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<b>From:</b>	<b>Mark Abbott</b> @
<b>Date:</b>	4/4/2003 12:41 PM
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Transformers for Trainwreck clone.</b>

I have some transformers at home, and thought I'd have a go at the Trainwreck Express.

These transformers are New Sensor Fender type power, and audio transformers p/n: nsc022913, and nsc125p1b.

I believe that they are intended for a Fender Princeton.

Which circuit at Blueguitar, (or other sites)is the best start with?

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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<b>From:</b>	<b>chris Gondoli</b> @
<b>Date:</b>	4/4/2003 11:44 PM
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re: Transformers for Trainwreck clone.</b>

Hi Mark,

I used schematic a1a for my 1st attempt at an Express.I chose that one because it had the Bright switch.On my next one I am going with a2 also from the Blue guitar.I have done Alot of research on the Express latley, and can tell you alot of people belive that none of those schematics are correct.Some are from people who have seen the real deal inside and some are variations on a theme.I am now starting to belive that there isn't a correct schem out there.They are all variations of the truth.I would choose one,build it and tune the circut to taste when you are done.

Good luck!!!

Chris G

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<b>From:</b>	<b>PeterRH</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4/5/2003 4:45 AM
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re: Transformers for Trainwreck clone.</b>

I've tried variations 1 thru 4 and then a few more!!

I would start with A0.

BUT IMO If you want a plug and play (ie. just solder once and play) type of amp.....then build a jtm45, dumble or matchless or anything that you know you like the sound of. If you want to tweak the hell out of it OR if you want to learn about how amps work build a wreck.

I have spent a multitude of hours tweaking my clone and have gotten it close to what I want.....but it probably aint no 'wreck!!

The real gem was that I have learnt more tweaking this amp than building a fender reverb unit, rumble clone, various fender clones and effects pedals.

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<b>From:</b>	<b>Mark Abbott</b> @
<b>Date:</b>	4/5/2003 9:32 AM
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Reply to Peter.</b>

Dear Peter

I'm curious as to which circuit will have me pointed in the "right" direction having never knowingly heard this amp before.

Thanks for your reply, and assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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From:	PeteRH		
Date:	4/5/2003 12:46 PM		
Subject:	right direction?		

Mark,

A0 with a 1M treble pot, without the 820 ohm, 2.7k/0.68uF on the first stage, a1a bright switches and a 10k tail resistor could lead you in the right direction....but like everyone says Ken made them all a bit different. I get something I like with split plate loads after the third gain stage but they say that Ken didn't use this. Hope you like what you hear.

Regards

Pete

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From:	Mark Abbott <a href="#">@</a>		
Date:	4/6/2003 2:45 PM		
Subject:	Thanks for your help.		

Again much thanks Pete.

I hope to start this project over Easter, I keep you guys posted.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott

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From:	Mark Abbott @			
Date:	4/5/2003 9:27 AM			
Subject:	Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?			

Dear Chris

Thanks for your reply, did your friend give you circuit diagrams of the Wrecks that he saw?

What were the differences between the circuits he saw?

By this I mean that version A0 has a 50pF treble cap, and a one meg treble pot, while another version has a 500pF treble cap, and a 250K treble pot. I would consider these two as different versions, as these amps would sound quite different, and I would not consider these changes as tweaks to alter the basic tone of the amp.

Did you get to hear these amps so you would know if you are going in the right direction while tweaking?

When you were building, and tweaking this amp which components/areas did you find to be areas which yielded tonal variations without really changing the circuit design too much?

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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From:	chris Gondoli @		
Date:	4/6/2003 3:28 PM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

Hi Mark,

I don't know anyone personally who has seen the inside of a real wreck. I have spoke to a gentelman who postes here on a regular basis, He told me that the schems on the blueguitar site are not correct.

I did not feel comfortable asking him for all the differences between what a real wreck looks like and the schems on the Blue guitar.

As far as the differnces between A0 and A1a, the use of a 50pf and 1meg treble pot this is a classic vox treble set up, whereas the 500pf and 250k pot would be a Marshall type. I would consider this a choice in high end... Which do you prefer?

I have never herd a real wreck in person. I can tell you this, The amp I built sharred some of the attributes of A real wreck, It didn't have a lot of clean headroom. It did go from some what clean to very distorted by using the volume knob on my guitar. It also was very hiissy!!

