size that’s easy to transport and you get a very desirable and user-friendly combo. It wasn’t so long ago that a good-sounding bass amp with a single 10-inch speaker was nothing short of an impossibility, yet here we are commenting on just how good the low end response is. Now that’s progress! 

The Bottom Line

We like: Easy to transport; louder than you’d expect; excellent low end response; good tones

We dislike: Hard to fault
Guitarist says: As a first time buy or as an amp for jam and practice sessions, this is a very worthy choice

It’s compact and easy to lug about, yet with good monitoring, you could still conceivably use it for bigger stages



The amp is robustly made and well-designed



EBS Classic Session 60

PRICE: £240
ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Tilt-back Reflex Design solid-state bass amp
OUTPUT: 60 watts RMS @ 8 ohms
DIMENSIONS: 376 (w) x 395 (d) x 343mm (h)
WEIGHT (kg/lb): 16/36
CHANNELS: One
CONTROLS: Gain, bass, treble and volume controls, character and enhance filters
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Peak LED, Stereo monitor input with level control, stereo headphones output, balanced XLR-output, line out, ground lift
SPEAKERS: Selected 10-inch driver and tweeter
FINISH: Black vinyl
RANGE OPTIONS: The Classic T90 90W all-valve head costs £1,062 and the Classic 450 solid-state 450W head is £870. Various cabinet options range from the mini size 1 x 10 (£240) through to the 8 x 10 (£1,152)
Sound Technology
01462 480000
www.bass.se



Test results

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

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★