

# GEAR4MUSIC

## White Horse BP80



**This funky little bass combo is perfect for bass on the hoof..**

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**GEAR4MUSIC**

**White Horse BP80**

SRP £86.00

All prices are incl VAT

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**WHAT IS IT?**

A neat little 80 watt bass combo built into a convenient 45° angled cabinet.

**WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?**

If you need an amp for practice, your local low-key pub gig or orchestra session the White Horse BP80 is spot-on. The price takes some beating, too.

We usually assume that to be effective at its job, a bass combo amplifier needs to be roughly the size and weight of a domestic washing machine but some situations require something a bit more compact and they don't come much neater than the BP80.

At a fairly modest 80 watts output the BP80 could be described as straddling the gap between a practice amp and an amplifier purpose built for gigging but it does so in quite an appealing way. Firstly, the angled cabinet places the 12" speaker at a 45° angle, effectively directing the sound towards the player's ears instead of shooting past their legs. This is absolutely spot-on for a low-key gigging situation where you need to hear yourself clearly without cranking the volume up to the kind of levels you normally might be used to.

If the physics of this unusual cabinet design seems a bit weird, don't worry about it. Bass frequencies aren't as directional as their guitar counterparts and so are much less dependent on where the speakers are facing, bass doesn't require much power to make itself felt and heard in a small room and the BP80 is ideal for those sessions where you are accompanying a singer/guitarist, maybe backed up by some light

percussion or a very small drum kit.

Low-key or not, the overall construction generally seems pretty solid; the front four corners are protected by steel shoulders and a heavy-duty steel speaker grill shields the vulnerable speaker from unwelcome foreign objects. The carpet cover isn't ideal, though; it attracts dirt like a magnet and doesn't fend off wear and tear as effectively as vinyl but seeing as this amp is unlikely to be thrown in and out of a tour bus for years on end, the carpet cover should be adequate, just remember to Hoover it every now and again!

Although the 12" speaker might seem a bit on the small side for a bass amp, a built-in limiter protects the speaker from damage whenever the limiter detects a potentially cone-frying peak. LEDs on the control panel also serve as a useful visual aid to monitoring when the amp is starting to clip, suggesting that a slight adjustment of volume or EQ might be a sensible move before the amp starts to protest at being driven too hard, which can easily occur when using a bass with powerful active pickups.

The limiter is a sensible feature because this combo can kick out some serious rumble: the EQ section

combines regular bass and treble controls with a pair of high mid and low mid rotary pots, plus a master volume, gain and a pair of mini-switches that activate a boost circuit and a 'bright' mode. Sculpting rock solid bass sounds isn't difficult to achieve and the tone produced by this amp is very robust. The lows sound good and tight and the speaker copes well with an impressive amount of low-end boost; you might assume that the 12" driver under stress would fart like a coach load of rugby players on their home from a real ale festival but no, the limiter keeps any flatulence well under control. When it comes down to the BP80's value as a practice amp, it also fulfills its brief pretty well. It is still compact enough not to make an overly imposing presence in your living room or practice room and a pair of stereo RCA inputs connects an external CD or MP3 player for jamming along to backing tracks.

All in, the BP80 is a pretty convincing little amp that does exactly what it sets out to do. It has an unusual but entirely practical design, a perfectly reasonable amount of volume on tap and above all at the time PMPU went to press, the BP80 was also available at an astoundingly low price. **PU**