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From: Meek (mtwente@hotmail.com)

Date: 2/25/2002 11:58 PM

Subject: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

Could anyone tell me what amps & guitars were used on the Abbey Road album? I know there is a book out now about this very topic, but I do not have it yet. Any help would be...helpful?

Thanks,
Meek

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

Date: 2/26/2002 12:36 AM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey R

I've heard from a few sources they were using silver face Fender combos, nothing more specific than that though.
Kelley

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From: SpeedRacer (Joe@obsoleteelectronics.com)

Date: 3/1/2002 1:10 PM

Subject: Re: Great book about this..

go to your fav book store and find the Beatles Gear, it's a new book just about what they were using and when and where.. I bought it and really like it.. just am fried from lack of sleep and can't think of the title right now. Anyhow, pretty cool if you're a gear head/recording engineer geek. 😊 Paul wailing a tele through Selmer 2x12 50W combo on Sgt Pepper.. no yer talkin toneage!

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From: ChrisW (c.m.winsemius@hetnet.nl)

Date: 2/26/2002 12:43 AM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

Lennon did use a Casino and a tweed Deluxe
Chris

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From: Jon Frum

Date: 2/26/2002 5:55 AM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

I believe that George had a strat by then. Fender was embarrassed that the Beatles never used their guitars, so they set up a meeting and comped them the guitars of their choice.

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From: Greg Simon (soundmasterg@hotmail.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 9:13 AM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

John was mostly if not totally using his Epiphone Casino. He was using Fender amps...most likely twins and Deluxes. George was using a lot of Strat and Les Paul...maybe an SG and/or Casino too...and most likely the same amp combination as John. Paul mostly used the Rickenbacker bass, though the Hofner was used on Maxwell's Silver Hammer for sure....and I believe he either went direct or used a Fender amp for the basslines. Ringo used Ludwig drum kits. I got most of this from the New Beatles Gear book, but also, if you listen really close you can tell too usually. Hope that helps ya.
Greg Simon

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From: Ian Anderson (velatones@aol.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 1:07 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

If anyone has a specific question as to what equipment was used on a certain track, I can ask my brother - he knows an unhealthy amount of stuff about the Beatles right down to guitars and amps used on certain songs - and he ain't even a player either!!!

... Ian 

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From: Jason (Jimmyslashsrv@aol.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 1:13 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

i thought Harrison was using what most people used during the day? Vox AC-30?

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From: drewl

Date: 2/26/2002 3:00 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

definitely silver deluxes & twins, George also had that custom rosewood telecaster. George preferred clean sounds and was not a big fan of distortion, John on the other hand loved that raunchy grind.
after his unfortunate passing, there were lots of articles about George and his gear.
gotta' get me that new book too!

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From: A Colman (litabug5@sympatico.ca)

Date: 2/26/2002 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

The lesson I got is that they got totally run of the mill gear and made some of the best music of the second half of the 20th century and then to top it off THEY refer to it as "POSH SKIFFLE!" Amazing fellars.
A Colman

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

Date: 2/26/2002 6:21 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey R

By the time they recorded Abby Road the Beatles were a long ways away from their Vox AC30 days. Only their earliest albums used AC30, by the time Help was recorded they had moved to AC50's, rumor has it, but I'm not sure if it's true, that they recorded Sargent Peppers with Selmers. I the movie "Let It Be", where it follows them through recording sessions and that live performance on the roof top, you mainly see silver face Fender combos, Harrison as well.
Kelley

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From: daveg (daveg778@yahoo.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 6:30 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey R

If i recall wasn't this about the time George's Rosewood Tele made it's appearance as well?...

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From: pgambon (gamdun@attbi.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 8:23 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey R

Let's not forget that McCartney played a lot of guitar on that album. I know that on his solo album he has a non-reverse Firebird.

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From: Meek (mtwente@hotmail.com)

Date: 2/26/2002 7:48 PM

Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

Ian,

When you get the chance, ask your brother what George, John & Paul were using on "The End"--leads & rhythm. Respond to this board, if you will (my Hotmail account is not working right now--too much spam!).

Thanks,
Meek

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From:	Little Warren (littlewarren@hotmail.com)		
Date:	2/26/2002 8:16 PM		
Subject:	Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?		

I've always heard a story that it's Eric Clapton playing with John and George. Anyone else heard this or is my Dad full of crap?

A colleague of mine who is an 'expert on such matters' said that the Beatles recorded alot of the guitars direct into the console. Specifically, the intro guitar to Revolution is a John's Casino through one channel of the (Class A) Neve console cascaded into another channel.

Often times when doing this two channel trick they would boost all the highs on one channel and then cut them on the other. This introduces lots of phase shift which gives it a unique sound. Plus those old Neve modules sound incredible.

