



TODD SHARP®
AMPLIFIERS

**JOAT 20
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We have been waiting for Todd's amplifiers for a long time. Working as a musician and amp tech in Nashville has kept him busy enough, but he has finally put some designs together and gone into production. He called us right away to arrange a review, which will be one of if not the first to appear in print.

Todd's amp is everything we anticipated — smooth, artfully designed and assembled, robust and flawlessly toneful. At 20 watts it will suit the needs of pro players and casual enthusiasts alike, and the well-conceived tone-shaping features of the amp provide enough variation to make this amp very versatile.

From left to right the controls are as follows:
Input 1&2, Bite, Volume, Attitude, Low Cut, Reverb Drive,
Tone and Level, Tremolo Speed and Depth, High Cut.

The Bite control functions as you might imagine, acting as a kind of Presence control with a softer attack in the down position.



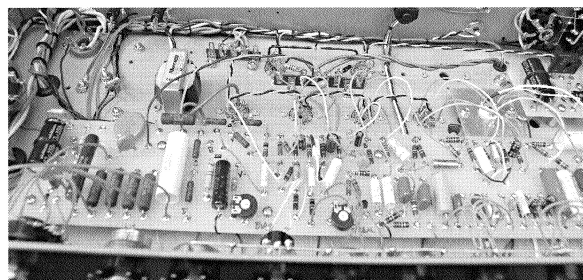
Attitude is a useful and interesting control that produces a softer



tone that gradually intensifies

as you rotate the control clockwise. Low Cut controls bass response nicely. The reverb controls are very useful, enabling you to shape the reverb effect, and the tremolo is excellent via the speed and depth controls. High Cut acts as a filter for treble tones. Combined, these controls allow you to acquire a vivid clean tone and a tougher variation that do a nice job of covering all the different variations of the amp in terms of feel, presence and drive. The amp stays relatively clean through five on the volume control, progressively becoming thicker and more overdriven from 6-10. This isn't what we would call a high gain amp, but the overdriven tones are vivid and plenty tough enough for rock & roll.

Most important for you to know, there isn't a bad tone to be found in Sharp's amp — they all work brilliantly whether clean or dirty. There is a certain level of sophistication at work here that sets this amplifier apart from the



ordinary no matter how you set the controls. This is a very touch-sensitive amplifier, one that brings out the best in your playing with very little extra effort.

Sharp's amp utilizes a pair of EL84s and the soundstage is vivid and very lively. You'll love the variations you can acquire from the controls, and the feel of the amplifier, which is tactile and dripping with tone. All frequencies are given their due, from rich bass response to vivid midrange and a silky treble quality that is never harsh or jagged. The 20 watt volume level is also perfect if a little deceiving. This amp sounds louder than the usual 20 watts and the 2x12 configuration really helps in this regard. The pair of Celestion blues loaded in the cabinet no doubt contribute to the extraordinary tone of the amp.

Todd Sharp has made his entry into the boutique amp world comparable to his stature as a guitar player, and we expected nothing less. When you can play the guitar like Todd can, designing an amp is almost cheating. Quest forth...**TO**

www.toddsharpamps.com (615) 953 0090

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