

Vase® NEWS

VICTORY AUDIOPHONIC SOUND EQUIPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2009

Hello again from the team at VASE. As promised last month, Noel Bourne will fill you in on the progress being made on the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe and the latest on the Kevin Borich Signature Amplifier. We've also got lots of reader feedback to share as well the names of (some of) last month's bands in case you were stumped. We'll start with Noel Bourne's pictures of Gary Broadhurst (who assembled the original VASE Trendsetters) as he assembled the first of our new Trendsetter 60 Deluxe amplifiers. He follows with a brief summary of the amplifier's specifications, with photos of the completed head cabinet to be in the next newsletter



Custom wound Australian manufactured power and output transformers are mounted to chassis by Gary

Preamp board completed

Heater wiring done

Gary pictured performing the final wiring



Under chassis view of completed wiring.



Gary proudly pictured with completed preproduction amplifier

Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe Head Brief Specifications

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Front Panel</p> <p>Bright Channel
High and Low sensitivity inputs-6.3mm jack metal hex bezel type</p> <p>Volume
Treble with pull switch for Bright function
Middle
Bass</p> <p>Normal Channel
High and Low sensitivity inputs-6.3mm jack metal hex bezel type
Treble with pull switch for Bright function
Bass</p> <p>Vibrato (Global)
Speed
Depth with rotary Vibrato on function</p> <p>Power on indicator- long life flush mounted neon type</p> <p>Standby/On switch rotary type</p> <p>Solid aluminium knobs- dual grub screw type</p> | <p>Rear Panel</p> <p>Integrated IEC power socket with main fuse and power rocker switch</p> <p>HT fuse
Vibrato foot switch 6.3mm jack socket
Ohm select rotary switch 4, 8 & 16 ohm-recessed screwdriver adjustable</p> <p>Two(2) loudspeaker sockets Speakon combo type accepting Speakon or jack type connectors</p> |
| <p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>Tubes
12AX7 x 4
EL34 x 2</p> <p>Chassis is 1.6mm powder coated aluminium with integrated stand offs and nutserts.
Fascia is 1.6mm powder coated steel.
Discrete recessed output tube mounting plate.
Spring type output tube retainers.
Custom wound Australian manufactured transformers.
Two pack durable screen printing.</p> | |

A robust custom head cabinet will be fabricated in house featuring the original Vase vinyl pattern, logo, piping, rear and underside vent panels, feet and Two(2) top mounted "D" handles.

The Vase Kevin Borich Signature Amplifier- An Update

As detailed in the last Vase newsletter we are working with the iconic guitarist Kevin Borich to prototype a new high powered VASE amplifier to meet Kevin's needs. Brief preliminary specifications are a no frills workhorse amplifier being a "footswitchable" dual channel, with tube driven spring reverb.



Kevin prefers a "clean" amp with ample headroom relying on his outboard effects to achieve his distinctive sound. Output tubes will be KT88's.



Transformers and choke have been custom wound here in Australia and these substantial components are pictured here prior to mounting in prototype.

All things going to plan the next newsletter should feature the completed prototype amplifier and hopefully Kevin himself trialling it.

The Big Jam



Did you catch The Big Jam? As part of the launch of QUT's IMP (Independent Music Project), Brisbane musicians were invited to take part in a jam that would last 150 hours. From August 31 to September 7, bands played continually at the new QUT recording studio at New Farm with the finale act being transported to the River Stage at Brisbane's Botanical Gardens.

Equipment provided by Peter Pittendreich of General Backline Hire included - you guessed it- an assortment of VASE equipment. You can see more pictures of the event by going to this link: <http://implabs.net/wp-content/plugins/dm-albums/dm-albums.php?curdir=/wp-content/images/albums/bigjam/>

FEEDBACK

Here are some of your comments and questions addressed by the VASE team. Graeme Whitehouse chats with Tony Fetherston from Western Australia about his rare VASE amp and with Guy Mitchell of Newcastle regarding dealers and pricing. Harry Lloyd-Williams responds to a query from Conservatorium student Ryan Potter regarding the possibility of joining the VASE resurrection.

