

TURN AND BURN

Eminence Redcoat Series ReignMaker FDM speaker



* BY ERIC KIRKLAND

TUBE AMPS SOUND best when they're run hot, loud and wide open, but high volume isn't always possible or desirable. Some companies have tried to reduce the level that hits the speakers by using attenuators and load-manipulating switching systems, allowing players to get the most out of the amp's circuitry without annoying the neighbors. Although effective, these options are often pricey and can lead to early degradation of an amp's output transformer.

Eminence Speaker has come up with a solution via its patent-pending Flux Density Modulation (FDM) technology, which is being offered on two new models from its Patriot and Red Coat lines of guitar speakers. A dial on the back of each FDM speaker alters the magnetic field relative to the coil, thereby altering the speaker's efficiency and tone and attenuating its output, all without affecting your amp's precious electronics.

For this review, I checked out the new Redcoat Series 12-inch Brit-voiced ReignMaker.

FEATURES

EMINENCE DESIGNED THE 75-watt ReignMaker to have many of the attributes electric guitarists prize in British-voiced speakers, chief among them, punch, sizzling breakup at low volumes and sharp harmonic detail. On the back is the arrow-shaped FDM dial. Turning it fully counter-clockwise reduces the volume by almost 9db, which is roughly equivalent to dropping a 100-watt amp's output to 12.5 watts or a 50-watt amp to about six watts. Of course, the dial can be set anywhere in between to match your amp and venue.

PERFORMANCE

I TESTED TWO ReignMakers in a custom-made 2x12 cab that allowed me to switch between the speakers at different volume settings. At full volume, the speakers projected well, with thick lows, a pronounced upper-midrange bark and clean highs. As the dial was turned back and the output decreased, the tone became somewhat warmer and crunchier, similar to that of a Greenback or Vintage 30. However, the speaker's detail and clarity were unaffected by the different settings, allowing me to dime out my amps, achieve the same feel of a pushed speaker and hear all of those amazing tones sing at much more reasonable volumes, and with far less noise.

THE BOTTOM LINE

EMINENCE'S REIGNMAKER IS another dazzling British-voiced speaker that combines glorious midrange drive with fat lows and brilliant upper details. The company's new, integrated FDM feature revolutionizes speaker technology and performance tones, allowing players to run their amps at extreme levels while reducing the overall volume to a manageable level. **SC**

+PRO	-CON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAN REDUCE VOLUME BY NEARLY 9dB AGGRESSIVE MIX OF CLASSIC BRIT TONES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAN'T BE EASILY ADJUSTED IN A CLOSED-BACK CABINET



SPECS

LIST PRICE \$189.99
MANUFACTURER Eminence Speaker LLC., eminence.com
CONSTRUCTION Pressed-steel basket, paper cone and edge, Ferrite magnet
HANDLING 75 watts
IMPEDANCE Eight ohms
DIAMETER 12 inches
TECHNOLOGY Analog, patent-pending Flux Density Modulation (FDM) with rear-mounted volume adjustment dial

BUZZ BIN NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR

DIAGO POWERSTATION

IF YOUR RIG has a lot of stomp boxes connected to individual power supplies, your pedal board probably hums more than a three-acre bee farm next-door to a barbershop quartet college. Connecting your pedals to a single power supply can solve this problem, but not all power supplies are made the same. The Diago Powerstation is one of the quietest power supply units I've found, and it can power

as many as 30 pedals without any discernible noise or hum.

The Diago Powerstation provides up to 3,000mA of current to power the biggest pedal-board rigs, and the company offers a wide variety of optional cable adapters that can provide power to almost every pedal ever made, including those that only have nine-volt battery connectors and no external DC power jacks. The Powerstation

ships with a center-negative 2.1mm barrel-plug daisy chain that can power up to five Boss-, Ibanez-, DigiTech- or MXR-style pedals. The base unit is compatible with power sources in any country, and the power cable is detachable, allowing you to replace it with the appropriate cable-and-plug combination for the country in which you're playing.

—Chris Gill



SPECS

LIST PRICE \$119.99
MANUFACTURER Diago Guitar Gear, diago.co.uk

