

# ENGL GIGMASTER 15 HEAD

ENGL have gained a solid reputation over the last few years for rock solid heads and combos with classic rock tones to boot. Working along the lines of the Screamer, Powerball and Fireball and joining the current trend of smaller sized, lower wattage amps our German amp making friends are at it again...this time with a head and combo by the name of the Gigmaster 15. Interested in portable, smaller wattage amps? Read on....

## Little Master

Rated at 15 watts the Gigmaster is a small sized two channel head with controls for Input Gain, Lead Drive, Bass, Middle, Treble and Master Volume. The front faceplate also features channel switch and mid boost buttons and standby/on off switches. Flick round to the back panel and you've got a footswitch jack, effects loop send and return, line out with speaker simulation and a power soak for operation at full power (15 watts), 5 watts, 1 watt or zero power (for recording purposes). At just 42cms x 20 x 23 and weighing in at just over 8 kgs it really is easy to handle and super portable.

## Channel Too

With many brands now sporting small wattage, small sized heads for small gigs, bedroom use, recording or rehearsals it is a competitive marketplace indeed. The first point of difference with the Gigmaster however is the fact that it's a two channel amp. Obviously it's a shared EQ setup but with controls for gain and volume on the lead channel you're really able to make this a viable switching setup. Channel changing can be done either via the front panel push button or by footswitch and once channel volumes are set accordingly you're right to go. Experimenting with the levels of Input Gain, Lead Drive, Lead Volume and Master Volume is essential for balancing your clean tone with overdrive



and if in doubt the manual clearly explains the impacts of the preamp in working with both channels.

## When you're 15...

15 watts in the case of Gigmaster is still pretty darn loud! With reasonable clean headroom this would definitely cut small gigs, rehearsals and the like with the added bonus of a footswitchable dirty channel to make it a plug and play type deal if you didn't even want to use pedals. The clean channel is big and focussed whilst the lead channel possesses that ENGL angry bark (even at 5 and watts!) and is definitely one of the most saturated/rock type sound I've heard from a small wattage amp. Some will welcome the inclusion of an effects loop whilst others might just prefer plugging em into the front of the amp - whatever your tippie ENGL have got you covered here with the rocking little Gigmaster 15!

By Nick Brown

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