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From:	Mitch (amnegrin@orion.utmb.edu)
Date:	1/31/2002 2:31 PM
Subject:	Re: T'Wreck Expresso - first question in Bias?

First Question to Mook,
How would the bias supply be different?

1. Is it dual Bias?
2. Is it cathode bias?
3. Is it a mix of fixed and cathode biased?
4. None of the above?

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From:	Mook (Mookie2112@aol.com)
Date:	1/31/2002 3:40 PM
Subject:	Re: T'Wreck Expresso - first question in Bias?

I'm not giving away any secrets here.....it's well documented that the Express is fixed biased.

Not cathode biased.

I'll just say that the bias supply is a little different than what I'm familiar with.....

Mook

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From:	PaulC (p.cochrane@worldnet.att.net)
Date:	2/1/2002 1:37 AM
Subject:	Re: T'Wreck Expresso - first question in Bias?

Hey Mook - how about posting a "fuzzy" pic of the chassis? Nothing to be able to figure out anything with. Just a look at the man's work? That pic that Ferg posted was from Ginger - which I believe was the first Liverpool. It'd be cool to see some of his later work... But again - not trying to gank the circuit - just want to see the workmanship.

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From:	Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date:	2/1/2002 3:13 PM
Subject:	"Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

Paul:

how about posting a "fuzzy" pic of the chassis?

Yeah, smear the camera lens with vaseline and put a staple in Ingrid's belly button just like in Playboy... 

Hogy did some judicious editing on the Komet pix on his site so that we could see the workmanship without letting us know the values of the pots, etc.

"Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid! Show us your tattoos!"

Steve Ahola

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From:	Mook (Mookie2112@aol.com)		
Date:	2/1/2002 4:27 PM		
Subject:	Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"		

I did take photos. Let me think about this for awhile.....but my first thought would be NOT to post any photos.

But, think about this.....let's say I post a picture showing ONLY the "workmanship" (no values). This leaves Ken and Trainwreck Circuits open to alot of potential comments like: "man that wiring is messy" or "I can't believe he's using XYZ components....they suck" or "what's the big deal? It looks like any other amp!".


For now, look inside an Alessandro amp.....there are numerous similarities.....(George got his construction techniques from Ken).

Mook

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From:	Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)		
Date:	2/2/2002 1:11 AM		
Subject:	Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"		

Mook:

We've already seen the pix of Ginger on ebay (which were digitally enhanced by a Cray supercomputer- courtesy of the space program! Go NASA!) so we know that Ken likes to use perfboard for his amps. The Callaham amps look a lot neater than Ken's, but its the **sound** that's important-right?

Digitally blurring the pix to obscure all of the values could take a few hours on the computer... time which you may not have to spare (working 2 jobs to pay off your new mortgage and all that... ) so we understand.

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 2/2/2002 7:30 AM
Subject: Ginger Undraped!

We've already seen the pix of Ginger on ebay (which were digitally enhanced by a Cray supercomputer- courtesy of the space program! Go NASA!)...

Well, here they are. Not quite as amazing as what is done in The X-Files, but there are details that weren't in the original:

http://www.blueguitar.org/liver_bd.jpg

http://www.blueguitar.org/liver_ps.jpg

<http://www.blueguitar.org/liverpre.jpg>

http://www.blueguitar.org/vig_2.jpg

<http://www.blueguitar.org/thisisit.jpg>

If anyone wants to translate these pix into schematic details, please do!



Steve Ahola

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From: MBSetzer (QualityAna@aol.com)
Date: 2/2/2002 4:11 PM
Subject: Re: Ginger Undraped!

Excellent details on those enhancements, especially that last one, this is better than the first pictures from the surface of Mars 😊

Over there by V1 where there's an image of the Virgin Mary, I guess that would be Our Lady of Liverpool 😊

Sheesh, that's some rough mojo to try and clone, no wonder nobody can duplicate these amps. 😊

And the back of one of the pots looks a bit like Jesus, but some of the others don't look that holy to me, maybe there are some things that are better left unexposed 😊

Or maybe just not looked at through a magnifying glass, might be even more difficult seeing the forest through the trees . . .

