

# Speaker test reports OCTOBER 2005

## INTRODUCTION:

### OBJECT OF THE TEST

To review the new speakers that have been introduced since our last test reports which were carried out in 2000. To evaluate these against speakers used in classic amp set-ups and provide a simple guide as to the speaker type which will best suit your application.

### EQUIPMENT USED

The amplifiers used to evaluate the 10 and 12 inch speakers were: Fender Twin reverb combo. Fender Hot Rod Deluxe combo. Fender Princeton Reverb 2 combo.

Marshall super lead 100, Marshall super bass 50 and Marshall 50 watt super lead and Fender bassman 100 heads into A single 1 x 12 cabinet loaded with each speaker. Marshall 1936 cab loaded with a pair of each speaker. The amplifiers used to evaluate the 10 inch speakers were a Fender bassman 1959 reissue and Fender pro.

Guitars used were a 1973 Fender Stratocaster, 1980 Yamaha SA 2000S semi acoustic and a 1993 Gibson Les Paul Standard.

### ALNICO MAGNET SPEAKERS

Alnico magnets are made from a combination of aluminium, nickel and cobalt used to make the magnets. The speakers in amps made in the 1940 through to the late sixties generally had Alnico speaker with the most famous being made by JENSEN and CELESTION. The Alnico speakers have a rich warm overdrive sound. They are famous for the early speaker distortion with touch sensitive response. They have a large dynamic range and long life.

### CERAMIC MAGNET SPEAKERS

Ceramic magnet units tend to provide

higher power handling at a lower cost than alnico magnet units. They produce a sound which is generally considered harder and less sweet than the alnico whilst providing greater clean headroom.

### NEODYMIUM MAGNET SPEAKERS

Neodymium magnet speakers offer the fastest cone response of any magnet material. The speakers retain some of the sonic benefits of the alnico magnets but offer high power handling with very low weight.

## HOW WE TESTED:

The speakers were all driven in clean, semi cranked and fully cranked getting the normal interaction between amplifier and speaker.

In addition to the natural distortion the amplifiers were run flat out and the signal attenuated using a TAD silencer.

The only exception to this was the Fender bassman '59 reissue which we did not use any attenuation.

## CONCLUSION:

The speaker tests which you are about to read were carried out between January of 2002 and were concluded in the summer of 2005. Many musicians spend a disproportionate amount of money on stomp boxes and effects yet leave our sound to the mercy of below par stock speakers. The new speakers in this review proves that by making the right choice for your speaker it will have the single most dramatic effect on your sound.

Speaker choice is very personal and the idea behind the reviews is to try and point you in the right direction. The test conclusions have been arranged as a simple guide to point you in the right areas so you can choose which units may fit your style of music.

We have chosen 8 broad categories of music and given the speakers a rating

from 1 to 5 with number 1 being the best choice.

I have also put in the previous findings as a point of reference.

### UNIT Metal/Thrash results 2000

1. Celestion Vintage 30
2. Celestion G12 Classic lead
3. Celestion G12H
4. Celestion G12T-75
5. Jensen C12N

### UNIT Metal/Thrash results 2005

1. Celestion G12 Century 80
2. Celestion G12 Vintage Century
3. Celestion G12 Vintage 30
4. Celestion G12 Classic lead 80
5. Celestion G12T-75

### UNIT Blues results 2000

1. Celestion Alnico blue
2. Jensen P10R
3. Jensen P12R & P12N
4. Jensen C12N
5. Celestion G12H

### UNIT Blues results 2005

1. Celestion Alnico blue
2. Celestion G12H- Low resonance
3. Celestion G12M-67
4. Jensen P12N
5. Jensen C12N

### UNIT ROCK results 2000

1. Celestion Alnico Blue
2. Celestion G12H
3. Celestion G12 Vintage 30
4. Celestion G12T-75
5. Jensen C12N

### UNIT ROCK results 2005

1. Celestion Alnico Blue
2. Celestion G12H- Low resonance
3. Celestion G12 Vintage 30
4. Celestion G12 Vintage Century
5. Celestion G12 Century

### UNIT JAZZ results 2000

1. Jensen P12R & P12N

2. Celestion Alnico Blue
3. Jensen P10R
4. Jensen C12N
5. Celestion G12H

UNIT JAZZ results 2005

1. Jensen P12Q & P12N
2. Celestion G12H Low resonance
3. Celestion Alnico Blue
4. Celestion G12 Vintage Century
5. Jensen C12N

UNIT BRIT ROCK results 2000

1. Celestion G12H
2. Celestion Alnico blue
3. Celestion G12M 'Green'
4. Celestion G12 Vintage 30
5. Jensen P10R

UNIT BRIT ROCK results 2005

1. Celestion G12H Low resonance
2. Celestion Alnico Blue
3. Celestion G12H
4. Celestion G12M-67
5. Celestion G12M 'Green'

UNIT 70'S ROCK results 2000

1. Celestion G12H
2. Celestion G12M 'Green'
3. Jensen C12N
4. Celestion G12 Classic lead
5. Jensen P10R

UNIT 70'S ROCK results 2005

1. Celestion G12H Low resonance
2. Celestion Alnico blue
3. Celestion G12H
4. Celestion Vintage 30
5. Celestion G12M 'Green'

UNIT COUNTRY results 2000

1. Jensen P10R
2. Jensen P12R & P12N
3. Jensen C12N
4. Celestion Alnico Blue
5. Celestion G12H

UNIT COUNTRY results 2005

1. Jensen P10R
2. Jensen P12Q & P12N
3. Jensen C12N

4. Celestion Alnico Blue
5. Celestion G12H

UNIT CLASSIC FUNK results 2000

1. Jensen P12R & P12N
2. Jensen C12N
3. Jensen P10R
4. Celestion Alnico Blue
5. Celestion G12H

UNIT CLASSIC FUNK results 2005

1. Jensen P12Q & P12N
2. Jensen C12N
3. Jensen P10R
4. Celestion Alnico Blue
5. Celestion G12H Low resonance