

Vox MV50

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I've written a few articles for the Songsmith on electric guitars I own, each one giving me a different voice to write songs with. I'd just read an article in an old Guitarist magazine (March 2017) where the frontman and guitarist of Southern-rock band, Blackberry Smoke gave ten top tips for songwriting. Tip number six was to write on different instruments! So, I find every time I pick up a different guitar its like a different voice and I get different songs!



However, I can't pull out my 120w Peavey Rockmaster, or 60w tube amp, or even the 15w Egnater Tweaker these days due to my shoulder injuries. So, what I can play gigs with is a lighter amp, so light I can carry it and its speaker in my backpack!! I'm talking about the Vox MV50 Head and Vox BC108 Black Cab Guitar Speaker Cabinet.

I'd read good reviews of the amp, so when I was visiting GH Music (Now Macron Music) in Melbourne back in October 2018 I saw a Vox MV50 Head going for \$245 I grabbed it – which annoyed the salesgirl as she said she'd had her eye on it. They usually retail for about \$260-\$330.

When I got home, I used the amp with headphones but wasn't that impressed. Then I read that you could put the amp through a Vox BC108 Black Cab Guitar Speaker Cabinet, which is 25w and 26 x 20 x 28.5 cm in size. I'd ordered the BC 108 from Turramurra Music for \$125 and when I plugged them in... Wow! Such an amazing sound for such a tiny combo. I was soooo impressed. Then I spotted the lead guitarist at the Wagons gig I went to at the Lansdowne Hotel, before CoVid struck, playing one and the sound was full. Shoulder problem with amps was solved.

So, if you have a space problem, or like me a carrying problem, then this could be the amp that helps you a lot. The reviews of the Vox MV50 Head have been very enthusiastic:

"Vox's new MV50 heads are not much bigger than a stompbox and come in three different flavours: Clean, AC and Rock. AC is intended to capture the sound of the classic Vox AC30, and this is the model we're looking at today."

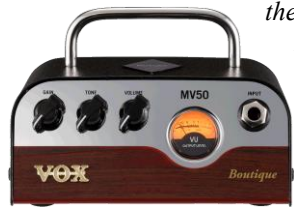
While Class D power delivers a maximum of 50 watts into a four-ohm load, the real revolution is in the preamp. This MV50 use valves - not just any valve but a new design called the Nutube 6P1: a clever bit of lateral thinking by Vox owners, Korg (that uses a tiny fraction of the energy of a 12AX7).

Along with a single input jack, this amp has three mini chickenhead knobs, used for gain, tone and volume. The rear panel features a speaker-emulated headphone/recording output and an EQ switch that changes the output from a flat response, intended for large cabinets, to an enhanced bass lift that works with the MV50's partner cabinet, the specially designed BC108.

The MV50 AC nails the AC30's elusive midrange and chiming treble, together with proper class A grind at higher gain settings, which is perfect for The Beatles, Tom Petty and Rory Gallagher material and not far off Brian May at full tilt. We really think this could turn out to be one of the most popular modern modern Vox designs. There's no channel switching, digital effects or loops, but what you do get is serious tone that holds its own in any environment with enough power for recording, rehearsal and small gigs, in a package no bigger and no more expensive than a high-quality stompbox." (<https://www.musicradar.com/reviews/vox-mv50-ac-head>)

"Designed with an emphasis on analog, VOX's MV50 combines classic amplifier design with new and innovative production techniques to produce a miniature amplifier with truly monstrous sound. Boasting an incredible 50 watts of power, this one-pound package serves up serious guitar tone that's reminiscent of your favorite old tube amps. With speaker & line/headphone outputs, the MV50 is perfect for the stage, at home, or in the studio for direct recording."

Nu Tube Technology: The MV50 is equipped an all-analog pre-amp circuit that features Nutube, a revolutionary new vacuum tube that produces authentic tube tone at a fraction of the size. By taking advantage of this incredible new technology, VOX's engineers were able to design a true, miniature tube amplifier. Beyond the inclusion of Nutube, the pre-amp circuit in the MV50 features a staggering number of analog components that effectively reproduce the dynamic character of a traditional tube amp. Paired with this innovative pre-amp circuit is a reliable and efficient Class D power amp that has been specifically designed for the MV50. From warm, natural cleans to dynamic overdrives, this power amp has been engineered to respond to the nuances of your guitar and, of course, your technique." (<http://guitarworldcityarcade.com.au/vox-mv50-ac-50w-amplifier-head/>)



The above are just two of the overwhelmingly positive reviews of the Vox MV50 Head, which comes in a variety of styles not just the AC model. Maybe an electric, like the Fender Duo-Sonic combined with a

Vox MV50 Head & BC 108 speaker might be the new set of tools to spark a new round of songwriting. If you look around you might even score all three for less than a thousand dollars!