This amplifier circuit is so basic, in terms of # of tubes, parts count, # of controls it is all open to tweaks! the third stage in particular seen to be open for differnt interpritations.

Let me close by saying this, every part of this circuit is critical to how the amp will sound. but maybe even more so is the type of transformers used, tubes, and speakers are of the upmost importance.

Hope this helps!!

Chris G

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From:	Mark Abbott @		
Date:	4/7/2003 12:09 PM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

Dear Chris

Thanks for your reply; I suppose it's my turn like everyone else to try out this circuit.

"I have spoke to a gentlemen who posts here on a regular basis, He told me that the schems on the blueguitar site are not correct."

I think this is the most frustrating thing about the whole Trainwreck thing, the Chinese whispers, it seems so silly, Ken Fisher doesn't even make the amp anymore, so why all the secrecy, (because he can!)

One thing that is quite unusual is Gerald Weber's US to Brit mod. The first two stages are typical Black/Brown face circuit (except the 2K7 resistor, and the 0.68uF cap in the first cathode stage.) The next stage is Trainwreck like, except he uses 330K resistors to halve the signal, I think he would have used something like this in his Trainwreck badged amps, you've got to wonder?

"As far as the differences between A0 and A1a, the use of a 50pf and 1meg treble pot this is a classic vox treble set up, whereas the 500pf and 250k pot would be a Marshall type. I would consider this a choice in high end... Which do you prefer?"

I don't exactly know, mind you I have used the 1 Meg treble pot to sort out amps that were way too bright sounding.

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From:	<b>Matt</b>
Date:	4/9/2003 4:19 PM
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>

One thing I don't understand is that folks who allegedly know what the schematic is and know about 'Wrecks say that even if you followed a correct schematic, it's VERY likely that it still won't sound like a real 'Wreck. Then they refuse to divulge the schematic. Something doesn't add up there.

I've built a few versions of the Express using the schematics on BG as a guide and they all sounded pretty good. The clean tone was within a very small span of the volume knob but was very lush and just great. FWIW, I almost always ended up with a 1M bass pot but from reading many threads on the Express, apparently nobody else does. IIRC, I always used a 250k treble pot and 250pF-500pF treble cap.

Matt

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From:	<b>Mark Abbott</b> @		
Date:	4/10/2003 10:10 AM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Dear Matt

I agree with you, about your comments about the logic of some of the Trainwreck posts.

You do see some great "mythical" statements.

My favourite is; there is so few parts in a Trainwreck that everything matters.

Following this line of thought, a Fender single ended Champ must be nearly impossible to clone, the reverse is actually the case!

I think the thing about these Express amps is some of the people who have paid ridiculous sums of money for them are really going to have their noses put out of joint, if people have access to accurate circuits, and are are cloning them , this may reduce the value of their investment, Ken Fisher will do the right thing, and try to protect these peoples investment. It's what I'd want him to do If I shelled out big bucks.

Once again, have fun tweaking, or buy a Komet. I could never afford an Express, but I think I could make the stretch to get a Komet.

Anyway, thanks for your input.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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From:	<b>Doug H</b> @		
Date:	4/10/2003 1:19 PM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Matt,

I just breadboarded a jfet pedal (heresy!!;-) based on the A0 schematic and it sounds really good. It cleans up pretty well with the guitar volume and gets into fun harmonics and feedback when pushed. There is a nice glassy high freq sound on my single coil neck pup that is present no matter where the gain is set. With humbucker bridge pup at same settings it morphs into a plexi-ish tone with all the feedback fun. I use a 250k and it pumps da bass too.;-)

Bottom line is these schematics on Steve's site, whatever they are, wherever they came from, sound really good and are well worth experimenting

with. I have experimented with A0 in both a single-ended amp and now a pedal and can say the ideas in these schems have wide application.

I don't know, nor do I care how close this comes to the purported "real thing". I'm not interested in clones or simulations, I'm interested in ideas and tones. What I -can- say is that if you like this kind of tone, these sound better than any other topology I've tried.

*One thing I don't understand is that folks who allegedly know what the schematic is and know about 'Wrecks say that even if you followed a correct schematic, it's VERY likely that it still won't sound like a real 'Wreck. Then they refuse to divulge the schematic. Something doesn't add up there.*

Rational thought and logic doesn't enter the picture when someone is trying to protect the value of a collectable.

