

## GUITAR AMPS

Over £1000

**WINNER**

**Marshall**

1974X Combo

Reviewed Sept 18/8

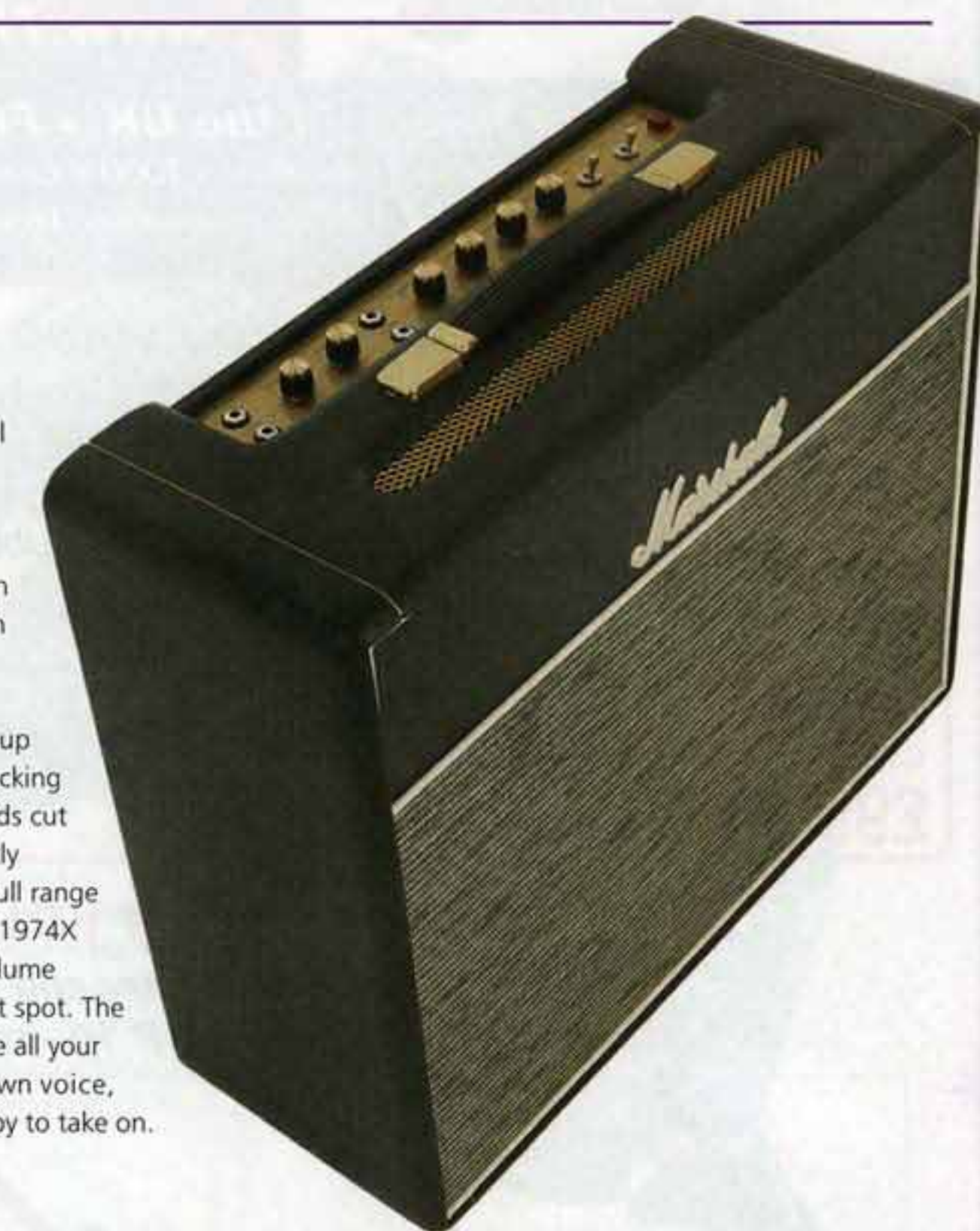
Price: amp £1200

**L**ike the legendary 'Bluesbreaker', original 18W Marshall combos are a player's and collector's dream. This fine reissue has awesome build quality, from the flawless covering to the spotless point-to-point turret tag soldering. Vintage features like a plexi panel and a specially aged Celestion G12 speaker combine with Normal and Tremolo channels, both have independent Volume and Tone controls, plus Speed and Intensity for the tremolo.

This amp is voiced in the classic Marshall style with pumped-up mids, plenty of upper-mid cut and an engagingly rough and rocking quality. Single notes are clearly defined and even complex chords cut through the distortion without any mush. The 1974X is perfectly happy at maximum volume and you can link channels for the full range of Marshall sounds, and the tremolo is deep and versatile. The 1974X delivers classic Marshall crunch at manageable but giggable volume levels and you'll never be frustrated that you can't hit the sweet spot. The tonal signature is so strong that you'll be able to sound just like all your Marshall-playing heroes; you might just struggle to find your own voice, but with a sound as good as this, it's a challenge we'd be happy to take on.

Contact: Marshall ☎ 01908 375 411

Web: [www.marshallamps.com](http://www.marshallamps.com)



## JMI

30/6

Price: £2239

Reviewed April 18/3

Contact: Music Ground

☎ 01302 330 429

Web: [www.jmiamplification.com](http://www.jmiamplification.com)

In the absence of a original-spec AC30 reissue from Vox owners Korg, Music Ground has stepped in with a proper handwired tag-strip amp. We reviewed the Top Boost version with Treble and Bass controls on a rear-panel cut-out;

it's a remarkable repro but the 100W Fane Alnico speakers did let things down, so opt for two Celestion Blues if you can. This amp muscled its way into your heart with creamy, harmonically complex overdrive. Really, the JMI 30/6 is probably as close as you'll get to a mint vintage AC30. Consider how much an original would cost, and the JMI doesn't even look that expensive.

### BEST FOR...

Fantastic AC30 sounds without risking an original on stage



## 65amps

Soho

Price: £1900

Reviewed October 18/9

Contact: Chandler Guitars

☎ 0208 940 5874

Web: [www.65amps.com](http://www.65amps.com)

The Soho is not a 'tribute' to any particular vintage amp yet it's inspired by classic valve tone, and contains 'boutique' components and mostly point-to-point wiring. In its simplest mode, you get Volume, Bass and Treble plus a defeatable Master Volume. Bump

mode progressively bypasses the tone stack via the six-way switch, and each Bump Level boosts overdrive while shifting the frequency centre of the mid boost downwards. It's remarkably versatile, something that's achieved by removing circuitry rather than adding it. This amp drips with valve-generated harmonics, but you'll only get out what you put into it. For guitarists who know that some amps have to be 'played'.

### BEST FOR...

Near-endless tonal and gain variations with purity and power

