

Total Guitar
BEST BUY

MUTE

THE front panel also has a master mute function – very handy for guitar changes or breaks between sets

GRILLE

LANEY'S TuffStuff coating doesn't tear like vinyl; the speakers are protected by a metal grille behind the foam front. It also has a recessed pole mount for bigger gigs



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Acoustic guitar combo amplifier

OUTPUT: 80W

SPEAKER: 1x 8" bass driver, 1x 1" tweeter

CONTROLS: Shape switch, gain, bass, sweep, mid, treble (x2 for two channels); anti-feedback level, aux in level, effect select, effect level, effect send, master volume

SOCKETS: 2x XLR/mono jack input headphone out mini-jack, aux in mini-jack, DI out XLR, FX send and return, line out

WEIGHT: 12.5kg

DIMENSIONS: (HxWxD) 348x387x312mm

CONTACT: Headstock Distribution 0121 508 6666 www.laney.co.uk

INS & OUTS

A mini-jack aux input allows you to play music from your mp3 player, while a headphone jack mutes the speaker

LANEY A1+ £279

Why not just plug into the PA? Laney's latest wonderbox explains...

IT'S not often we delve into the acoustic amp market, but the new, redesigned A1+ is unique among its peers, with a front-mounted control panel and handy upright- or tilted-back cabinet design, not to mention a weight of just 12.5kg. You get two identical channels with a heap of tone-shaping abilities, while combi-jack/XLR inputs enable you to use a microphone in either channel (for singing or mic'ing your guitar), though only channel two has phantom power.

Whatever kind of pickup's in your guitar, the 'shape' switch offers a mid-scoop curve with bass and treble boost; think of it as a 'hi-fi' switch for a more crystalline, 'modern' sound. Bass and treble controls boost or cut low- and high-end respectively, while the parametric mid section manages frequencies from 200Hz to 9kHz – a huge sweep to tune the midrange 'speaking' voice of your

guitar. For example, one of our test guitars has a slightly dominant lower midrange, another has a nasally sound in the upper mids, while many piezo pickups often have that higher 'quack' sound: the Laney fine tunes it all. The dual channels enable you to deal with a split signal from a dual-source system, too; treating undersaddle

The Laney A1+ is a no-brainer for any gigging acoustic player

and soundhole pickups separately at the amp end gives you far greater EQ and level flexibility than doing it on the guitar itself; it's the same if you want to mix a pickup and a microphone.

If you've ever played loud with an electro-acoustic, you'll know all about body resonance feedback, so Laney has tuned the onboard feedback killer over 30Hz to 3kHz

to help get it under control – it works. It's also worth trying the phase switch for certain feedback types, not to mention a quick and simple fix for a tone that isn't working right in a particular room. Elsewhere, the onboard delay, reverb and chorus effects are useful for adding ambience and space to your guitar and/or vocals,

spread (or size!) as a larger PA, but you may well be surprised by what it puts out.

Acoustic amps don't exactly have a big 'want' factor, but that's crazy if you're an electro-acoustic performer, because a good one can turn a mediocre performance into something more rewarding. You can hear yourself, you'll probably like the tone, and you can turn it up or down without hassling the soundman! The Laney A1+ is a highly capable amp that offers a bucketload of performance-inspired features and sterling sound quality, at an impressive price. That makes it a no-brainer for any gigging acoustic player.

Mick Taylor

FEATURES					
SOUND QUALITY					
VALUE FOR MONEY					
BUILD QUALITY					
USABILITY					
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★				