

Vase® NEWS

VICTORY AUDIOPHONIC SOUND EQUIPMENT

January 2010

Hope your New Year is off to a good start. We're excited at all that 2010 (are you saying "two thousand ten" or "twenty/ten"?) should bring for VASE.

By late January, the new website should be up and running. **Matt Fairhurst** is working on that and we can look forward to end-user public forums, product information pages with full details and photos, an online store, extended VASE history and of course the latest news.

This month we're filling you in on the early bird who will receive the VASE Commemorative Trendsetter 60 with the lowest serial number being released. We show some pictures of an unusual old VASE rig, and share some of your feedback with your fellow readers.

We have an online form for placing your orders for the initial release of the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe, which can be found below.

As always, if anyone would like a copy of previous newsletters, drop me a line at carol@vase.com.au.

Craig Was First in Line!



Craig Harris, owner and creator of Neon Studios, a music venue that combines rehearsal and recording facilities as well as an on site cafe, has had the distinction of being the first VASE enthusiast to get his deposit in for the run of Commemorative Trendsetter 60's. He's elected to get a white rig and will be able to boast the lowest serial number released (00002 - with 00001 making it's home at the VASE Collection archives). Craig has this to say about his commitment to music and the music scene in Brisbane:

"As an experienced musician of 33 years, it has been my vision to create a venue that has warmth and appeal to all ages. Over many years, I found myself frustrated trying to find a venue for my own band, let alone being able to recommend any. For me it's all about the fellowship and providing a place that inspires and encourages true creativity. Mentoring young people, supporting musicians and just giving the old 'rock 'n roll' guys like me a place to re-connect is what Neon Studios is all about."

It sounds like 00002 has found a good home! Read more about Neon Studios here: <http://www.neonrehearsals.com/>



Orders Coming In!

Well if Santa didn't get you everything you wished for, it's time to take matters into your own hands. There are still some of the "history in the making" VASE first release Commemorative Trendsetter 60's available.

Word has gotten out through some blogs and we are getting requests from these. We want to make sure our loyal VASE subscribers get in first.

\$400 Reserves Your Trendsetter 60 Deluxe Rig

\$3990 will get you this first offering. The offer includes white or black vinyl covered, 60 watt, all valve hand built amplifier, an open back speaker with 3 x Celestion speakers, Finnish birch cabinets covered in original vinyl with original patterned VASE grillcloth.

In addition you'll receive custom built VASE flight cases for head and speaker plus Trendsetter Deluxe 60 Shirt and Certificate of Authentication.

Delivery will be in March.

To reserve your Trendsetter Rig go to this secure site:

<https://www.creatop.com.au/vase/machform/view.php?id=1>

Showroom Visitor



Chassis design differs from most

Sometimes old VASE amps are brought in to us by their owners for various reasons. This was a remarkable one, a Splitsound with unusual inputs, labelled *guitar*, *split sound*, *echolette* and *solo*. Also the grill cloth and the shape of the speaker cabinet are reminiscent of a Fender Bandmaster, which is of the same era. We snapped some shots while it was here.

Unfortunately we can't remember why it came to visit or who its owner is, so if he sees this maybe he could refresh our memories!



Fender Bandmaster inspired??

The amp above is a candidate for our broken badge replacement offer. We're modifying that offer a little. If you send in your broken badge so we can determine the right one with which to replace it, we will send you a replacement badge *as well as returning your broken badge to you so you can hang on to it.*

Mail your broken badge to:
VASE PO Box 6008
Upper Mt. Gravatt QLD 4122



Bruce Draper takes time out from his travels in India to give us much appreciated praise and **Graeme Whitehouse** and **Noel Bourne** answer a reader's questions concerning the Commemorative Trendsetter 60

Hi there Carol and co,

I'm really pleased that you guys are getting it all going along SO well.

Its great news for everyone involved, and those of us on the outside looking on with such interest.