Mike

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From: Michael Tousek
Date: 2/2/2002 10:00 PM
Subject: Re: Ginger Undraped!

These pictures remind me of those photos of the Yeti slipping off into the tree line or of the Loch Ness Monster -- tantalizing, yet frustratingly inconclusive!

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From:	PaulC (p.cochrane@worldnet.att.net)
Date:	2/3/2002 1:54 AM
Subject:	Re: Ginger Undraped!

Thank God those pics are still blurry! Steve -how can we talk Mook into posting fuzzy pics if he thinks NASA can clear 'em up?!! Anyway there is a nice picture of the back of Mooks amp at <http://trainwreck.com/ingrid.htm> Anything we need to know is right there. See how the OT tranny is right next to the pwr tranny on one side of the amp? That's got to be the secret!!

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From:	Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date:	2/3/2002 7:36 AM
Subject:	Here are the original pix from ebay

Just so that we can see our NASA dollars at work here is what the blurry originals looked like:

<http://www.blueguitar.org/gingorig.jpg>

<http://www.blueguitar.org/gingerbd.jpg>

Not much to work with... 

Steve Ahola

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From:	Michael Tousek
Date:	2/3/2002 2:58 PM
Subject:	Fuzzy Trainwreck

Yeah, not much there to work with, unfortunately.

I actually got to see the inside of a Trainwreck this past summer. It was a real early one -- I can't remember "her" name -- but it was covered with a fuzzy, light blue/grey colored covering, almost like plush, velveteen automobile or furniture upholstery, rather than the nice hardwood that other Trainwrecks have. It was at an amp repair shop in Nashville, and the chassis was just sort of laying there, out of the cabinet, for all to see.

The guy informed me that it was an early Trainwreck -- I want to say it was the first one, but that may not be correct -- and so I studied it for a couple minutes trying to learn its secrets. I wanted to run out to the car and get a pencil and paper and copy down the circuit, but I thought that would be uncouth, so I tried to make mental notes of what I saw.

Unfortunately, I didn't have enough time to really get the circuit figured out, and I have since forgotten any and all details about the circuit. My main memory is of the light blue fuzz covering (or was it pinkish salmon? -- gosh, now I'm not sure about that, either) fuzzy covering, and my initial impression that the amp was some sort of cheezeball amateur project -- imagine that!

Has anyone heard of an early, pastel-colored, fuzz-covered Trainwreck?

Michael Tousek

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From:	PaulC (p.cochrane@worldnet.att.net)		
Date:	2/3/2002 3:09 PM		
Subject:	Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck		

That was Ginger. The same amp in the pictures. When Ferg first got it it had that case you saw. They had the nice wood one built for it that summer. That is the first Liverpool Fischer built.

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From:	Michael Tousek		
Date:	2/3/2002 4:42 PM		
Subject:	Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck		

Man, let's hear it for synchronicity -- and what a small world it is! Of course, this means that my '67 SF Bassman head was sitting in the same shop with the first ever Trainwreck Liverpool amp for about a week -- certainly within range of Ginger's mojo flux field. I wonder if my amp has any residual Ken Fischer magic in it now due to some sort of proximity effect!

MT

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From:	PaulC (p.cochrane@worldnet.att.net)		
Date:	2/4/2002 1:51 AM		
Subject:	Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck		

Hey Michael - are you still in Nashville? I've got a shop here myself in Tusculum Music. Stop by sometime if you're around...

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From:	Michael Tousek		
Date:	2/4/2002 3:31 AM		
Subject:	Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck		

Paul, I'm in East Tennessee now, but when I was in Nashville (Murfreesboro, actually) I used to stop in at Tusculum Music fairly regularly just to see what kind of interesting used gear they might have. My Tokai strat has a set of used pickups that I bought there, as a matter of fact. Tusculum usually had something cool -- always lots of used pedals -- and the folks there were friendly and laid-back.

