

August 2011

Noel Bourne represented VASE at the annual Gearfest held recently at Tyms Guitars. We have some pictures and a report on that. A meeting at the event with VASE enthusiast Tony Stanton generated more get togethers which are detailed below. Paul Holland once again reminds us to keep in touch via "Social Media."

Gearfest Held at Tyms

AGGH Brisbane Gearfest

AGGH is the Australian Guitar Gear Heads web forum featuring topics and discussion on all things guitar, amplifier and related topics. Their members held an event at Tym Guitars (shown left and below) in Brisbane on Saturday 6th August.



Gearfest had the AGGH members bringing along all manner of vintage and not so vintage guitars and amplifiers together with some homebrew amplifiers put all through their paces.

Aussie amplifier manufacturers Amwatts and Valvetone also had their ranges of amplifiers on display and were demonstrated... Vase already had their amplifiers there as Tym Guitars is Vase's retail Brisbane home..

There were two Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe heads and cabs and the range of bass cabs ...sadly the new Dynabass 1K Bass amplifier head was "MIA" away at a recording session....they just *had* to have it!

Vase also had a completed Trendsetter 60 Deluxe chassis on display allowing those attending to have an inside look.

Noel Bourne, there for Vase called on AGGH member **John Hall** without notice to have a play through the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe and John kindly obliged plugging in his 1983 Schecter and playing for the assembled members.

After the demo one of the AGGH members after seeing the inside of the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe said " *Would it be a fair*



Noel and Trendsetter Deluxe 60 Chassis



Jon Hall has a play

statement to make that the current production amplifier is of superior build quality than the original production amplifier" to which the answer was yes.

Some notable quotes were: "Very impressive as always", "Nice clean cleans", "Nice vibrato", "Are they original or new production amplifiers", "They are on my wish list", "That price includes flight cases".

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Would it be a fair statement to make that the current production amplifier is of superior build quality than the original production amplifier?
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Noel spoke at length with a number of members about the "process" of bringing the original production Trendsetter 60 Deluxe into the current production available today.

Vase gave away Vase lanyards and offered up Vase shirts for door prizes and there was also a Mick Brierley pickup as a door prize.

All in all a great day with great folks and Noel also enjoyed listening to the diverse range of tones from the assembled "flock" of other amplifiers...what *is* the collective noun for a bunch of amplifiers?

Check out :Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe here: <http://www.vase.com.au/index.php/products/amplifiers/trendsetter60>
 AGGH (Aussie Guitar Gear Heads) here:<http://www.guitargear.net.au/discussion/index.php> Tym Guitars here: <http://www.tymguitars.com.au/>

ANS: Yes!

VASE In Social Media



Paul Holland is Managing Director and Principal Consultant of Creativity Well, a company established to provide services to knowledge based and creative industries. He's also one of your VASE Board Members, guiding the reentry of VASE into the marketplace. He continues to encourage us to communicate via the many options now open to us. As always, we're open to contributions. Let us hear from you.

It's been really pleasing to see the number of people who have 'liked' us on Facebook and visited the page. How about staying a little while and posting. We'd love to hear to your VASE stories (past and present) and see pics or vids of you playing your weapon of choice through a VASE.

Over on Twitter we've had lots of visitors but not many followers. Please 'follow' us if you come by.

Naturally with social networks, the more we connect the more we spread our ideas and share our thoughts. We'd like to grow our VASE tribe as big as possible.

Let us know if you think a spot on Google + is a good idea. If we get positive responses we'll put a VASE presence up in the next couple of weeks.

Keep your ears and eyes open for some big announcements about new ways to get your hands on a VASE unit, plus exciting stuff about new products we are planning.

By using our social platforms you can also tell us what you want. Combo units? Different colours? Strange configurations? Social media gives you the chance to talk to us direct as well as starting conversations with other members of the tribe.

So have your say on Facebook and Twitter.

The VASE FB page is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VASE/340145740765>

Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/#!/vaseamps>

Also how about that VASE channel on YouTube? Good idea? If we get enough vids in from you all we'll do it. Let us know your thoughts direct on FB and Twitter or at info@vase.com.au

Cheers Paul

Everything Old is New Again!

Stories like these go a long way towards explaining the enthusiasm and loyalty among VASE fans.

Early model Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe : Notes from Noel Bourne

I thought I had seen all the Vase amplifier models and their variants...I was mistaken!

At the recent AGGH Gearfest held at Tym Guitars in Brisbane I introduced myself to Tony Stanton and whilst chatting he told me he had an original production Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe although he thought it was not sounding as good as it should and further went on to say that it had a pair of KT88's for it's output valves and was not very loud.

Not wishing to see an original production Vase Trendsetter 60 Deluxe out there not sounding as good as I know it should, I invited Tony to bring it into the workshop for me to have a look at it. The first thing that struck me upon sighting the amp was the front panel layout was different in that the speed control for the Vibrato was on the rear panel of the chassis as opposed to being mounted with the Depth control on the front panel.

Putting it on the scope certainly did show some very ugly waveforms and it was way down on power output. Pulling out the valves they certainly were old GEC KT88's and a 6CG7 for the splitter valve as opposed to the more common EL34's and 12AX7 combination seen in the majority of Trendsetter 60 Deluxe's.

Testing of the output valves and the splitter valve showed that they still had good emission and transconductance after all this time. Testing of the three preamp and vibrato valves was another matter...they were in very poor shape and were replaced.

