



Peavey MAX 110

Nick Wells tests out this lightweight practice amp from Peavey

The Peavey MAX Series comprises a line of five user-friendly bass amplifiers, ranging from the diminutive MAX 126 right up to the MAX 158, rated at 60 watts. With a 20-watt output and single 10-inch speaker, the MAX 110 we have here sits bang in the middle of the range and comes kitted out with some useful practice features along with Peavey's TransTube emulation technology. In the wake of Peavey's high-end Pro and Tour Series bass amps, it's to the US company's credit that a thought has been spared for those on a more modest budget. Let's see just what this combo has to offer.

Features

Peavey's MAX 110 is a lightweight combo designed as an ideal practice amp or teaching aid. It's small and portable, with a single handle on the top being all that you need to carry this amp around. The front panel is clearly set out with gain and passive EQ controls labelled low, mid and high. These are passive, cut-only controls, as featured on all MAX combos, and

should help maximise headroom.

The gain control sets the preamp input gain and works in conjunction with the voicing switch, which offers two preset sounds. The vintage preset is modelled on Peavey's TransTube front end with a vintage tube bass voicing. The modern setting has no tube simulation and has been designed to offer a cleaner sound.

The 10-inch Peavey speaker is protected by DDT compression, which is essentially a soft limiter that will automatically lower the gain should the signal begin to peak. You can connect to a stereo or CD player via RCA and line-in jack inputs, while a headphone input is particularly handy for practising at home.

Sounds

The MAX 110 may be small but it still has plenty to offer in terms of sound quality. The combo's 20-watt output is perfect for home use, although you may struggle to make yourself heard in a full-band rehearsal if there's a drummer involved. The EQ controls are responsive, and with the voicing

presets you have the option of switching between vintage for a more gritty bass sound that's a little thin at times but works well for old school rock 'n' roll, and modern, which has an altogether cleaner tone with a more defined mid range. In terms of practicality and sound quality, the MAX 110 has all the makings of Peavey's more upmarket gear. The range of built-in features is impressive given the price, yet this combo remains straightforward and easy to use.

Conclusion

The Peavey MAX 110 is easy to use, with an impressive sound and straightforward design. The overall build quality is good, which will be reassuring for first-time buyers, and while the MAX 110 can't be expected to compete with Peavey's high-end output, the tones on offer should be good enough to satisfy beginners. Peavey are also currently offering a free five-year warranty. So if you're looking for a reliable practice amp, the Peavey MAX 110, or another model from the MAX range, is certainly worth auditioning.



Technical Specification

Peavey MAX 110

Price: £133

Built in: China

Type: Solid-state bass combo

Power: 20 watts into 4 ohms

Features: Gain control, modern/vintage voicing switch with patented TransTube tube emulation circuitry, low, mid & high EQ controls, CD & line-in jack inputs, headphone socket

Speaker: 1 x 10-inch Peavey with DDT speaker protection

Dimensions: 449(h) x 391(w) x 285(d) mm

Weight: 11.5 kg (25.4 lb)

Contact Details

Peavey Electronics Ltd

Tel: 01536 461234

Web: www.peavey.com

What we think

Plus: Solid construction, good fundamental tone, user-friendly features.

Minus: None at this price.

Overall: An ideal practice amp for the beginning bassist.

BGM Rating out of five

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★★
SOUNDS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★