

The David has a tough plywood cabinet that's built to handle any gig for years to come

The amp is loaded with two high quality speakers: a one-inch tweeter and a six-inch main speaker



£599

SCHERTLER DAVID BY FRESHMAN

THE KICK UP THE ARSE YOUR TIRED ACOUSTIC TONE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR... WORDS: ED MITCHELL

> Acoustic amplifier?! My electric amp will do just fine, thanks.

Pants! Every guitarist worth their salt wants to sound their best no matter what level they play at. That's what keeps us slobbering over new gear month after month. And that goes for all you acoustic guitar players too. It's all very well whacking your electro-acoustic through your electric guitar's amp, but there is a better way. You see, without a proper acoustic amp you're only getting half the tonal picture. Now, pay attention and you might just learn something...

I don't understand the difference between the two types of amp.

To be honest, most amps do look very similar – black boxes, shiny knobs, etc – so we'll try to clear that little mystery up for you. The main feature that distinguishes electric and acoustic amps is the type of speaker that lurks within the cabinet.

Without getting too technical, acoustic guitar speakers reproduce a much wider frequency range than their electric cousins. Imagine it like this: if you play your acoustic through your home hi-fi system it will sound pretty good, right? That's because, like an acoustic amp, your stereo speakers are very efficient at reproducing the full tonal spectrum you need for the acoustic guitar. If, on the other hand, you run your electric guitar into your stereo it will sound terrible. For that reason electric guitar speakers are designed to reproduce the narrow band of frequencies that sound good to an electric guitarist's ears – all the spiky frequencies are removed. So, if you've been following all of this you'll see that by running your acoustic guitar through your electric amp your guitar isn't getting the full range of sound it needs. And if you didn't understand all of that, trust us, there is a big difference.

WHO'S IT FOR?

Semi-pro guitarists; anyone who's sick of mediocre acoustic tone

INFORMATION

ORIGIN: Switzerland
TYPE: Twin-channel acoustic guitar amplifier
POWER: 80-watts
CONTROLS: Guitar/line channel: high, mid, low, reverb level, volume, 'warm', 'stat/line selector, 10v phantom power selector; Microphone channel: high, mid, low, reverb level, volume, resonance filter, 48v phantom power selector, mic/dyn selector; master section: master volume, master reverb, low cut, auxiliary volume
SOCKETS: DI insert, line out, auxiliary out, power input, instrument input and mic XLR input

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Ground lift switch, power cable (included)
ACCESSORIES: Side 180-watt active support monitor £599, active 200-watt bass cabinet £899
CONTACT: Access All Areas 01355 228028
WEB: www.freshmanguitars.co.uk

ALTERNATIVELY

AER Alpha – £465
Fender Acoustasonic Junior – £499
Fender Acoustasonic 30 – £349

The David is easily one of the best acoustic amps we've ever tried. Once you hear it, you'll wonder how you managed without one

OK. What's the deal with the Schertler?

Well, if you're going to take the plunge and splash out on an acoustic amp you might as well try the best first. The new David amp from Swiss company Schertler is an 80-watt, pro-quality acoustic cube designed for those guitarists who are serious about their tone. That includes you, right?

Hell, yeah! So what does this thing sound like?

Like a Werther's Original – sweet, creamy and uncommonly good. In fact, this amp is so well made you could probably pass it on to your grandchildren when your playing days are over. That's got to be better than giving them a bag of sweets...

We tried the David with a couple of electro-acoustic axes, a cheap as chips entry-level guitar and an expensive US-made guitar. In both cases the amp made our eardrums exceptionally happy. It helped the expensive axe sound its very best and raised the game of the cheaper guitar to produce a surprisingly good tone.

The secret to all this sonic ear candy is a little dome tweeter. Schertler has added this little 1-inch speaker to handle the higher frequencies, otherwise known as treble. The power output of the amp is split between the tweeter and the six-inch main speaker: 30-watts for the tweeter, 50-watts for the big speaker. It's a clever idea that produces a punchy top end when strumming, plenty of clarity for fingerpicking and all the low and mid-range beef you'll ever need. What more could you ask for?

A stack of cool features would be nice.

So you want cool features, eh? Right then, to kick off we have a good-quality spring reverb. A reverb gives your sound the extra depth you'd get if you happened to be playing the Royal Albert Hall... while sat in your bedroom. The David also has a generous range of tone options. You get the usual tone controls (high, mid and bass) plus a useful 'warm' switch to cut the higher frequencies and add some, er, warmth to your sound. And very nice it is too.

Anything else?

Oh, yeah. The David actually has two channels. One is primarily for instrument use – guitar, mandolin, violin, double bass – the other for your voice. The vocal channel caters to a wide range of microphones thanks to its XLR mic input and phantom power.

What's all this about phantom power?

Some vocal microphones require their own power source. All you have to do is plug them into the David's XLR socket, press the phantom power button and it will work just fine. Schertler has even included a feedback eliminator called the Resonance Filter. These guys have thought of everything...

Should I give it a try?

Yes! The David is an awesome piece of kit and easily one of the best acoustic amps we've ever tried. Once you hear your acoustic running through an amp like this you'll wonder how you ever managed without one. Swiss bliss!

FOR: Portable; great tonal range; lush reverb
AGAINST: You'll have sleepless nights without one of them

TG RATING:

