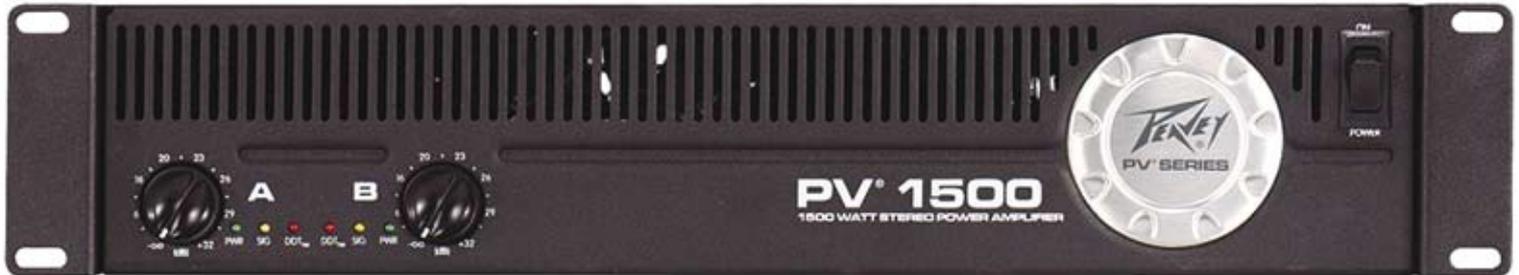


PEAVEY PV 1500 Power Amp



It might not be considered sexy but this rugged and affordable power amp could prove to be a cornerstone of your PA setup...

Among the vast portfolio of products offered by American manufacturer Peavey, PA equipment has been one of its mainstays virtually since day one. Sound reinforcement is something that Peavey takes very seriously and their PV range of rack-mountable power amps combine the rugged road worthiness and wallet-friendly pricing that is one of the US giant's major hallmarks.

Compared to an all-in-one unit such as Peavey's redoubtable XR series mixer amplifiers a separate power amp offers the extra benefits of superior power combined with the flexibility to be able to run a wide range of speaker enclosures depending on the user's particular needs.

The PV 1500's 2U high chassis is designed to fit into a rack mount flightcase and duly comes complete with front and rear lugs for secure mounting. If you have any experience with rack mounted guitar processors or amplifiers then you'll doubtless be aware of the need to leave enough room inside the rear of your rack space to allow for the various cable connections and so Peavey duly recommends that the user allows for a minimum rack depth of at least 17 inches (432mm). The amp's impressive build-quality is reflected in the huge toroidal power transformer fitted to the unit, which is obviously a major contributor to the amp's impressive 45lb (20.5kg) but when you are dealing with an amplifier that is capable of 500 watts per side at 40hms, 300 watts per side

at 8ohms and a monster 1000 watts into 8ohms in bridge mode, then you need heavy-duty components if you are to have any hope of coping with the hammering the average band expects it to take. Peavey always takes this factor into account when designing their PA products and the PV 1500 comes packed to the brim with an impressive amount of failsafe devices that are geared towards boosting the amp's performance and reliability. Not the least of these is the two-speed fan that dissipates heat away from the power amp's internals via a vent on the rear of the chassis. The harder the amp works, the hotter it gets and so the fan duly detects when the amps operating temperature increases and boosts the flow of hot air away from the amp's internals.

A built-in mains circuit breaker kicks in to protect the power transformer internal circuitry from damage in the event of an overload in mains current, which can sometimes occur in the rare event of a power surge or a fault in the amp's circuitry. The fail-safe serves both as handy indicator that all is not entirely well without the entire amp having to let go in an expensive fashion before the user is aware of any problems. DDT is a long-standing Peavey feature in all of their PA equipment and – no, it isn't an outlawed pesticide. DDT stands for Distortion Detection Technique and is basically a form of limiter that detects when the power amp is about to clip (which is audible as unpleasant distortion)

and kicks-in to momentarily limit the amp's gain threshold, thus preventing nasty overload noises from spoiling your band mix. A handy indicator LED also indicates whenever the DDT circuit is active, which also helps the user to adjust the amp's input gain accordingly.

The PV 1500 is typical of a standard professional power amplifier in that either side of the power amp can be split into two separate halves (called stereo although it doesn't necessarily have to be used to amplify standard stereo signals) or else the amp can operate as a single high-powered unit (bridge mode). Besides being capable of running a basic full-range stereo setup where either side of the power amp operates separate full range (bass and high frequency) speakers, the PV1500 can also run in stereo bi-amping and the more common mono bi-amped mode that sees one side of the amp driving the high frequency speakers and the other channel driving a pair of low end subs.

To sum up, the PV 1500 seems to have everything covered. Weighing up the PV 1500's features and build-quality against the price it seems like one of the best value power amps you can buy. Peavey is a proven name when it comes to high-quality PA equipment and their after sales service is also one of the best you'll find anywhere. Hard working bands that put their gear to good use will probably be hard-pressed to find anything to beat this rig in terms of bang for buck. **PM**

Words: Tim Slater

PEAVEY

PV 1500 Power Amp

SRP £402.00

All prices incl VAT

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WHAT IS IT?

A heavy duty 2U high 1000 watt power amp, producing 500 watts per side at 40hms, 300 watts per side at 8ohms and 1000 watts into 8ohms in bridge mode. Built-in fan and Peavey's own anti-distortion DDT circuit also included.

WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

The PV 1500 is versatile, built like a tank and very simple to set up and use. In short, this is an affordable way for a band to install a high-quality power amp at the heart of their live rig.