

Rock  
on Stage

Play  
at Home

Record  
at Night

TubeMeister

Hughes & Kettner®  
TECHNOLOGY OF TONE

**Rock** on Stage

**Play** at Home

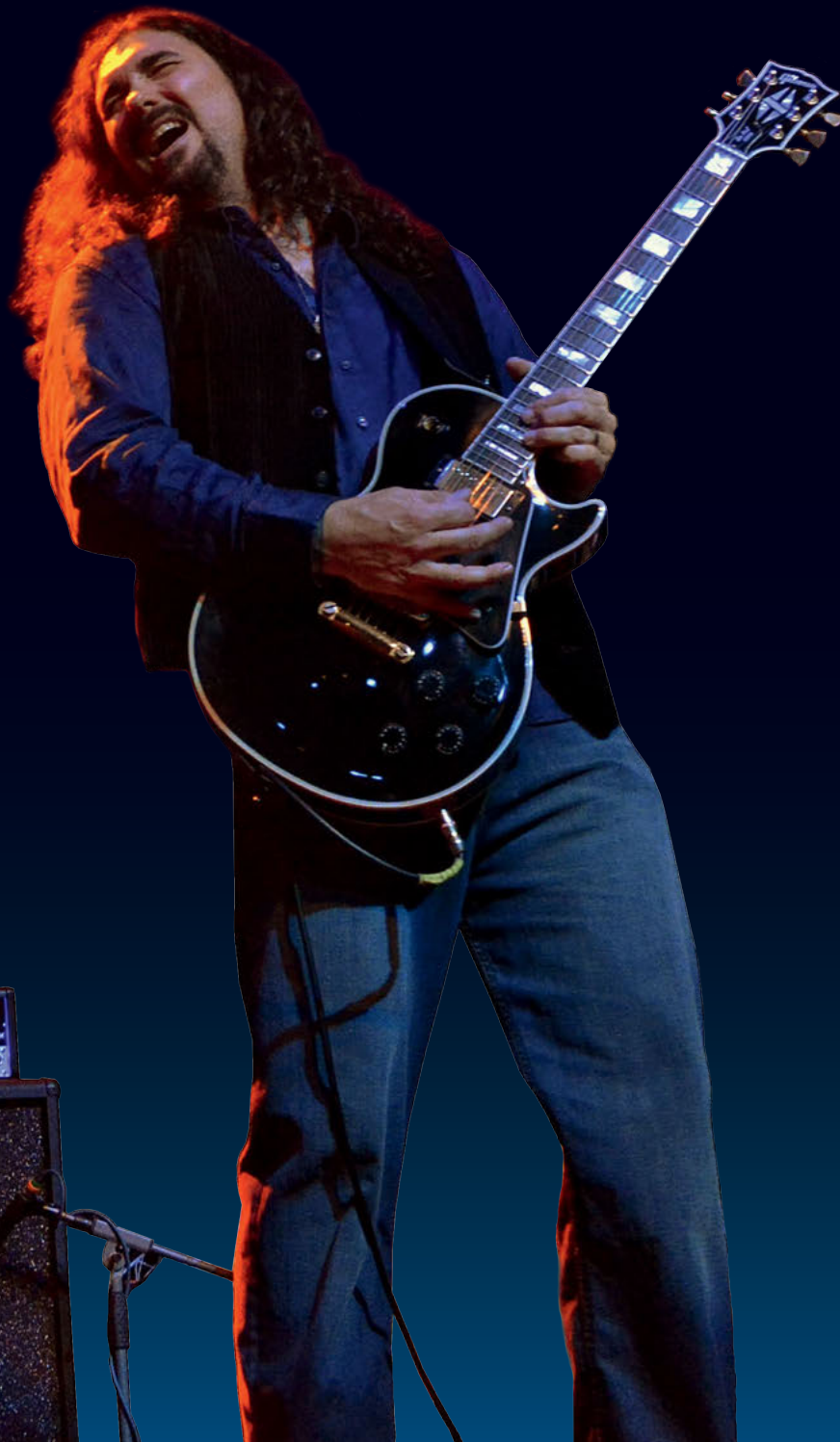
**Record** at Night

In an inspired moment, Mr. Hughes and Herr Kettner decided to pack all their knowledge and over a quarter of a century's passion for tube tone into a remarkably compact amp. This beautifully engineered instrument came to be called the

TubeMeister. A dream of a tone-generating machine, it goes from clean to mean and from a roar to a whisper, shaking the planks on stage, tingling spines in the studio, and raising goose bumps in the still of night.

