



Emulated Output ■ Just plug the amp into your recording device for no-fuss valve tone

■ **ISF**
This controls the sound of the amp from typical British to American tones

■ **Clean Volume**
Turn this past the 12 o'clock position for a 'clean yet filthy' AC/DC tone



BLACKSTAR HT-5 COMBO £249

Huge valve tone that won't piss off the neighbours... Surely not?!

Hang on, Blackstar! In all our years as pro and semi-pro guitarists we've learned that valve amps only sound awesome at trouser-ruffling volumes. Can this titchy five-watt combo really bend the laws of physics?!

The sizzle: It can, because Blackstar's ex-Marshall engineers are clever buggers. So clever, they've come up with a unique twist on valve technology to achieve their goal of great tone at low volume. It's too complicated to explain and to be honest, we don't really understand anyway. So let's concentrate on how it sounds...

We say: It's cuter than Hayley Williams in pop socks and sports a high standard of finishing, but this amp is all about the tone.

Setting the Bass, Middle and Treble controls to the 2 o'clock position and pulling back on the Mid gave our Strat a gorgeous classic rock sheen. This is where Blackstar recommends use of

"THIS AMP SOUNDS GREAT... AND YOU GET HIGH-END FEATURES THAT JUSTIFY ITS PRICE TAG"

its ISF (Infinite Shape Feature) control, as it blends sounds that are typical of iconic British and American amps. TG found its sweetspot halfway inside the US side (more Fender-y).

We love the fact that the clean channel starts to clip (giving just a hint of overdrive) around the 9 o'clock position, so settings past 12 result in that clean yet dirty sound typified by AC/DC. The overdrive channel picks up where

the clean's dirt left off, so you can set up high-gain sounds here and access them with a stomp on the footswitch.

It sounds every bit as good as Blackstar intended, and with its

emulated output, effects loop and multiple speaker outputs, you get some high-end features that justify its price tag.

Stephen Lawson

At a glance

Blackstar HT-5 Combo
TYPE: Valve combo
OUTPUT: 5 watts
SPEAKER: 10" Celestion
VALVES: 1x ECC83, 1x 12BH7
CONTROLS: 3 band EQ, ISF, Volume 1, Volume 2, Gain
SOCKETS: Input, emulated out/phones, footswitch, FX loop, speaker outputs
DIMENSIONS: 444 x 237 x 400mm
CONTACT: Blackstar Amplification 01536 312620
WEB: www.blackstaramps.co.uk

SUMMARY

For: Looks, build quality, awesome valve distortion at low volume
Against: Not a single thing!

☆☆☆☆☆

TG says... The ideal solution for flat-dwelling fretmelters!



The HT-5 oozes quality, even down to the footswitch