





EVH 5150 III 50W EL34 £1149



Boutique EVH tones from a workhorse amplifier

Ever since the arrival of the 5150 III EL34 100-watt head, there have been requests for the same design in a more affordable format. EVH has listened and responded with the 5150 III 50W EL34. Featuring the same devastating tones and similar flexibility, the 50W has three channels: channel 1 (clean) and channel 2 (crunch) share the same EQ but feature separate gain and volume controls on clever,

you can sync it to MIDI-compatible effects units and floor controllers.

The EL34 version of the 5150 is important because Van Halen's groundbreaking early work relied exclusively on heavily-modified Marshall Super Lead heads, which used EL34s. Compared with 6L6s, EL34s have a slightly compressed frequency response and a more aggressive clip, making this new head the perfect weapon for achieving authentic vintage Van Halen sounds, as well as Eddie's

capable of sparkling cleans, with enough gain for mildly-driven blues sounds. Channel 2's higher gain is perfect for crunch and classic rock leads, while Channel 3 launches into the stratosphere with gain levels that are cheerfully insane, yet works a clever magic trick by retaining most of the dynamics that are often lost at such extremes. This means the 5150 sounds properly cranked up, even at quite low practice levels. The EVH sounds good with any guitar but a beefy PAF-type humbucker brings the amp to life.

EVH's 5150 III 50W EL34 is a highly-effective weapon for the modern rock and metal player that puts tone before unnecessary complexity. It's also compact and an ideal travelling amp while the addition of MIDI gives it pro-standard versatility. It's not cheap, but the features, build quality and tone make it worth the money.

Nick Guppy

PERFECT FOR ACHIEVING VINTAGE VAN HALEN SOUNDS

dual concentric pots; channel 3 (lead) gets its own dedicated EQ. A global presence control on the front panel and a global resonance control on the rear panel tune the power amplifier's high and low frequency response to taste. Other features include a headphone outlet and a series effects loop, which is footswitchable using the supplied four-button switch, together with a separate preamp out. The 5150 EL34 also takes MIDI program change commands, so

more refined and defined modern tone. Like all EVH products, the 50W is beautifully designed and constructed, featuring a solid steel chassis trimmed in black and anodised gold with EVH's trademark stripes over the front panel. Inside, most of the components live on high-quality printed circuit boards, with typically clean layout and minimal wiring for improved reliability.

Sat firmly in hot-rodged Plexi territory, the 5150's channel 1 is

1 STRIPES
The EVH stripes in eye-catching black and gold mark this head out as something special

2 MIDI
In addition to using the four-button footswitch to change channels and toggle the effects loop, it accepts MIDI program change commands

3 DUAL CONCENTRIC KNOBS
Dual-concentric knobs for channel 1 and 2 gains and master volumes adds flexibility for setting up ideal clean/crunch/lead sounds

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Amp head with all-valve preamp and power amp
OUTPUT: 50W
VALVES: 7x12AX7, 2x EL34
CONTROLS: Channels 1/2 gain, master volume, shared low mid and high. Channel 3 gain, low, mid, high, master volume. Global presence and resonance, 4/8/16 ohm speaker impedance switch
SOCKETS: Guitar in, effects send/return, preamp out, headphones out, footswitch in, MIDI in, speaker out x2
WEIGHT: 15.7kg
DIMENSIONS: [HxWxD] 240x510x290mm
CONTACT: Fender Musical Instruments GB1 0845 3051122
www.evhgear.com

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