**“The Hughes & Kettner TubeMeister 36 blew my mind when I first heard it. It gives me all the tones I need to play with Alan Parsons. From pristine clean to fat overdriven crunch, I can get any sound at any volume. It’s truly amazing!”**

Alastair Greene, Alan Parsons Live Project



# TUBEMEISTER 18



*Anders & Kettner*

*Tube Meister 18*

— LEAD —                      — CLEAN —

MASTER    GAIN                      MASTER    GAIN

LEAD CHANNEL BOOST    CHANNEL SELECT

INPUT

# TUBEMEISTER 18



## TUBEMEISTER 18

Serving up three different sounds at the touch of a footswitch, the soulful TubeMeister 18 is the must have guitar amp for gigging. Oversized transformers deliver tons of headroom with a phenomenal dynamic range that sweeps from sparkling clean to throaty crunch.

The Lead channel offers harmonically rich tube distortion and gain reserves to go from edgy overdrive to soaring lead sounds, while the integrated Boost re-voices the Lead channel to a modern high-gain sound that pairs plenty of punch with endless sustain.



## TUBEMEISTER 18 COMBO

The TubeMeister 18 Combo offers all the tasty features of the Head plus the shimmer and shine of a digital spring reverb. The 10" Celestion Ten 30 speaker is housed in a vented dovetailed birch ply enclosure and conjures a far bigger sound than anything one might expect from a combo that size.



## TUBEMEISTER 18 TWELVE COMBO

The TubeMeister 18 Twelve offers all the features of the 10" Combo. The 12" Rockdriver Classic 60 speaker was custom-designed specifically for the compact TubeMeister 18 Twelve housing. It is a steel fist in a velvet glove, delivering all the tonal subtleties of a TubeMeister with a punch that will rock your world.

## TUBEMEISTER 18 HEAD

Channels	Clean, Lead + Boost
Power	18 Watts
Power amp	2x EL84
Preamp	2x 12AX7
FX loop	serial
Footswitch	FS-2 (optional)
Switching functions	Channels, Boost
Special features	Integrated Power Soak and Red Box, TSC System
Speaker outputs	1x 8-16 $\Omega$
Recommended cab	TM112, TM212
Dimensions/Weight	356 x 156 x 150 mm/5 kg
Protective cover	Softbag included

## TUBEMEISTER 18 COMBO

All Features of TubeMeister 18 Head	
Reverb	Digital Spring Reverb
Speaker	1x 10" Celestion® Ten 30, 16 $\Omega$
Dimensions/Weight	395 x 360 x 260 mm/9.4 kg
Protective cover	Soft Cover included

## TUBEMEISTER 18 TWELVE COMBO

All Features of TubeMeister 18 Head	
Reverb	Digital Spring Reverb
Speaker	1 x 12" Rockdriver Classic 60, 16 $\Omega$
Dimensions/Weight	480 x 415 x 285 mm/15.4 kg
Protective cover	Soft Cover included

# TUBEMEISTER 36







*Kathner*

*Tube Meister 36*

CRUNCH

CLEAN

R **GAIN**

**TREBLE**

**MID**

**BASS**

**MASTER**

**GAIN**

**INPUT**

Knob

Knob

Knob

Knob

Knob

Knob

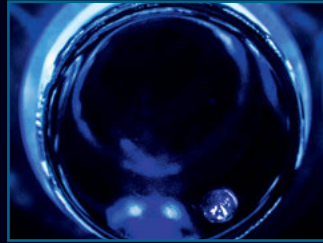
Knob

Input Jack

Screw

Screw

# TUBEMEISTER 36



## TUBEMEISTER 36 HEAD

Independent gain and master knobs and a switchable FX Loop are standard appointments on modern triple channel amps. But that's not nearly enough for a real TubeMeister flagship. So Mr. Hughes and Herr Kettner built in a MIDI system to access the channels,

FX Loop and onboard reverb. MIDI can even select the power stages of the integrated power soak—36, 18, and 5 watts, 1 watt and Speaker Off! A touch of a button is all it takes to conjure up up to 128 such combinations. Imagine what this could do for your stage performance.



## TUBEMEISTER 36 COMBO

The TubeMeister 36 Combo offers all the features of the Head, plus the advantage of a 12" Celestion Vintage 30 speaker housed in a vented dovetailed birch ply enclosure that transforms tube power and tone into a big and bold sound.

