



1 SWITCHING

A SINGLE-BUTTON footswitch is included. Channels are footswitchable, modes are not

2 CHANNELS AND MODES

TWO independent channels, each with two modes. Sounds span clean, crunch, vintage and modern high gain

3 CHOOSE YOUR POWER

YOU CAN run either channel in 10 or 25 watts, but don't think the former is just for home practice

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Valve amp head
OUTPUT: 25 or 10 watts
VALVES: 5x 12AX7, 2x EL84
CONTROLS: 2 each of gain, treble, middle, bass, presence, master
SOCKETS: Input, effects loop, speaker outputs, footswitch
WEIGHT: 5.5kg
DIMENSIONS: (HxWxD) 321 x 150 x 172mm
CONTACT: Westside Distribution 01412 482842
WEB: www.mesa-boogie.com

MESA/BOOGIE MINI RECTIFIER TWENTY-FIVE

£1,099

Rock and metal's most revered amp arrives in teeny tiny form

HETFIELD,

Grohl, Petrucci, Munky, DeLonge – just five famous guitar players who have helped Mesa/Boogie's mighty Rectifier series remain the leading amp in rock and metal for over 20 years. We have seen 150, 100 and 50-watt variants, but now comes a 'baby' brother into the family. A gig-bagged tiny metal box, two EL84s, no valve rectifier and gig ready. Are they serious?

"It's the most grown-up sounding of lunchbox amps"

As it turns out, yes they are. The Mini Rectifier has two channels and four modes: clean, pushed, vintage and modern. You can also choose full power (25 watts, using Mesa's Dyna-Watt configuration), or step the amp down to 10 watts. Even better, thanks to the Multi-Watt circuit, you can have

either channel at either power setting: mix and match for full-headroom 25-watt cleans, and really squashy 10-watt lead tones, or vice versa.

How loud is 25 watts? Don't let the numbers fool you. The Mini Rectifier will keep up in many live band situations, and in any case it tramples all over the vast majority of 50 to 80-watt modelling amps when it comes to cutting through. There's a notable fast attack to

notes and chords in the full-power mode, which helps clean mode tones stay percussive and really cut through (think Chili Peppers style funky chops, for example). As you up the gain into Pushed mode, you can cover punchy, well-defined Malcolm Young style classic rock rhythms into medium gain blues

sounds. The second channel's Vintage mode has much more gain, but it cuts back in the middle frequencies for cool, old-school thrash and metal sounds with the mid pot down low.

You can play leads in this mode, but it's killer for heavy rock rhythms, too. Modern mode is Rectifier territory as most people know it: fuller in the mids and more aggressive overall for tighter chugs, quicker attack and a good decade or two forward from the Vintage mode.

Switching down to 10 watts drops the volume, but it's not about home practice. It's more about feel, where the playing dynamics are more chewy and elastic. There's more apparent compression at the front of notes and chords, which is very different from the 25-watt mode. Light overdrives take on a more little-amp-cranked feel, while heavier sounds get even more compressed and unruly. In fact, that's not entirely dissimilar to

what happens in the bigger Rectos when you use the valve rectifier instead of solid state. Just to be clear, there is no valve rectification in the Mini.

You could buy a louder, bigger head and 4x12 cabinet for the price of this head alone, and that will make life tough for the Mini Rectifier. That said, most people don't have the chance to crank up a 50 or 100-watt valve stack these days, much less cart one around easily, which is why a tiny, great-sounding, versatile valve amp like this makes so much sense. It is the most grown-up sounding and loudest of the lunchbox amps, and, yes, it does deliver a big slice of the Mesa Rectifier sound.

Mick Taylor

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