John was also a huge fan of Leslie's. Apparently he wanted to do a song where everything -including drums- was recorded through one.

I'll check some of my studio-geek books for more info. Geoff Emmerick talks about the 'McCartney Bass sound' in detail somewhere...

Cheers
Warren

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From:	Sonic Bloom (jsalman@fiam.net)		
Date:	2/27/2002 6:26 PM		
Subject:	Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?		

I've always heard a story that it's Eric Clapton playing with John and George.

That's funny, for many years, I thought the same thing. But then I had read (I think it may have been an interview with one of the Beatles, probably John) that it was Paul, John, and George trading licks.

It's not difficult to figure out which licks are being played by George and John. George's tone is fairly clean (rosewood Tele?) and his licks sound very "studied", almost even worked out in advance (they're GREAT licks, though!) John has a more distorted, grungier tone, and his licks are more primitive, but in a wonderfully roughed-up, out-of-control manner. The third guitar sounds round and sweet, like a nicely overdriven Les Paul or 335. It sure SOUNDS like Clapton's playing during the late-60's!! Also, the screaming bends and vibrato are absolutely perfect and lyrical, a la Cream and Blind Faith-era Clapton. As a comparison, Paul's guitar solo breaks in "Maybe I'm Amazed" (from his first post-breakup solo LP, I think), although nicely done, are not nearly as fluid and vocal sounding. So if that really WAS Paul trading licks with his bandmates, then, along with being a highly influential bassist, he had to have been a highly underrated, blues/rock electric guitarist!

In retrospect, I wouldn't be at all surprised if it turns out that it really was Eric Clapton, not Paul, who was playing that third guitar.

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From: Wild Bill (wildbillcostello@sympatico.ca)
Date: 2/27/2002 6:29 PM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

what about those blasphemous rumours of SS amps like the Vox Defiant?

---Wild Bill

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From: drewl
Date: 2/27/2002 8:37 PM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

what is this beatles 101?

of course paul played leads, he was just as quick/good if not better than john & george.
the "guitar battle" solo's of the end are george, paul then john, the later 2 most likely using the casino's, george probably the tele.
revolver and pepper had the vox 700 series (or something) hybrid amps as well as others.

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From: Sonic Bloom (jsalman@fiam.net)
Date: 2/28/2002 5:06 PM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

what is this beatles 101? of course paul played leads

Yes, yes, everyone knows that Paul could play guitar solos quite well. What's mysterious is how closely he (assuming it really was Paul) was able to ape Eric Clapton's signature style and tone on those licks. The mastery he displays on them suggests somebody who spends A LOT of time practicing and playing lead guitar, rather than someone who divides his time equally between songwriting, bass, piano, and guitar.

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From: JWK (jkilmer@usadatanet.net)
Date: 2/28/2002 5:17 PM
Subject: George Harrison stated in Guitar Player mag...

that himself, John and Paul played the three solos at the end. It was an interview from the mid 80's on the guitars they all used. I saved that issue since it was such a great interview and gave great info, especially for that time. I could dig it out and see exactly what he said about that piece, but I know he said specifically it was the three of them playing on "The End". He spoke of Eric's part on the white album. Who knows?

John

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From: Tom (tgavin3@yahoo.com)
Date: 2/28/2002 7:28 PM
Subject: Re: George Harrison stated in Guitar Player mag...

can't remember the interview, but I recall reading *somewhere* that Paul was playing his Lefty (59?) sunburst LP on this...

fwiw

Tom

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From: A Colman (litabug5@sympatico.ca)
Date: 2/28/2002 8:58 PM
Subject: Re: George Harrison stated in Guitar Player mag...

I read the same thing, Paul and his lefty LP. It's well documented on several books and I think Wolf Marshall said it too on one of the transcription flying around.
I saw Wings live (yes laugh) And Paul CAN play as good as anybody.
A Colman

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From: Buffaloe (buffaloe@pacbell.net)
Date: 2/27/2002 9:43 PM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

I believe the third guitarist is Clapton. The structure and tone of those licks is either Mr. C or a damn good impersonator! McC is a pretty good guitarist, but I've never heard anything he played that approached the Abbey Road recording.

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From: pgambon (gamdun@attbi.com)
Date: 2/28/2002 12:46 AM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

I'd be shocked if it was Clapton. Nowhere have I seen anyone related to the Beatles say otherwise. I think Paul played much more than people realize. I think that must be him playing the into to Octopus' Garden. Remember the famous battle with George on the Let It Be sessions? Could it have been that George was feeling slighted that his talents weren't being utilized in the "New(studio)Beatles"?

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From: jaysg (jayfbv@yahoo.com)
Date: 2/28/2002 1:45 AM
Subject: Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?

