

The 15:30 Valve Studio Combo

Session amplifiers was started on November 11th 1979 by Stewart Ward. Session's first amplifier, the 15:30 designed in 1979, was valve and aimed at the growing need for small recording amps. They would probably be called 'boutique' amps now! A 1979 Cornford, Matchless... or loads of others?

As the name implies, it was an amplifier with switchable output power between 15 and 30 watts delivered into an efficient Celestion G12-65 speaker. The amplifier was soon adopted by Geoff Whitehorn, who is now one of Marshall's main demonstrators and guitarist with Bad Company.

It was very unusual in that it had a special output derived from the output

transformer which could be fed into 'slave' power amps. This enabled the 'distorted' output stage signals to be 're-amplified' by the slave amps to any desired level. The slaves were known as PM120 powered Monitors - and predated Mesa Boogie's 'Satalite' system by around ten years. The picture on the next page shows Geoff with his kit behind him.

Martin Barre (Jethro Tull) adopted them too - he had two 15:30s, one spare, and nine PM120s loaded with Electrovoice EVM12L speakers... when on stage he effectively had a 930 watt guitar amp going through some of the most efficient speakers (103dB) known, even to this day. The kit was used for the