Hi Guys,
Thanks so much for the newsletters, enjoying them a lot. I have a query:
I'm rebuilding a showman and would dearly love a schematic. Any ideas where I might get hold of one?
All the best,
Tony Fetherston, WA

If you could send me a photo of the front and rear and preferably one of the circuit boards I could probably match it with one of the circuits we've plotted. Not too many of the original amps were identical but there were enough similarities to be able to work out where you need to head with your rebuild. And if you send me some good photos and your shirt size with an address, we'll send you free T-shirt!

Graeme
Hey looove the idea of the t-shirt - 1 or maybe xl!
OK here's some of what I have. Got some more of the internals but see how we go with these first. My main dilemma is the output valves - I'm guessing at 6L6's.
It was a bit of an electrical wreck when I got it. Valves had been put in randomly, resistors cooked and so on. Have worked on it and just about got it going but would love to have it at original specs. And it would be good to know a little of the history of the model.
Cheers,
Tony

editors note: anyone out there able to help with this?



Hi Tony.
The amp is rare. I have a vague memory of seeing one other and I can't remember where. We have nothing comparable in our reference stock so I can't really offer you much circuit advice.

We have a couple of Bassman amps that appear similar. Most of them have KT88 tubes but I'd suggest, given the age, that it would be just as likely the amp would originally have been fitted with 6L6. Please keep us up to date with your amp and if you ever decide to sell it you know who to call first right?

If you decide you need to take it to a technician to sort it out I could recommend one. We have a couple of amps that he worked on before we owned them, his work is excellent.

Please send us your postal address and we'll get that T-shirt on it's way. Regards, Graeme.

There was a lot wrong with it, in retrospect it was a wreck, but I took a punt as when I opened it up it was so well made. Resistors burned out and so on but transformers fortunately ok.

I've recapped the amp and replaced all the valves (there's a story in itself!). When I bought it a random assortment of valves had been placed in any spot to give some appearance of normality. Anyhow puddled my way through and then took a punt that the output valves were 6L6s. From memory I worked this out from the pins assignments.

Anyway put it all together and turned on. No smoke and worked quite well with good sound for a minute or so then distortion ...turns out my matched pairs of 6L6s, weren't. So took it a tech (P&N electronics) as I needed to have the bias reset, which I couldn't do. He put in a matched set readjusted the bias and we are in business! Sweetest sound and quiet! We have a goer!

So the plan is to let my son and friend try it out (I don't play, they do 3-4 times a week) and if they like it and all goes well I will restore the cabinet. If they say "nice but no thanks" then I will gladly pass it on to a good home! In fact when son inevitably tires of it I will pass it on. So I guess it is just a matter of when so prepare a spot on the shelf. The design, build quality and sound is so impressive that I am now starting to think about looking for another VASE to restore. The size of the power and output transformers alone give a clue to build quality.

Thanks for t-shirt and all the best with the endeavors, Tony



Tony's son with his "new" amp

Update from Tony:

My son has now adopted my VASE amp and sold his Fender - he liked the sound so much! Sigh, no offer yet of paying the old man for all his hard work. He wouldn't even let me restore the old battered cabinet, either: likes the old battered look. (ed's note to VASE team: how about a Battered model? Of course like battered jeans, it would be dearer...)

Hi Carol,

Firstly I wanted to say the monthly Vase emails have been great! Its all very exciting.
I have owned a Trendsetter 40 for four years now and I am very proud to use it. Its always my first choice for gigs or recording.
I am wondering if there is any way I could be involved with the team at Vase? I would love to learn and get more experience with audio equipment.
I am in my last semester of study for a degree in Music Technology and have worked with electronics and guitar effects, but would really like to learn more.



Ryan Potter, Student of Musical Technology, Griffith University, and his band The Scraps, guitar and violin duo

Even if you could use someone around the place for menial tasks...