By the way, was that crazy blue fuzzy thing the original cabinet?

Michael Tousek

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From: Anthony Noel (anoel@gte.net)
Date: 2/4/2002 3:19 PM
Subject: Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck

Hey, I'm from east Tennessee, Which part are you in. I lived in the Kingsport, Johnson City, Bristol area up until about 4 years ago.

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 2/3/2002 7:15 PM
Subject: Re: Fuzzy Trainwreck

Michael:

I wanted to run out to the car and get a pencil and paper and copy down the circuit, but I thought that would be uncouth, so I tried to make mental notes of what I saw.

A good reason to have a cybernetically-implemented 3.2 megapixel digital camera behind your left eye... Who needs two eyes anyway? Hmm... that makes me wonder about everyone with a glass eye— is that just glass or is it actually a "Spy Eye"?

So who was it who said that mental notes aren't worth the paper they are printed on? 😊

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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From: anonymous
Date: 2/3/2002 3:08 PM
Subject: Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

The myth surrounding these overpriced BS amps may be exposed.

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From: Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date: 2/3/2002 7:40 PM
Subject: Trainwreck prices

The myth surrounding these overpriced BS amps may be exposed.

From various reports Ken Fischer originally sold most of the Trainwreck amps for less than \$2000. 40 hours at \$40/hour adds up to \$1600, so I think that Ken's prices were very reasonable.

It has been on the secondary market that the prices have been going sky high. Rumor has it that many of the original owners are selling their Wrecks and buying Komets... I have a hunch that they are packing their noses with the ~\$10k in profits so expect interminable mindless soloing on

the cd's they are now recording. ("Wanker Alert! Wanker Alert!") 😊

Steve Ahola

P.S. Here is a PDF file I made from a Trainwreck flyer:

<http://www.blueguitar.org/wreckcat.pdf>

Hmmm... I think that's supposed to be "Clapton" on the second page.

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From:	Jason A. (j1c1a1@aol.com)
Date:	2/4/2002 1:43 AM
Subject:	Re: Trainwreck prices

Steve,

That PDF is killer, IMO. I have the original printed word as well, but the Rocket page is seperate. Some of the wording is different on your PDF than either of the printed pamphlets I have. Teh Rocket pamphlet is printed on red paper and has this picture of a vintage locomotive [the Rocket]. Very cool. Anybody wanna give me \$5K for both? I didn't think so!

Thanks!

Jason

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From:	Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date:	2/5/2002 5:31 AM
Subject:	Trainwreck literature

Jason:

If you can scan that literature as TIFF files I can run into through OmniPage to make it available to everybody here.

--Thanks!

Steve Ahola

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From:	Jason A. (j1c1a1@aol.com)
Date:	2/5/2002 6:35 PM
Subject:	Re: Trainwreck literature

Steve,

I need to get a scanner, don't I! Fortunately, the woman has access to all this stuff at work--it's her old man's forklift company. This weekend may not be a problem. It has been a "psychotic" week, though.

Jason

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From:	Mook (Mookie2112@aol.com)
Date:	2/3/2002 9:14 PM
Subject:	Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

BS amps? Why do you say that? Ever play one?

I don't know what the BS statement is for!

Overpriced? Yes, but it's supply/demand. There are only around 100 T'Wrecks in existence. I'd say that makes them RARE. Rare items cost ALOT!

Not only that, they sound great! They truely do things no other amp will do.

Try one, before you speak out of line.....

Mook

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From:	Jason A. (j1c1a1@aol.com)
Date:	2/4/2002 1:45 AM
Subject:	Original pricing

Anon,

Original Trainwreck prices from 1995 [when I was on the list] were as follows.