Isn't it John and Paul on the intro/outro guitar parts on And Your Bird Can Sing? I know Paul takes the solo on Taxman.

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From:	teleharmonium (mintmilano@aol.com)		
Date:	3/1/2002 6:07 PM		
Subject:	Re: Was that Paul or Eric Clapton?		

doesn't sound like Clapton to me. Listen to Paul's solo on 'Taxman' and compare it to the 'third guitarist' solo. I have to say it bugs me to hear all of these theories about Clapton being on Beatles stuff. Obviously he is on 'while my guitar...' but some folks want to give him credit for everything. Frankly I think Paul could school Clapton as a guitarist as well as a musician generally.

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From:	JWK (jkilmer@usadatanet.net)		
Date:	3/1/2002 8:23 PM		
Subject:	Have to agree...		

Just out of curiosity, I went and listened a bunch of times today. All three were pretty easy to pick out according to my ears. I hear no Clapton-like vibrato. Just my \$.02

John

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From:	Doug B. (jzmc@mail.marist.edu)		
Date:	2/28/2002 3:00 AM		
Subject:	Beatles guitar links		

Here are some "gear" Beatle guitar links.

This is my favorite of the bunch. It tells when they got 'em and what (might have) happened to 'em. Plus a bunch of historic photos and some interviews with repairmen who worked on 'em:

<http://www.thecanteen.com/fabguitars.html>

Listed by album (not sure how accurate, but seems quite inclusive):

<http://www.raconteurs.demon.co.uk/beatlesguitars/>

This page has a bunch of color photos of their actual guitars:

<http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Theater/9182/guitars.html>

- Doug B.

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From: Mike Conner (rmconner80@hotmail.com)
Date: 2/28/2002 8:27 PM
Subject: Re: Beatles guitar links

God, I'm going to lose my job looking at all this stuff. You've got to love this, taken from one of the 1965 Lennon pages:

"1961 Fender Stratocaster, Sonic Blue, rosewood fingerboard: One day in the studio, during the Help! sessions, Lennon and Harrison sent roadie Mal Evans out to "get a couple Strats," and Ever-Smiling came back from Grimwoods in Kent with two '61 models in a rare color (reportedly, Brian Epstein had agreed to pay for them if they were the same color). They later put them to work on "Nowhere Man," and used them regularly. Whereabouts unknown."

mike

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From: Henrik (henrikre@NOSPAM.stud.ntnu.no)
Date: 2/28/2002 9:55 PM
Subject: Re: Beatles guitar links

That very same guitar, the one George had, was the one he later painted in psychedelic day-glo paint, after the original finish wore off surprisingly quickly.

Henrik

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From: PAULH (triple.s.electronics@verizon.net)
Date: 2/28/2002 7:22 PM
Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

I know John had a fondness for tweed Bassmans. I personally worked on 3 that he owned. All were beat to hell. One was very unusual. It was a Twin amp circuit with 4x10"s from '56. All had the tweed missing. One was covered with this wierd stipped cloth. (Very pshcadelllic!) Another had a stencil that read " Plastic Ono and Elephants Memory Band".

All of them just sounded great!!! I've seen pictures of John with Tweed Bassmans as early as '64 next to the AC30's. There's a good photo of him with one jamming with Frank Zappa in the "Sometime in New York" album. Chances are your hearing one of these on "Abbey Road"

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From: Doug B. (jzmc@mail.marist.edu)
Date: 3/1/2002 10:29 PM
Subject: Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?

Regarding the guitar "battle" on the song "The End"....

On the 3rd Beatles Anthology CD set, Mark Lewisohn (who also wrote the "Beatles Recording Sessions" book) states that the solos are Paul, George, and John... *in that order*.

You can kinda tell too, as the solos match their personalities: Paul's solo is competent and straightforward, George's has fluidity and embellishments (from his sitar training?), and John's has that grungy from-the-gut feel.

Maybe the "Clapton" idea originated from confusion with his solo on "While My Guitar Gently Weeps". Interestingly, i read somewhere that the tape engineer at the session manually "wobbled" the speed of the recorder to make the solo more "Beatley sounding"!

- Doug B.

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From:	Jack Collins (jcollins@calpoly.edu)		
Date:	3/2/2002 12:34 AM		
Subject:	Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?		

The first ones definitely Paul. Second George.
Last John.

Listen to George on One After 909 (Let It Be), it sounds very Claptonish.

Remember George and Eric were such good buddies they shared a wife.

George probly picked up a couple of licks from EC along the way.

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From:	heh heh (blah@aha.com)		
Date:	3/4/2002 10:06 AM		
Subject:	Re: What amps & guitars are used on The Beatles' Abbey Road?		

>George probly picked up a couple of licks
>from EC along the way.

I'd say that George's ex-wife picked up a couple of licks from EC as well! :-)