## TUBEMEISTER 36 HEAD

Channels	Clean, Crunch, Lead
Power	36 watts
Power amp	4 x EL84
Preamp	3 x 12AX7
FX loop	serial
Footswitch	FS-2 or FSM-432, optional
Switching functions	Channels, Reverb, FX Loop, Power Soak mode
Special features	MIDI, MIDI Power Soak, Red Box, TSC System
Speaker outputs	1x 8-16 $\Omega$
Recommended cab	TM112, TM212, VC412A30
Dimensions/Weight	171 x 446 x 152 mm, 7.7kg
Protective cover	Softbag included

## TUBEMEISTER 36 COMBO

All Features of TubeMeister 36 Head	
Speaker	1x 12" Celestion Vintage 30, 16 $\Omega$
Dimensions/Weight	555 x 475 x 270 mm, 19.3 kg
Protective cover	Soft Cover included

# TUBEMEISTER CABINETS



## TM 110

The TubeMeister 110 cab sports the same 10" Celestion Ten 30 speaker that has proven its merits in the TubeMeister 18 Combo. Housed in its specially designed vented enclosure, this cabinet punches way above its weight.

30 watts • 400 x 350 x 255 mm • 6.6 kg



## TM 112

The TubeMeister 112 cab features a 12" Celestion Vintage 30 in a compact vented housing. It delivers all the tonal subtleties of the TubeMeister Heads with a punch that will rock your world.

60 watts • 480 x 450 x 285 mm • 13.5 kg



## TM 212

The TubeMeister 212 cab packs two 12" Celestion Vintage 30s into its vented housing. Its dimensions are tailored to a TubeMeister 36 in vertical use, or to our standard size heads in horizontal use. It's a steel fist in a velvet glove!

120 watts • 750 x 450 x 285 mm • 19.5 kg



## FSM-432

The FSM-432 MK III MIDI board doesn't just serve to select presets. The stomp box mode allows you to switch channels directly, and to activate modulation effects, delay and boost independently.

It also offers two 1/4" jack inputs to connect expression pedals or single footswitches.

# TUBEMEISTER FEATURES



## POWER SOAK

Use the power soak to bring the huge Meister stage sound down to the level you need for home or practice room playing, or even silent recording



## TSC

Your built-in amp doctor, Tube Safety Control keeps your Meister fighting fit by constantly monitoring and biasing your tubes



## RED BOX

Perfect for hassle-free recording or onstage action, the Red Box DI output lets you run your guitar straight to the mixing desk



## XXL TRANSFORMER

Oversized transformers give you all the headroom you need, from sparkling clean to snarling mean

## TUBEMEISTER 18



Clean to Crunch



Drive to High Gain



Punch & Sustain



Tone Shaping



Tube Tone



Tube Power



Headroom



Tube Protection



Stage Control



Integration



Power Soak



Recording Out

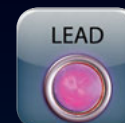
## TUBEMEISTER 36



Clean to Drive



Crunch to Punch



Lead to High Gain



Tone Shaping



Footswitchable



Tube Tone



Tube Power



Headroom



Tube Protection



MIDI Power Soak



Integration



Programmability



Full Control



Recording Out



Reverb

# A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF THE BLOG OF TONE

## SMALL AMP, BIG SOUND?

What do Eric Clapton's creamy Layla solo sounds, Joe Walsh's epic guitar parts on Hotel California and Jimmy Page's rough-and-ready tones on Heartbreaker from Led Zeppelin II have in common?

Well, besides the fact that they're widely cited as being some of the best six-string sounds of all time, the one diminutive detail that links this trio of colossal guitar moments is this: they were all recorded using what most guitarists would consider ridiculously poky little amplifiers.



Josh Rand of Stone Sour never hits the big stage without his small amp

"If you want a big sound, use a small amp," Joe Walsh is supposed to have replied when asked for details on Hotel California's tonal wizardry. So, forget that old Big is Beautiful adage. When it comes to delivering the perfect guitar solo, it seems like Small is Supreme!

For too long, the 100-watt amp head was the undisputed go-to machine when it came amplifying the electric guitar. Decades ago, it might have made sense – back when PA systems were nothing more than primitive speakers used to amplify vocals – but these days, it's quite astonishing to think that guitarists struggled with these oversized beasts for so long. Plenty of them still do.