Doug

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From:	<b>Bruce /Mission Amps</b> @
Date:	4/10/2003 10:02 PM
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>

*I don't know, nor do I care how close this comes to the purported "real thing". I'm not interested in clones or simulations, I'm interested in ideas and tones. What I -can- say is that if you like this kind of tone, these sound better than any other topology I've tried.*

Bravo Doug and well said.

No matter how you get there, what sounds good, is good!

Bruce

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From:	<b>Mook</b> @
Date:	4/11/2003 1:43 PM
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>

Yep. Well said. My "Espresso" clone no longer follows anything from the Blue Guitar schematic, and I think it sounds excellent and has alot of the attributes of a real Wreck.

Mook

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From:	<b>Doug H</b> @
Date:	4/11/2003 5:04 PM
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>

Thanks for the nice comments, Bruce and Mook. It means a lot coming from you guys.

IMO, the whole point of DIY is to find my own tone recipe instead of trying to duplicate something else, just because someone said it was "good".

Doug

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<b>From:</b>	<b>Mark Abbott</b> <a href="#">@</a>		
<b>Date:</b>	4/12/2003 12:08 AM		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Good stuff Doug!</b>		

Dear Doug

That sounds great, will you post that on your site?

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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<b>From:</b>	<b>The Wizard</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	4/9/2003 5:31 PM		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

You guys will never be able to reproduce a K.F. amp as Kens got the majic touch that only he can do with an amp.

It really "IS" majic!!!!

The wisa old Wizard \*\*^>()

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<b>From:</b>	<b>chris Gondoli</b> <a href="#">@</a>		
<b>Date:</b>	4/10/2003 3:14 AM		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

To The WIZARD,  
You are probably right!!  
Chris

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<b>From:</b>	<b>Mark Abbott</b> <a href="#">@</a>		
<b>Date:</b>	4/10/2003 7:55 AM		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>To the Wizard</b>		

Dear Wizard

I believe in never saying never, as you're quitting before you've started the race.

Anything is possible, I believe someone will build an amp better than a Trainwreck.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott

P.S. Hope it happens on Ampage!

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From:	chris Gondoli @		
Date:	4/10/2003 3:01 AM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

Hi Mark,

I agree 100%,As far as just buying a Komet goes I don't think the tone is as nice as the Express in the sound samples I've heard.Which leads me too another point I've never heard eaither amp in person,so it's hard to judge them on that bassis.

Thanks!!

Chris

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From:	Mook @						
Date:	4/10/2003 3:16 PM						
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?						

>I don't think it is in Ken Fisher's  
>interests, present Express owners,  
>or even Hogy's to give up the Express  
>circuit.

To be totally honest, you \*do\* have the schem at Blue Guitar. No Express is like another. The schems WILL get you there. The rest, honestly, is tweeking and making the "amp" live up to it's fullest potential.

Building a "Trainwreck" amp does not mean following a circuit. Ken can take a BF Deluxe and make it sound good, and I know alot of other people can too. Making an amp be all-it-can-be is a vital, but often not understood, concept.

Mook

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From:	Mook <a href="#">@</a>						
Date:	4/10/2003 3:10 PM						
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?						

>He told me that the schems on the  
>blueguitar site are not correct....

Well.....the schems are not 100% correct, but they are VERY, VERY, VERY close. But, I \*do\* guarentee this - the schems (the first few), are close enough to build a VERY killer amp that will be very close, and no doubt, better that the available Clones.

After that, I only have one more spec of advice.....take the amp, plus your "best" cab of choice, and your "best" guitar of choice and tweek away. DO



NOT STRAY from that combination. So, if you go with a 2x12 with Greens and a Les Paul, always use those items for tweeking purposes. Do not plug in a Strat or use a different cab. Tweek, tweek, tweek until that combination sounds like Heaven. If you want to use a Strat, build a different "Expresso" amp and start all over. Each will have a unique voice and be coupled with a certain guitar, cab, and speaker.

