

Vase® NEWS

VICTORY AUDIOPHONIC SOUND EQUIPMENT

October 2009

Welcome back, VASE fans. This month **Graeme Whitehouse** fills us in on VASE product outings for September with **General Backline Hire**. **Paul Holland** writes about VASE in the blogs, we bring you up to date on progress concerning production and release of the VASE line and as usual, we welcome and feature your feedback.

VASE Speaker Cabinets All Over the Place in September!

Graeme Whitehouse

As part of our R & D we've formed a close relationship with Queensland's best backline rental company, **General Backline Hire** www.gbh.net.au. Owned and operated by well-known Brisbane rock identity **Peter Pittendreigh** (Pitt to his mates), General Backline Hire has experienced exponential growth over the last few years and you can see their stock of high-end backline at the most prominent gigs, festivals, live TV shows and major sporting events; not just in Queensland but on-tour nationally. So, we were obviously stoked when Pitt approached us two years ago with a plan to be involved in the development of our speaker cabinets. He needed to increase stock with some high-quality yet affordable speakers and we wanted to see some product out working to prove itself. What initially began as a friendly mutual arrangement has now evolved into a great thing for both of us. Nobody predicted just how popular the bass cabinets would be; they're now turning up on tech-specs for touring artists and festivals, and Pitt has expanded his stock to include the whole 10" range, including 210, 410, 610 & 810 speaker cabinets as well as the soon-to-be-classic 412 Greenback guitar quad (and our prototype V115). We look forward to soon being able to get some amps into Pitt's stock, just so he can stop nagging me for them

Here's just a few places you may have seen a VASE speaker cabinet in September :

Brisbane Festival Spiegelent for 3 weeks - VASE V610; UK band Sticky Fingers - VASE V810; Settlement event at Redcliffe - VASE V810; Christian rock band Reliant -V810; Brisbane Festival Racecourse Road St Party - 2 x VASE V810; Paul Dempsey band (Something for Kate) Mini 3 show tour - 2 x V210 Sounds of Spring, JJJ televised event - VASE V610 and VASE V810; Brisbane Festival West End Live V610. There were lots of other high profile bands around but we're not name droppers!! (and some of them are endorsed by others..ssshhh..) If you need to hire some backline for an upcoming tour or maybe you want to try a VASE V-Series speaker you can reach Pitt at pitt@gbh.net.au, +61 7 3388 3619 or 0409 479 880.

VASE in the Blogs

Paul Holland

Since 2006 I've been featuring VASE updates and stories on my blog site Erratic Musings <http://erraticmusings.typepad.com>. During that time I've had upward of 10,000 hits on the VASE articles and quite a few really great comments. Here are just a few. The last one is from Tony Troughton, the grandson of VASE founder Tony Troughton.

mike naysmith, N.Z. said:

Hi Vase fans, I'm using a "Trendsetter 100" which I call the Marshall Crusher. The power of these amps is awesome and tone wise I can get anything from a Fender twin to a Marshall stack (both of which I've owned) with ease. Amps come and go but the Vase is the one amp you hang on to! And a great looking amp too. Obviously quality all the way, inside and out. When you've got a Vase, you don't want anything else. And these days of clones and plastic, it's just nice to know you're dealing with the real deal. All the best in your endeavours and I will keep a keen watch on developments.

Sol said:

Hey Paul, I've just had the pleasure of touring with the Trendsetter 100 and quad box. Absolutely phenomenal. Silken, warm tones with plenty of grunt and clarity. An instrument in itself. Well done for bringing such a quality amp back onto the market. Can't wait to hear the 50! Thanks Paul, Harry and all involved. Shannon Sol Carroll, Band of Frequencies. Afro Dizzi Act.

Steven Michael said:

Hi , I have found this site and just wanted to say that I have a Trendsetter 60 head with 4*12 quad box which I have owned for the last 20 years. It was used extensively with my band in high school and when all the other amps blew up or gave up the Vase came through all the time. Our old band recently got together for a 'revival' and the Vase still sounded as raw and punchy as it always had. As I am still gigging full time the Vase came with me that night to the function I was playing at and I had to stop myself from just looking at the amp after each song on guitar at just how amazing the sound was! I now try to find the room in the van to bring the Vase as often as I can, as the modern smaller amp I use just isn't the same. I could never part with my EH panel van or my Vase. They sure did things right in the 60's. Steve.

