

## Impala Review



Hail, hail rock & roll... Hail, hail headroom! Hail, hail the Carr Impala. We were beginning to worry that the sound of the electric guitar had been permanently squeezed into the

relatively narrow sonic space defined by preamp and power tube distortion, not that we have anything against a beautifully busted up, singing, sustaining guitar. We don't, but there is so much more richness to be mined from *all* the sounds a great guitar and amp can make, don't you think? When Steve Carr told us that he had built a 40 watt dual 6L6 amp we were so excited... Excited by the prospect of a full powered amp

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## guitars

that can fill a room and a guitar player's head with sound that isn't timid or apologetic, and excited because we knew Carr would add features to make his new little beast as versatile as a less powerful amp with some clever kind of master volume, at least. That's pretty much what he did, packaged in a very cool retro cabinet design that we agree is *swank*.

If you aren't keenly familiar with Carr amps, we can tell you that they typically display an extraordinary fidelity and richness that are not always found in booteek amps. This is no accident – from the first chord we ever strummed through a Carr Rambler at Corner Music in Nashville in 2000, we have always anticipated and admired Carr's talent for building amps with no apparent holes or gaps in their tone. When we read that the Impala had been loosely inspired by the Fender Bassman, we knew we were in for a treat, and now, so are you.

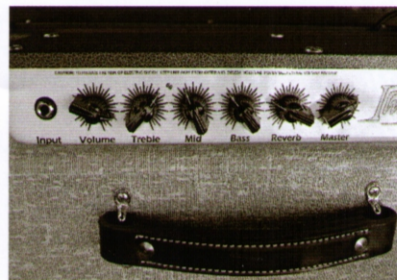
*"Oooo, but I could never live with a 40 watt amp... Too loud, the band would never put up with that... The clubs we play are too small... Sound men will be crawling up my ass... My wife would never stand for it... The neighbors will stop speaking to me... The dog will howl... The cat will crap and run away... What about my tinnitus..."*



There now. Have we adequately covered all of your petty fears and preconceptions? Good. Now get your mind right and pay attention. Yes, you can

push 40 watts out of the Impala with plenty of clean headroom and lush reverb if that's what you want to do. But, the Impala also produces the most satisfying, amazing overdriven tones in the style of a vintage blackface Fender at variable volume levels simply by setting the Volume control above 1 o'clock and varying the Master Volume level. No need to worry about crushing decibel levels to get your yah-yahs out, mate. And because the Impala can be set clean, or on the edge of getting dirty at moderate volume levels, you can also use your distortion and overdrive pedals with exceptional results. Advancing the midrange control beyond the '68' mark on the panel also increases drive, producing a gradually thicker tone.

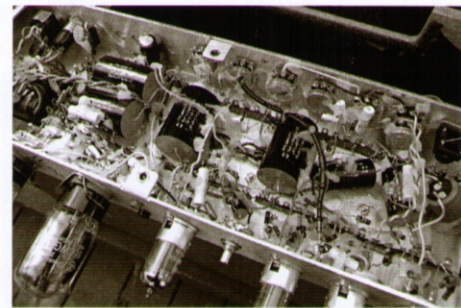
Controls couldn't be simpler or more straightforward: Volume, Treble, Mid, Bass, Reverb, Master Volume. You can fully milk the Impala's extremely wide range of clean and distorted tones simply by adjusting the sweep of the Volume control while managing power with the Master. You'll have the entire impressive range of tones fully digested in about a minute. Carr's



a multi-meter.


reverb is lush and Fendery, and two convenient bias test points are included on the back panel to make biasing for 6L6GC, 5881 or 7581A power tubes quick and easy with

Seriously people, for us the Impala honors many of the great 40 watt Fender combo amps of the past with modern



enhancements to the circuit that make it an exceptionally versatile performance and recording amp that is

also equally suitable for home jamming. We also think the Impala's cabinet design and covering are utterly classic cool in the style of the actual interior of a vintage Impala and those bench seats that launched a million makeout sessions across the fruited plain. Come to think of it, a lot of those old Impalas actually bore fruit. And so, we'll leave with you this... the last line written in our review notes for the Impala – GLORIOUS 40W VINTAGE FENDER TONES!!! G-L-O-R-I-A!

Quest forth... 

Carr Impala 1x12 combo \$2490, head \$2390

[www.carramps.com](http://www.carramps.com)