But the advantages of smaller power ratings are abundantly clear: unlike larger power amps, which only start to become melodious and pleasing to the ear when you crank the volume somewhat past their idling level – and the by-product of which is a huge, mostly unusable amount of sheer volume – smaller power amps deliver musician-pleasing performance at a smidgen of the volume.



Annihilator's Jeff Waters rocks HELLFEST with his monstrous Meister rig

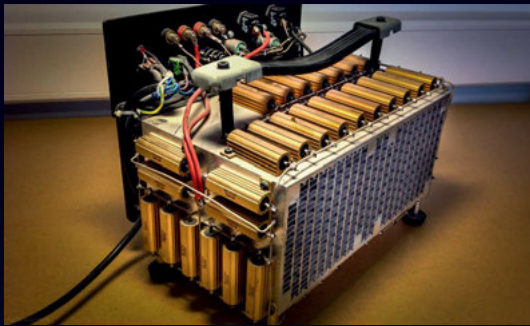
So, it's no wonder the likes of Annihilator's Jeff Waters and Stone Sour's Josh Rand are often to be seen bringing huge venues to their knees with these little problem solvers. There's so many reasons to go small: pure clarity of tone, great, useful feature sets, easy handling, less weight, simple transportation... It's never been easier to Rock on Stage, Play at Home and Record at Night!

**BLOG OF TONE** doesn't just give you all the insider's knowledge you need to "Meister" your guitar sound. It's also the place for you to give feedback and swap tonal tips and tricks with us and other guitar players...

Jump right in at  
[blog.hughes-and-kettner.com](http://blog.hughes-and-kettner.com)

## THE POWER SOAK – A LOAD OF HOT AIR?

It took a long time for the power soak to gain acceptance among guitarists. Why? Because the system's undoubted advantages—like giving the player the chance to enjoy fully saturated power amp distortion at bearable volumes, for example—were always accompanied by massive shortcomings that couldn't just be explained away.



An experimental power soak mock-up: this one never made it into production

Every guitarist has been privy to that well-used soundman's chestnut: "Turn the guitars down on stage!" To go some way towards solving this problem, the idea was hatched in the '70s to transform a portion of the power amp's output into hot air. Or, more (or less) simply: to install a power resistor between the end stage of the amp and the guitar cab that would absorb a certain amount of the energy, turn it into heat, and only send a fraction of it on to the loudspeaker.

There was, however, still one key catch: most amp heads of the day featured a 100-watt output. They also often had no master volume knob, meaning that you could only truly enjoy that downright addictive distortion when you turned the gain control—in true Spinal Tap style—up to 11, resulting in crushing levels of compression, random bursts of unwanted noise and show-spoiling microphonic pickups.

And so it continued for years, the power soak idea living on only as an oddball footnote in the minds of diehard old-school believers. In fact, it nearly died off completely when the tube amp master volume came out and revolutionized things. More

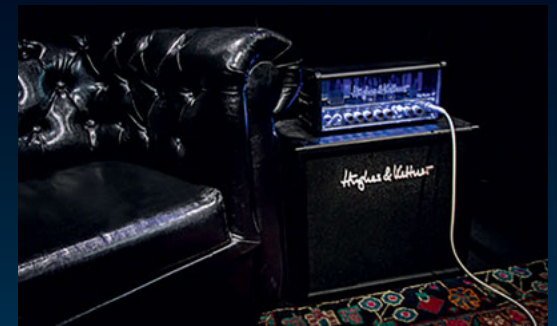


Part of the power soak's magic is how it shuts down tubes to tame your volume

recently, though, interest in the power soak has surged once again, thanks to the enormous success of the so-called lunchbox amp, which has created a new performance category all its own.

Nowadays, 100 watts are no longer needed to blow our heads off. Sure, the power offerings of today might be laughable when compared to times of yore—but they're certainly more manageable. And, thanks to technological leaps, these days it's possible to sacrifice a portion of an amp's power—thanks to a combination of tube shutdown and a resistor network—for the sake of impossibly delicious and saturated power amp sounds. And without any of the power soak's earlier foibles, too.

The first genuinely successful relaunch of the power soak came with the TubeMeister 18. Still quasi-analog, it allows you to select various power levels. Its bigger brother, the TubeMeister 36, takes things to another level, allowing power soak settings to be saved by MIDI—and then allocated to the amp's various channels—in what was a world first. Suffice to say, the power soak's now become an indispensable part of many a modern-day guitarist's setup. And best of all? On all Meister series amps, it's included as standard. . .



The power soak lets you crank your amp at living room volumes

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