





VOX MINI SUPERBEETLE £349

The sound of the 60s – in miniature

It's Vox's 60th anniversary year, and by way of celebrating it, we've been blessed with a stream of new and highly-tempting products, one of the more recent being this Superbeetle mini stack, which takes its inspiration from the AC100 and Super Beetle stacks Vox made in the UK and USA during the 1960s and notably used by the Fab Four at some of their biggest gigs.

Superbeetle also benefits from a digital spring reverb and tremolo, powered by Nutube for a vintage-style effect. Nutube is a new valve type developed by Vox's parent company Korg, in association with Noritake Itron, which uses vacuum fluorescent display technology. Normally seen in microwaves and washing machines, VFD's operate very much like a traditional valve – they have a cathode, anode and a control grid to switch display

decent Rickenbacker or Gretsch – it sounds bigger than its 25-watt rating. The digital reverb is superb, going from natural ambience at lower volumes to a deep cavern effect that doesn't totally overpower the guitar. Add a decent delay and a Strat, select the bridge pickup and you'll get an uncanny recreation of the classic Hank Marvin sound that powered The Shadows hits of the early 60s. It also covers classic blues and rock with ease and nearly gets into Brian May territory with the gain maxed out.

As well as being a perfect addition to any living room based on its looks alone, the Superbeetle is a great tool for home practice and recording, with low enough noise levels to deliver pro-level results into a computer or DAW from the speaker-emulated headphones socket.

Nick Guppy

segments on and off. Nutube is the first VFD designed for audio and effectively replaces a 12AX7, taking up much less space and using a tiny fraction of the power, with an estimated lifespan of 10,000 hours.

The Superbeetle provides a stunning recreation of classic Vox tones based on the legendary AC30 Top Boost channel, with a warm, slightly boxy midrange at lower gain giving way to a harmonic-laden chime that's itching for a

1 LOOKS

The Mini Superbeetle's classic style extends to a chrome steel tubular stand, with the correct trapezoid vertical logo on the 1x10 Celestion-powered cabinet

2 EFFECTS

To nail those classic sounds from the 60s as well as more up-to-date stuff, the Mini Superbeetle includes reverb and an excellent Nutube valve-powered tremolo

3 POWER

The Mini Superbeetle delivers 25 watts into its own 8ohm cabinet, but can produce up to 50 watts into a 4ohm load

AT A GLANCE

TYPE: Hybrid valve/digital/solid state

OUTPUT: 25W into 8ohms, 50W into 4ohms

SPEAKER: 1x Celestion custom 10"

VALVES: 1x NuTube 6P1

CONTROLS: Gain, volume, bass, treble, tremolo, reverb, eco switch, EQ deep/flat switch

SOCKETS: Guitar in, headphones/recording out, speaker out x2

WEIGHT: 9kg

DIMENSIONS (HxWxD): 596x323x180mm

CONTACT: Vox Amplification
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A STUNNING RECREATION OF CLASSIC VOX TONES

Clad in black basketweave vinyl and diamond grille cloth, the Superbeetle looks like a classic Vox from every angle, including a scaled-down vertical logo and tubular stand for the 1x10 extension cab, and a grey/black control panel with chickenhead knobs. The electronics are based on the MV50 range of mini heads, combining a Nutube 6P1 valve in the preamp with a class D power stage that can produce up to 50 watts into a 4ohm load. The mini

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★	★	★	★	★
	SOUND QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★	★	★	★	★
	BUILD QUALITY	★	★	★	★	★
	USABILITY	★	★	★	★	★
	OVERALL RATING	★	★	★	★	★