Tony Troughton said:

Hi guy's my name is Tony Troughton I'm Andy's (Tony Troughton's) grandson. Just a quick message of thanks for bringing back a legendary line of amps my grandfather made. Though modest (ha), he would be proud to know that the amps he built back in the 50s,60s and 70s would be respected with such vigour. If anybody is interested in his background a book titled "It was only rock and roll but they loved it" a history on the early Brisbane rock scene is available and is a great read. Hope anybody that has the balls to buy home grown equipment loves the outstanding quality as much as myself and many others , Thanks for believing in his vision and brilliance. Cheers ,Tony.

In final preparation for VASE going into full production mode, the VASE Trendsetter 60 Deluxe will be going out to a few festivals for some final road testing. We expect to have the full release early next year. Pricing and specifications will be announced in next month's issue of VASE NEWS.



Here are some more of your comments and questions addressed by the VASE team. Graeme Whitehouse answers questions from Phil Okerstrom about his VASE Hybrid 100, and has some information for Michael regarding his VASE Bassman 100.

Hi Carol,

i have just resurrected my Vase amp after FIVE years.... it sounds fantastic i had forgotten just how good this amp is i have had it for almost 20 years and have used it in every band i have played in....

The amp that i have is the Vase Professional 100 "Hybrid solid state design" with two KT88's and another smaller valve. Do you know much about my particular amp? is there anything you could tell me about the circuit ... is the pre amp exclusively a transistor one... i read somewhere that transistors can be used in special configurations to mimic Valves is there anything like that going on? would you know what impedance my speaker box should be i am currently running a twin box @ 4 ohms

i think its a great amp i would like to know more about it... how does it compare next to the Trendsetter line?

i have a Lenard SGB200 fully restored which sounds fantastic but i honestly think the Vase is better!

cheers, Phil Okerstrom

Hi Phil,

Graeme Whitehouse from VASE here. Thanks for your email, it's great to hear from people who really love their VASE amps.

Ok, so, the Hybrid 100. In the 70's the American and English amps were becoming more affordable due to the removal of prohibitive import duties and that meant the Aussie amps were becoming not the cool thing to have. Transistor technology was booming along and there were a lot of people playing with transistor front ends in musical instrument amps. One of the most popular of that period were the Musicman amps with transistor pre-amps and a Fender style output stage.

So, essentially your amp has a Trendsetter 100 output and a fairly effective transistor front end. There's not a lot of them around and the ones that do exist all seem to have the legendary VASE reliability. We don't have any in our reference stock so I can't offer you much of an insight into it I'm afraid. What I can tell you is that any hybrid owners that have ever contacted me love the sound. I guess the thought process was always that the "tube" sound came from the output and if you could drive it with a solid-state preamp then that should be a great clean amp with tube tones. I guess it must work! The small tube between your KT88s is the Phase Splitter. It's the final stage before the power tubes. I believe your preamp would be entirely solid state. Unfortunately I couldn't tell you about the output. I would assume 8 ohms to be about right but if it sounds good at 4 then there's no problem. The good thing about tubes is that you won't do any damage with incorrect speaker loads.

Kind regards, Graeme Whitehouse
Victory Audiophonic Sound Equipment

Edit since Phil's email above, another Hybrid owner, Tim Robbins, has done an excellent forensic examination of the VASE Hybrid PA100, it's posted here on this excellent website - <http://ozvalveamps.elands.com/vase/vasepa100-sn116-100timrobbins090319.pdf>

Hi Carol,

I have a VASE Bassman 100 that I would like to get running again. The back of the amp has a 6V6GT sticker (hand written) on it, but it currently has 6CA7 (EL34?) tubes in it. The preamp tubes are 12ax7 and one 6CG7 (phase inverter I suspect.)

I am not sure which are the original spec! Do you know of any Vase fans that will know the tube compliment for this amp? Are there schematics out on the web? I would like to replace the electrolytic caps and check the resistors for drift/failure.

Thanks Michael

Hi Mike,

Graeme from VASE here. Depending on how old your Bassman is it most likely originally had KT88 tubes fitted, which essentially are the same impedance and pin-out as a 6L6. However, 6V6 sounds like a bit of a weird one. There are some getting around with 4 x EL34 output tubes although generally that was a more common tube set for Trendsetter guitar amps. We've seen them with all sorts of things stuck in there though so nothing would surprise me.

Do you have any photos you could send us so we may be able to give you a better idea?

Regards, Graeme Whitehouse

Victory Audiophonic Sound Equipment

Here are another couple of pictures from our archives. Send along any you can find from your past . We'll give you your 15 minutes of fame!



That's all for this month. In November we're going to an HTML format with a new look for VASE NEWS. We have a new addition to the VASE collection which we'll reveal. The web site is being designed and will be ready on or before the launch date. Keep those letters and pictures coming!

Till next month, Carol