Mook

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From:	Greg @		
Date:	4/10/2003 7:06 PM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

I have a question for Mook:

You mentioned that you had built an Express copy and that it sounded different from the real deal. I'm assuming that you made this after you had your Wreck in an attempt to see if you could recreate the tone. Is that the case? If so - and the results were significantly off - what do you attribute it to? You had access to the component parts and values(probably not the trannies), the circuit, the layout etc. I mean are you 75% there or 95% there?

For a novice homebrewer like me, an 80% accurate clone is reason to celebrate by grabbing a guitar, a beer and start making music. The inability to A/B with the real deals is a blessing for me at this stage.

For me, the sound of a guitar unamplified is all I need to know about it to fall in love with it. The response of an amp is all I need to know about it to determine if I am enjoying the playing experience. I don't so much play in response to the tone, but more in response to the responsiveness of the guitar/amp combination. I alter my hands/picking to deal with what I have to work with to get the quality of note I am after (just like we all do).

Is the impossible to capture magic in a Wreck more about the achieving/failing in the touch response category, the control-ability of the gain, or the balance of the eq?

If I can make an amp that will do a singing lead and stringy chime by merely adjusting the volume knob on the guitar, I will be estatic.

That quality is what has drawn me into the idea of building one - but is this the area of common success or common failure with the copies?

Thanks  
"Beginner" Greg

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From:	Mook @						
Date:	4/11/2003 1:36 PM						
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?						

>You mentioned that you had built  
>an Express copy and that it sounded  
>different from the real deal. I'm  
>assuming that you made this after you  
>had your Wreck in an attempt to see  
>if you could recreate the tone. Is that  
>the case? If so - and the results were significantly off - what do you attribute  
>it to? You had access to the component  
>parts and values(probably not the  
>trannies), the circuit, the layout  
>etc. I mean are you 75% there or 95% there?

Here's my story: I started really digging non-MV amps, specifically old 50 watt Marshalls. But for some reason, I was searching for something else.....more "control". I had been familiar with Trainwreck amps (never heard one, yet) from lots of web research and from the descriptions, considered the amp to be my ideal. More research led me to understand there were Clones available.....So, I started buying them. They were nice, some better than others. Over a 4 year period, I owned them all. Then, somewhere in the middle of all this, the schematic came out. Also, I've talked to Fischer a number of times (which reminds me...I owe him a phone call). His knowledge is spectacluar....just phenominal. He REALLY knows

what he is talking about. He is trained in and knows electronics, he's just not a hack builder (like myself). But, back to the schem. I even talked to Fischer about the schem. He gave me a few ideas.....the biggest of which was to "Use my own Ears!!!" I never really understood that until about now. But, back to the schem. I started building the Expresso, but I sidetracked and made the power section 2xEL84 instead of 2xEL34. I simply wanted less volume (because all the Trainwreck clones I had were TOO loud!!). My first listen to my amp was astonishing. Way better than the Clones. I started understanding what Ken was talking about in our conversations. So, my amp is not an Express clone. But, I'd bet to say that Ken would be impressed with my amp as it is and what \*I'm\* trying to do with it, and what I have it tuned for (PRS Single Cut with cheapo 1x12 alnico emanence speaker in cheapo openback cab). I still have the amp, and have tweaked it so many times it's uncanny. I probably spent 40 hours building it, but about 200-300 hours tweeking it. No lie. I'm still not done tweeking. Some tweaks are terrible, some are unreal. EVERYTHING makes a difference.....even putting a 2 pound object (wooden box which contains my guitar pick collection) on top of the amp chassis make a difference. I mean that. The wooden box actually dampens the aluminum chassis, which makes it feed back a bit less. Even the wood that the head cabinet is made from makes a difference.

So, then there came a chance to purchase a REAL Express. I did. I still have it. It's everything they say it is. Even after 2 years, I STILL find new things about it....how it responds, how it feeds back, etc. I've opened it up and seen the insides. I took pictures. I reverse engineered it and drew a schematic. I compare my schem to that of the one on Blue Guitar. Yes.....there ARE (subtle) differences, but that's NOT the point. I've talked "Wrecks" over the phone with a well respected builder. He noted differences too. There is no real Express schematic. The basic ideas IS at Blue Guitar. The rest is in your Heart, Soul, and Ears.

So, my own homebrew "Wreck" is totally of my own "design" as I've gone away from the Blue Guitar schematics.....and I've achieved 100% success in building a phenomenal amp.

>For a novice homebrewer like me, an 80%  
>accurate clone is reason to celebrate by  
>grabbing a guitar, a beer and start making  
>music. The inability to A/B with the real  
>deals is a blessing for me at this stage.

Yep. I agree. Let's both have a beer.

>Is the impossible to capture magic in a  
>Wreck more about the achieving/failing  
>in the touch response category, the  
>control-ability of the gain, or the balance  
>of the eq?

It's all that. It's touch response. It's the ability to use your guitar Volume AND Tone knobs. In fact, once you set the amp, you forget it....everything is controlled by your guitar - from Clean to Burn and all in between. It's also immaculate articulation, even at extreme distortion....that is, chords and single notes are very clear and distinguishable, even at max power tube saturation. It's harmonic content in that when you hit (or even hold) a note, you can hear it blossom into many different frequencies. It's also kick-a\$\$ hi-gain distortion!

>If I can make an amp that will do a singing lead >and stringy chime by merely adjusting the volume >knob on the guitar, I will be estatic.

Yep. I agree. That right there says alot!

>That quality is what has drawn me into the  
>idea of building one - but is this the area of >common success or common failure with the copies?

All the Clones fail for various reasons. The following comments EXCLUDE the Two-Rock Ruby and the Komet. A couple Clones had harsh distortion and was not controllable from the guitar. Another had distortion that was more "Dumble"-like. None of the Clones had the fidelity (mostly lacking top-end), harmonic content, note bloom, or response.

The closest "Clone" is the Two-Rock Ruby, but in my opinion had too much mid focus and does not feedback or swell quite like an Express. It's close.....and it's a very fine amp. The Komet is NOT a Trainwreck Express clone. It's a new offering licensed under Trainwreck. Does it sound like an Express? I sort-of can given the proper setup (tubes, speakers, cab, etc). But overall, the Komet is too "smooth". If \*I\* had to choose the closest thing to an Express, it would be the Komet. For my money, the Komet IS the best amp out there. I can't wait for Hogs new 30 watter, as I love EL84s (favorite tube) and from all descriptions, it sounds like my ideal amp of all time. Is the Express my favorite amp? It's tied with the Komet, but the new Komet 30 watter might change all that.

Mook

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From:	<b>Greg</b> @		
Date:	4/11/2003 9:50 PM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Thanks, Mook for the thorough reply and insight. I think I'll christen the BEGINNING of this project with a beer, because if I wait until it is done, I'll have worked up a mighty powerful thirst.

G

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From:	<b>Mark Abbott</b> @		
Date:	4/12/2003 12:22 AM		
Subject:	<b>This where I'm coming from.</b>		

Dear Mook

I am a about to build a 2X EL84 (or 6V6)version of the Express.

The problems I can see at the moment is thinks like the value of the feedback resistor to the PI stage, and the possiblity of the PI swamping the output.

May I be so bold as to ask you what circuit (from Blue guitar) would you recommend?

What was your experience in tweaking, what yeilded the best results?

I must be totally frank, I do find the cab matieral making a differece, and something sitting on it making a difference hard to understand, I think this is one of those things that I'd have to see for myself.

In closing, some of the guys are thinking of making a Trainwreck site, perhaps you could give some practical examples of tweaking this circuit for tonally changes, just a thought 😊

Yours Sincerely

Mark Abbott.

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From:	<b>chris Gondoli</b> @		
Date:	4/11/2003 4:17 AM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Hi Mook,

Do you think Ken Fishcer tuned the amp using the customers Guitar and cab while he was building the Express for them?

Thanks!!

Chris

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From:	<b>bwj</b> @
Date:	4/11/2003 12:22 PM
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>

Don't mean to answer for Mook..but in my interaction with Ken..the answer is yes..if you called wanting an amp, you'd spend the next 2 hours+, being grilled about your current setup/style/tonal goals..everything from string type/gauge, pups, vol. pot vals..etc..etc...if your were close enough to NJ, you'd be invited down..

so every wreck WILL be different schem-wise..they were tailored for who they were being built for..

that was Ken's MO, no cookie cutter amps...so yeah, you could come across a wreck with svet el34's..plugged into a 2x12 with celestions greens and fire up your strat,only to walk away having just had a less than desirable sonic experience, as that particular wreck may have been tweaked for a humbucker LP, running into a 4x12 with vox' blues powered by old mullard el34's etc..etc...

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From:	<b>Mook</b> @		
Date:	4/11/2003 12:59 PM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Exactly!

Mook

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From:	<b>Gene</b> @		
Date:	4/11/2003 3:36 PM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

Thanks to all the comments made in this thread.

Mook, your description of the playabilty of the amp are spot on.

I may change from the 4 6v6 output to 4 el84's, in an attempt to to keep it cleaner longer. Thanks again for the insight, I knew I was on the right track!

gene

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From:	<b>Mook</b> @		
Date:	4/11/2003 5:00 PM		
Subject:	<b>Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?</b>		

I don't think going from 4x6v6 to 4xEL84 would make it "cleaner, longer". But, I might be wrong.

I did this exact same thing to my Espresso homebrew a couple weeks ago.....I'd concetrate on the cathodes of V1, V2, and V3. Also, I'd re-think the Feedback loop.

Mook

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From:	Gene @		
Date:	4/12/2003 8:47 AM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

Thanks again for that insight...

I will persue those tidbits with tenacity.. I'm using a P-90 laden LP special for this one.

Still piddling with speakers..either 1x15 or old greenbacks..

Where I'm at right now ,is to have the volume on the guitar rolled back to -75% to get the clean I like to hear... after that.. awesome. Just keep dialing up some dirt.

Gene

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From:	Matt		
Date:	4/11/2003 4:14 PM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

*After that, I only have one more spec of advice.....take the amp, plus your "best" cab of choice, and your "best" guitar of choice and tweek away. DO NOT STRAY from that combination. So, if you go with a 2x12 with Greens and a Les Paul, always use those items for tweeking purposes. Do not plug in a Strat or use a different cab. Tweek, tweek, tweek until that combination sounds like Heaven. If you want to use a Strat, build a different "Expresso" amp and start all over. Each will have a unique voice and be coupled with a certain guitar, cab, and speaker.*

That's probably the best advice I've read about the Expresses I've built. Some sounded just "good" and others sounded spectacular. I'm always plugging into this cab one day and that cab the next; Strat today, Les Paul tomorrow, 335 the day after that. I was always trying to make it "work"

with all my guitars and cabs. If it didn't, I thought I hadn't got it quite right. I should've never torn down the Express I built into my BF Bassman. With my Les Paul into a particular 2x12" it was one the best tones (if not THE best) I've ever built. That amp was so fun to play. But very, very loud

(the reason I built yet another circuit into it). Thanks Mook, I feel better now. 😊

Matt

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From:	Doug H @		
Date:	4/11/2003 5:13 PM		
Subject:	Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?		

*That's probably the best advice I've read about the Expresses I've built.*

I agree and it lets me off the hook about some stuff too. For example, I've agonized in the past about trying to make certain amps/guitars/pedals work in all situations. Some things just don't sound good together and won't work. Trying to make everything "one size fits all" you end up genericizing it into blandness. I think it is better to find what is good about a certain setup, and just exploit the hell out of that. Reminds me of something I read Ken Fischer said somewhere about, "helping an amp find it's tone" or "finding the tone it wants to be" or something along those lines.

Doug

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**From:** Mook @

**Date:** 4/11/2003 5:57 PM

**Subject:** Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?

>For example, I've agonized in the past  
>about trying to make certain amps/guitars/pedals  
>work in all situations.

Me too. It was only about a year ago that I realized that you have to match a certain guitar to a certain amp to a certain cab. Sometimes you find a piece that covers more territory (ie, my Komet matches PERFECTLY with any and all guitar cabs and speakers, however, I only like my Express thru a Jenkins 2x12 loaded with Greenbacks).

Mook

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**From:** PeteRH

**Date:** 4/13/2003 2:47 AM

**Subject:** Re: Variations on a theme, or area of adjustment?

>>>After that, I only have one more spec of advice.....take the amp, plus your "best" cab of choice, and your "best" guitar of choice and tweak away. DO NOT STRAY from that combination. <<<

Mook,

What are your thoughts on changing output valves? I spent heaps of time tweaking with a set of 6V6's only to change everything when I decided to try EL34's.

Were you ever able to change in a set of 6V6's while maintaining -30 volts at pin 5?

Thanks  
Pete

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