I'm not of the vintage to have purchased any of the original amps back in the day but I have owned a couple of them for perhaps 10 years or more. One of them is a 'Va'(plastic badge broken) Bass-man 80 head that I purchased at an auction for \$150 in a faulty condition. I had it repaired, decided it was a keeper, and then learnt of the history of Vase on the Internet and realised just how little of Brisbane's rock and roll history I was aware of.

The other one was purchased off an older gent down in Warrick QLD with a Leslie rotating speaker cab for \$400. I was after the cab and the amp was just a bonus, but it turned out to be one of my all time favorite amps and I've never heard an amp sound better through the Leslie. It has a glassy sweet clean and beautiful later stage break-up. It has never played up on me or broken down (unlike the other one) and is in better overall condition. It is also a bass-man 80 but its a lot older and has a grey vinyl cover which looks homemade. I wish I had asked more about it, but my mind, as I mentioned was on the cab.

I'm in India traveling at the moment but will definitely send you guys through when I return, and perhaps even bring them on down to learn some more (if thats cool), let you guys have a look, have a play on the new ones, and share in some of the nostalgia at this exciting time for Vase amps.

Keep up the good work. Thanks for the update.

Cheers

Bruce Draper

Following last month's announcement that the Commemorative Trendsetter 60's were being released, one VASE subscriber wrote asking succinctly:

Any sound bites?
What are the layout controls?
PTP wiring?

Wisely, I deferred to **Graeme Whatehouse** and **Noel Bourne**, two of the VASE team.

No, there're no soundbites at the moment. We're not totally certain we're keen on the concept yet since we can't control what people listen to them on but I think it's probably something we'll have to look at.

Please see Noel's construction description below to answer your other questions. Thanks for your interest, don't hesitate to get in touch with any other queries.

Regards, Graeme Whitehouse

Noel adds his bit:

Layout Controls:

Same as original TS60.

Two independent channels, Bright and Normal, each with a separate High and Low sensitivity input.

Bright channel controls are Volume, Treble with Pull Boost function, Middle and Bass.

Normal channel controls are Volume, Treble with Pull Boost function and Bass.

Vibrato (Tremelo) Speed and Depth control with on/off function. This is global across both channels. Also features rear socket for connection of Vibrato footswitch for remote control of on/off function.

Flush mounted Red neon Power indicator.

Rotary switch , two position, to switch between Standby and On mode.

Rear panel features IEC fused power socket, Power On/Off, HT fuse, Recessed Ohm select (4,8,16), Two paralleled Nuetrik Speakon combo connectors allowing use of Speakon or 6.3mm jack type loudspeaker cables.

PTP Wiring

The original TS60 Deluxe used generic style "off the shelf" board which was cut to size and fitted with eyelets to which the preamp, phase splitter, vibrato and PSU components were fitted and hand wired from this board to the valve sockets and potentiometers.

Using the same techniques the reissue TS60 Deluxe uses custom fibreglass boards manufactured in house and fitted with eyelets, hand populated with components and hand wired to valve sockets and potentiometers as per the original.

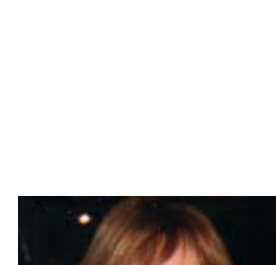
Some components are also mounted on tag strips as was the case with the original.

The original Ferguson brand transformer set was reverse engineered and the reissue set is manufactured in Australia to these specifications including grain orientated output stack.

By studious reverse engineering of the original TS60 Deluxe, the reissue TS60 Deluxe faithfully recreates the original tones, performance and nuances of the original.

The TS60 Deluxe reissue is completely hand wired by **Gary Broadhurst** who hand wired and assembled the original TS60's all those years ago.

Cheers, Noel



That's it for this month. Keep your pictures, questions, suggestions and especially your compliments coming. Just kidding: all feedback positive or otherwise is warmly welcomed and carefully considered by the VASE team.

See you next month,

Carol