



1 SEE HOW LOUD YOU CAN GO...

The 'none-more-loud' VU meter on the front panel is the MV50's most obvious feature, with just a hint of *Spinal Tap*

2 RECORD OR PRACTISE IN PEACE

All three MV50s have a speaker-emulated headphone recording output that can be used without a loudspeaker connected

3 VALVE POWER

Through the display window you can see the 6P1 valve flickering away as it works hard



AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Valve preamp/
Class D power amp
OUTPUT: 50W
SPEAKER CAB: BC108
1x8" ported
VALVES: 1x 6P1
CONTROLS: MV50 AC &
ROCK: Volume, gain,
tone, MV50
CLEAN: Volume, treble,
bass, flat/deep EQ
switch; 4/8/16ohm
impedance switch
(AC and Rock models),
3-position attenuator
(MV50 Clean only)
SOCKETS: Guitar in,
aux in, headphones/
recording out,
speaker out
WEIGHT: 0.5kg
DIMENSIONS:
[HxWxD] 75mm x
135mm x 100mm
CONTACT: Vox
Amplification Ltd.
01908 304600
www.voxamps.com

VOX MV50 AC, ROCK AND CLEAN

£199

A loud as hell valve amp in your pocket!

Vox has always been about innovation, right back to the early days of the original AC15, so we've come to expect the unexpected from the Brit amp co. Yet its trio of MV50 amps caught more than a few by surprise at this year's NAMM show. Micro amps are becoming commonplace, but very few use valves, and none use the valve Vox's MV50 packs into its small but perfectly-formed steel chassis.

That valve is the 6P1, a brand-new design that uses Vacuum Fluorescent Display (VFD) technology. VFDs are very similar to valves in the way they work: there's an anode, cathode and a control grid, however, the 6P1 is the first VFD product specifically designed for audio. Housed in a slim, integrated circuit-style

package, the 6P1 has its own dedicated circuit board that sits on shock-absorbing supports, with a multi-pin plug for easy replacement if it's ever needed.

The new Vox MV50 amps are small enough to resemble toys – except they're not. That 6P1 valve is hooked up to a specially-

designed Class D power amp that puts out an astonishing 50 watts of guitar-friendly power, all from a package that's not much bigger than a stomptbox.

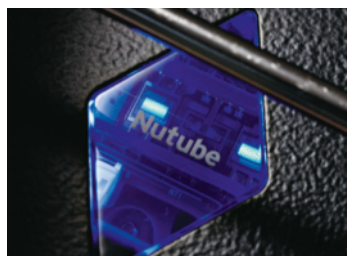
THE VOX MV50s ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO RESEMBLE TOYS...

There are three different flavours of the MV50: Clean is inspired by the great American valve amps of the early 1960s, AC

is a miniature recreation of all that's good from the classic Vox AC15 and AC30, while Rock offers a classic Plexi-inspired tone that's flavoured with extra strong jalapeno. All three share similar control panels and a cool backlit VU meter; the AC and Rock have three knobs for gain, tone and

volume with impedance switches on the rear panel, while the Clean has volume, treble and bass together with a three-position attenuator. These differences aside, all three have in common an aux in, a headphones/recording output as well as a separate speaker output.

Despite their tiny dimensions and simple controls, the MV50s are real tone monsters. The Clean has a spanky treble and snappy bass response, but turning it up to around three-quarters or more unleashes a seductive edge that's great for blues or country and simply superb with single coils. The MV50 AC is astonishing, capturing the complex midrange and treble of its full-sized counterparts with great authenticity. You can easily nail everything from The Beatles to Rory Gallagher and more, although we felt just a touch of extra gain was needed to properly get the full-on Brian May effect without turning to pedals. The MV50 Rock's Plexi-inspired tones combined with a good humbucker is equally fun – lower gain settings cop Joe Perry's riffing on *Walk*



6P1 appeal

What's in a number? Korg's new valve explained

The 6P1 is a clever bit of lateral thinking from Vox's parent company Korg. Vacuum Fluorescent Displays (VFDs) are the green displays often found on microwaves. They operate just like a valve – they have a cathode that streams electrons, an anode and a control grid, to switch display segments on/off. The 6P1, developed by Korg with Noritake Itron (inventors of the VFD) is the first intended for audio use. It's a twin triode, so it's similar in function to the popular 12AX7/ECC83, but uses much less power and generates almost no heat. Another side benefit of the low power consumption is long life – Korg quotes 10,000 hours. It performs just like a real valve – it clips and distorts in a pleasing way.

This Way to perfection, while you can crank up that gain to get ZZ Top and Van Halen with ease. The most impressive thing about the MV50s is that their sounds aren't flat, digital copies; these are real valve-driven amps that squawk, squeal and sing with superb



The VU output – a feature on all three models – is backlit for easy reading



touch-sensitive dynamic response. The Class D power stage is just as impressive as the preamp, providing lots of guitar-friendly volume. Plugged into the matching BC108 cabinet (£79), all three MV50s sound far bigger than they should, while the headphones/recording output is great for home desktop use, with or without the speaker connected.

The Vox MV50s are the real deal, with a valve preamp and a clever Class D power amp that produces the same kind of springy response you'd expect from a decent all-valve design. Despite their simplicity, all three amps are deceptively versatile. The simple, all-analogue front-end delivers

pure tone that responds dynamically to player input, with satisfying shifts in tone and gain.

Our favourite? Well, that's almost impossible to answer. The open, spanky punch of the MV50 Clean will flatter any pedal, while the MV50 Rock's superb harmonics and excellent sustain make it a real player's weapon. Overall, the MV50 AC is probably the most versatile, with the best blend of clean and overdrive sound and it nails classic Vox tone with eye-popping authenticity. We can't wait to see Vox's next 6P1 amp, but in the meantime, whichever MV50 you choose, you're guaranteed great tone and big fun.

Nick Guppy



TOTAL GUITAR
BEST BUY
AWARD



TOTAL GUITAR
BEST BUY
AWARD



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

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

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

ALSO TRY...

ORANGE MICRO TERROR

Orange's Micro Terror is another potent performer in a pint-sized package, with a real 12AX7 preamp valve and a powerful 20-watt output stage.



£99

BLACKSTAR FLY 3

Blackstar's Fly3 combo is about as small as it gets, but it's still a proper amp with surprising tone.



£59

PEAVEY 6505 PIRANHA

Peavey's Piranha is a true 6505, which captures the metal tone that many players swear by. With dual modes and an effects loop, it's serious stuff.



£185