Thank you for your time. Please email me or call me on xxxx xxx xxx if you'd like some extra hands around the place. Regards, Ryan Potter, Brisbane

Hi Ryan

We will have lots of different positions in the near future. In the meantime, send me your resume and maybe a story about your VASE Trendsetter including a picture. Best regards, Harry

Thank you Harry,

I've attached a resume and I hope you keep me in mind when positions become available.

I bought my trendsetter 40 in early 2006 when I was 16 from Tym's guitars. It was not expensive but it took me a long time to save up and I have never looked back. The amp has become an integral part of my sound and I always receive comments about how nice it sounds.

Recently I replaced the speakers that were in there (one was very old and could have been original but the other was newer) with vintage 30s and it is the best it has ever sounded. I tried several different amplifiers recently at Black Box recording studio but I came back to the Vase. I've attached the best photo I could find of it with me playing in my band.

Also thanks for the newsletters! Best regards, Ryan

And finally, this letter from Guy Mitchell:

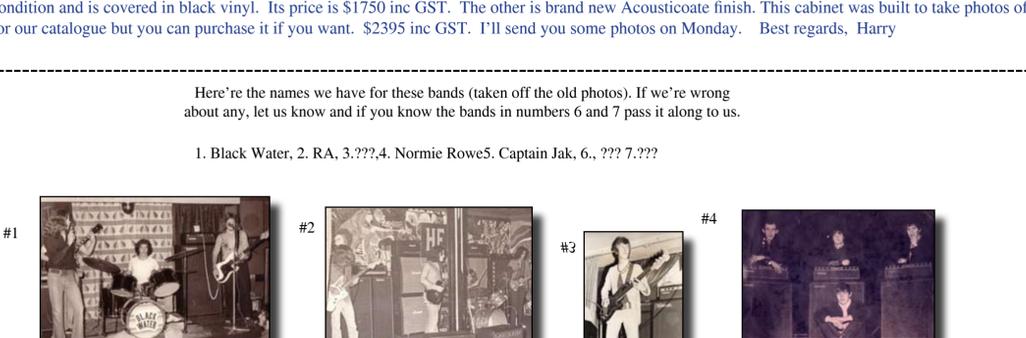
Could you please advise me of your dealers in Newcastle or Sydney, also send me some information and prices on your "8 x 10" passive bass speaker boxes. I played through one at GREAZEFEST and I'm totally hooked. I'm not sure what head the sound guy used but it was an awesome rig. Guy Mitchell

Hi Guy, We don't actually have a dealer network established. Each box is custom built at the moment. Freight to Newcastle isn't so hard though. The V810 is around the 2400 mark depending on finish, be it vinyl or acousticoate, which is a very hard wearing polymer coating. Order time is around 6 weeks. Regards, Graeme Whitehouse

Hi Guy, Further to Graeme's email, we do have two 8x10 cabinets in stock. One is a unit that went on tour with Small Mercies. It is in "as new" condition and is covered in black vinyl. Its price is \$1750 inc GST. The other is brand new Acousticoate finish. This cabinet was built to take photos of for our catalogue but you can purchase it if you want. \$2395 inc GST. I'll send you some photos on Monday. Best regards, Harry

Here're the names we have for these bands (taken off the old photos). If we're wrong to be wrong, let us know and if you know the bands in numbers 6 and 7 pass it along to us.

1. Black Water, 2. RA, 3.???,4. Normie Rowe5. Captain Jak, 6., ??? 7.???



That's all for this month. You can see the range of interest in, and appreciation for, VASE products: from veteran players to young up and coming musicians. If you have pictures or stories of your own VASE history we'd love to receive them. We'll be back in a month with the next newsletter, but the team is always here if you have questions or feedback in the meantime. Reach any of us at <mailto://info@vase.com.au> and remember to pass along your newsletters to anyone who might be interested in following the VASE resurrection. Register to receive the newsletter at: <http://www.vase.com.au>

Bye for now, CAROL



PS Here's one of my 70's big hair moments: