



## VASE DYNABASS 1K CLASSIC AMPLIFIER & V6-10H SPEAKER CABINET

A BELOVED AUSTRALIAN AMP ICON RECENTLY RETURNED WITH NEW PRODUCTS THAT TAP INTO THE SPIRIT OF OLD WHILE CELEBRATING THE NEW.

BY **PETER HODGSON**

**B**ass amps are generally higher-rated in terms of power than guitar amps. They usually need to be, in order to maintain the kind of headroom and punch required of a bass. But even with this knowledge in the back of your mind, there's a kind of awed hush that washes over you when you realise you're holding a one-thousand-one-hundred watt amp head in your hands. VASE has had a very interesting association with Australian music: the company was founded by Tony Troughton in the 1950s, and his amps were used by all sorts of acts during the 50s and 60s. Tony retired from amp-making in the late 70s and he passed away in 1983. VASE amps were not built for the next 25 years, but the company was reborn thanks to Harry Lloyd-Williams, who has worked in the pro audio industry since 1971 and was the found of Acoustic Technologies. His store became a VASE dealer, and Lloyd-Williams even built his own speaker box to match his VASE amp head, with Tony's blessing and even with the correct VASE vinyl and badges to finish the job off. Over 30 years later Harry acquired the VASE business name and the company is now active once again, thanks to the work of Brisbane manufacturers, original VASE employees and amp enthusiasts.

### BASS IN YOUR VASE

So what exactly are we looking at here? Well the VASE Dynabass 1K Classic is a 1100 watt Class D beast

with a solid state JFET preamp with a serious pro feel, from the chunky handles to the sturdy, reassuring 10.5kg weight. And the V6-10H is a monster 48kg bass cabinet with six VASE LF200 10" speakers plus a VASE HF50 driver and horn for the highs. The cab is rated at 4 ohms and there's a high frequency roll-off attenuator on the back, near where the Neutrik Combicon Connector lives. The cab has two wheels and a handle on the back for easily carting it around venues, but this cabinet is definitely a two-person lift. So cheers to the courier who didn't help me to get it up the stairs and into my house, and I'll be sending him the bill for my new spine.

But back to the amp itself: the design brief for the Dynabass 1K Classic calls for the marriage of state of the art electronic technology and traditional physical appearance. Controls look pretty simple: an input socket with Overload indicator, Gain knob, Mute switch, Ultra Lo, Low, Mid, High and Super Hi boost/cut bandpass filter controls, and a Volume control flanked with Soft Limit and Power buttons. (The power amp's Soft Limit circuit shapes the preamp signal, eliminating saturation and clip in high level situations). Around the back you'll find two Neutrik jacks, a balanced XLR output with a Pre/Post EQ switch and a ground lift, an effects loop and a tuner output. There's plenty of ventilation via the back and bottom of the amp, while

big hefty handles make it easy to lift the amp in and out of a road case. The workmanship is exceptional, from the solid feel of the Mute button to the precision with which the vinyl covering is applied. And you've gotta love that great retro logo, right?

### DYNA-MYTE

I plugged in my 80s Fernandes J-style bass with DiMarzio Area J pickups for testing. The sound of the Dynabass 1K Classic is incredibly warm, deep and smooth, with an extremely fast transient response which seems to maintain punch and high-end clarity even when the amp is pumping out lots of solid low end. This makes it great for styles like dub and hip hop, but it's a monster with funk, jazz, punk and hard rock as well. It's definitely built for the road, and capable of pumping out serious arena-filling volume (my neighbours are thrilled), but there's enough subtlety for smaller gigs too. The tone-sculpting capability of this thing is immense, with those five separate tone-shaping controls where you might expect to only find three on another amp, and it's here that you'll really find your sound: busy-fingered rock players will appreciate the ability to focus the tone on tight bass and prominent upper midrange, which funksters will love being able to goose the highs and lows that the extreme ends. And the effect loop really kicks things up a notch too, for those who would like to apply some

compression, limiting, delay, reverb or whatever other crazy stuff to the final signal. And the Mute switch right there on the front is a very handy addition indeed. It's a very clever design choice to make the mute switch so very high-quality, because if you're jabbing a mute button in the heat of action during a packed gig when something's gone wrong with your signal chain at full volume (a cord coming out or something like that), you're probably doing so with a certain level of urgency and aggression.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

The Dynabass 1K Classic represents a great marriage of old-school charm and new-school reliability, and is a very welcome return for an Australian amp icon. This is a very roadworthy amp capable of taking whatever you can throw at it. 

**PRICE: V6-10H Bass Cabinet**  
**Price: \$1995**  
**DynaBass 1k Classic Head: \$1695**

- 1100 Watts into 4 Ohms
- 525 Watts into 8 Ohms
- Five active Band Pass Filters (Ultra Lo, Low, Mid, High & Super High Frequencies)
- Soft Limit circuit
- Effects loop
- Tuner output
- DI output with pre/post switch & ground lift
- Neutrik Combicon connectors

### ▶ WHAT WE RECKON

#### PROS

- **Great construction**
- **Flexible tone-shaping**
- **Multiple signal routing options**

#### CONS

- **Heavy speaker cab**
- **Onboard compressor would be nice**

### CONTACT

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