Bias was already good and waveforms were now also clean and symmetrical. Examination of the circuit showed that most components were original with the exception of a bias capacitor and two preamp capacitors. Someone during the amplifiers life had also added a preamp out, tapped from between the preamp and the splitter stages. Needed a pot replaced and a switched input socket cleaned.

In the end very little was needed to get this amp back to it's former glory.

Time for a play....Wow...what a magic sounding amp...outstanding... clean and loud....and when turned up had a nice raunchy tone about it....with that unmistakable Vase sound and what a Vase amp should sound like!

It was priceless to see the smile on Tony's face when he came back, plugged in and had a play after this amp had been consigned to his closet for so long and neglected. I would suggest that this amp was a very early model, perhaps even prototype, prior to the more familiar Trendsetter 60 Deluxe layout and valve lineup. I think Tony will be treasuring this amp for some time to come and giving it a good workout.



Tony Stanton's response:

Dear Noel and Harry.

First of all, I have to thank you both so much for the help and support you have given me over the last few weeks since I met Noel at the QLD GearFest held at TYMS.

Speaking to Noel outside I mentioned I bought a Trendsetter 60 years ago but it hadn't really been used much over the years as it didn't really have that much punch until it was nearly at full volume. I always liked the way it sounded, though I kept explaining I thought it might be because someone had changed the tubes to KT88's at some point and perhaps didn't do a great job on the changeover.

At that point Noel knew something was odd and asked me to bring it over for a look, to which I was more than happy. Once on the bench Noel informed me that it was running up about 12 watts but with some new Pre Amp tubes was now roaring out about 50 watts of clean headroom and at least 70 all told. When I went back to get the amp I was more than a little surprised at the transformation and very, very excited when I heard the old Trendsetter 60 in all its glory.



Another satisfied VASE owner!

At lower volumes the tone is huge, warm and very responsive that has a midrange roll off all of its own, but when pushed all the magic happens after about 1'Oclock. It truly enters a sweet spot and the amp turns into a raging beast. No pedals, all power. Searing lead tones of a truly vintage nature and fantastic smooth chords that never loose there clarity and refuse to turn to mush. Stinging Mids and big tight lows. I was very happy. I own a few amps and I have to say nothing sounds like "this" Amp. It was enlightening to know that there are still some surprises left after years of collecting amps, and I'm happy to report that the Trendsetter 60 is now a centrepiece of that collection after years of "rest". Now, is it's time to shine.

Once you meet Harry and Noel and try one of their new Vase amps you will understand that this is truly a labour of love and commitment for these fellows, and with that comes the support and the confidence in the product that is essential when you're making a lifelong purchase. I wish you all the best in your endeavours and that you keep the Vase flag flying into the future.

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Tony Stanton



Great to hear from you and even better when we can answer your questions or solve your problems. Keep them coming!

Hi, I have recently come into contact with a vintage Vase Trendsetter 40 watt amplifier. My friend works at our local Speedi-Cash (trade old/used items for money) and told me to pop in and have a look at it. The amp is in perfect working order, just a little dusty, but other than that looks to be a total closet case. I haven't managed to look at/find the serial number, but she's old, and very nice. I was just wondering if you guys know of the worth of these old amps, especially in good working order, and any further info on how many were made, how common or rare they are, etc. I should also mention it has the matching cabinet with it. Which looks like a 4x12 but seems to be only a 2x12??Any info you could provide would be highly appreciated

Cheers, Ryan Conway

Hi Ryan Noel from Vase here. The Vase 40 Trendsetter was a very popular amp not all that rare as such. They were hand assembled and wired with an eyelet board the same as all Vase valve amps. Normally used a pair of 6L6 output valves and 12AX7's in the preamp and phase splitter. Some also had reverb. Yes the normal loudspeaker configuration was 2 x 12" loudspeakers in a quad sized cab...the 60 watt version had 3 x 12". Loudspeakers if original could be MSP or if you are lucky Celestion Greenbacks.Typically most did not have serial numbers so can be difficult to date precisely however sometimes there may be a date on the small bias transformer inside the headshell.These amplifiers when operating correctly and serviced do sound so good.Typical value may be \$500 to \$600 maybe more depending on condition. Dont have records of how many units were made.

You are however one lucky son of a gun if you manage to score one at a reasonable price.We would welcome some photos from you. Let me know if there is anything I have missed or if I can be of further assistance as I would be only too happy to help. Cheers, Noel Bourne

Hi Noel, Thankyou very much for the response. So you're saying it isnt a valve amp?? It looks like a valve amp to me?? It certainly wasnt solid state. The amp itself has vibrato. This one also has a serial number - 4031And it does sound very good - extremely loud! Other than that...it's basically just in good condition. Does this further info add any more insight to it? Cheers, Ryan

Hi Ryan, You must have misunderstood my email or I wasn't clear...it is definitely a valve amp...uses a pair of 6L6 output valves and 12AX7 valves in the preamp section.Sorry, don't have any info on the serial numbers but I would guess that the 4031 "might" refer to amplifier number 31 in the production of Trendsetter 40's...just a guess. Maybe late 60's vintage.Yes, great amp and it would be loud and hope you play it loud and proud. Cheers, Noel Bourne



That's all for now. Let us hear from you, we thrive on feedback and like getting to know all of you. Pictures (old and new) are always appreciated (of you, your gear, your pets...) Videos would be even better! Show off a little!

Bye for now, Carol
info@vase.com.au