\$1995--Express

\$2095--Liverpool

\$2195--Rocket

Jason

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From:	Steve A. (steve_ahola@yahoo.com)
Date:	2/5/2002 5:29 AM
Subject:	Re: Original pricing

Jason:

It's interesting that the most powerful amp (the Express) was the least expensive of the three. I guess there was more labor in having the four output tubes.

Steve Ahola

P.S. I wonder how many amps Ken built at those prices before he had to retire from production...



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From:	Mook (Mookie2112@aol.com)		
Date:	2/5/2002 1:41 PM		
Subject:	Re: Original pricing		

There are only around 100 'Wrecks. Of those, there are only 12 Rockets. Ken is currently working on Rocket #13 (It's been 1/2 done for quite a few years).

Due to the rarity, the Rockets are the most expensive. The most was a Trem Rocket that went for \$18,000.

Mook

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From:	Anthony Noel (anoel@gte.net)		
Date:	2/5/2002 8:32 PM		
Subject:	Re: Original pricing		

Damn... It'd be great to be able to be respected for taking that much time to be able to produce something. I've built a couple for others and got hassle for taking 5 weeks.

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From:	jaysg (jayfbv@yahoo.com)		
Date:	2/6/2002 12:50 AM		
Subject:	Re: Original pricing		

Sure sounds like Mr. F. should get a pal in there to help, finish that amp, then sell it direct on ebay. How many of us would do the work for free?



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From:	PeteRH (psharps@bigpond.net.au)		
Date:	2/4/2002 2:41 AM		
Subject:	Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"		

...and I bet you said '59 Les Pauls were overpriced at \$5000 ten or so years ago.

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From: John Kelley Brown (ledboots@attbi.com)

Date: 2/4/2002 3:12 AM

Subject: Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

He's just trolling, ignore.

John Kelley Brown

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From: carlo (funkyloon@aol.com)

Date: 2/4/2002 3:57 AM

Subject: Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

why is it anonymous is usually looking for trouble?

Mook -

are the cathodes of the output tubes are tied directly to ground?

is that extra triode in the preamp being used?

carlo

ps- if these questions are too specific, just let me know.

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From: aron (aronnelson@bigfoot.com)

Date: 2/4/2002 7:00 AM

Subject: Re: "Ingrid! Ingrid! Ingrid!"

I thought the express I saw was very neat - in a DIY sort of way. Those flea clips and vector board made me want to get that myself (although I never did).

For the record, I think the Wreck amps are amazing and they get a great tone. I also think it's important to realize that it also depends on the style of playing you do. The Wreck will not work for all kinds of styles - nor was it meant to. It's a really great amp that's really responsive to playing.

To me the elusive things I heard/felt was the fast responsiveness, the clarity, the harmonics and the nice feedback.

It's the whole package that makes this amp sing. I'm sure most of us have already tried the preamp and output stage. Obviously it's not only the circuit. It's the transformers, layout, chassis type etc... heck maybe even the wood! :-)

Whatever, it's a great amp and if it's the right thing for you, great!

I keep on wondering how it stays so bright when it's really cranked. All my amps start really "browning out" when cranked.

Me? I'd like to see that little Champ he mentions in the Weber book! :-)

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From: Mark S
Date: 2/1/2002 2:39 AM
Subject: Re: T'Wreck Expresso - first question in Bias?

go to blueguitar.org and look at the schematic in POW.zip

The article says the "variable cathode bias" circuit was developed with a suggestion from Ken Fischer.

Are we getting warm?

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From: Mark S
Date: 2/2/2002 6:23 AM
Subject: Hey Mook,--Another bias guess....

go to blueguitar.org and look at the schematic in POW.zip (John Macintyre's Prince O'Wails mod from GP several years ago). It has a bias circuit that is unlike conventional bias circuits that you see in other amps...

The article says the "variable cathode bias" circuit was developed with a suggestion from Ken Fischer.

Are we getting warm?
