



## MI Audio Revelation \$3,699

One amp to do it all? Did we just find the holy grail of tube heads? *by Kris Petersen*

Is it an amp or the latest component of the Death Star? This head has more features and tonal variations than anything we have previously encountered. MI Audio have launched MI Amplification with the most impressive boutique amp we have seen in a really long time.

MI Audio have been in the boutique market for years with their impressive range of stomp boxes. Now this Sydney based mob have expanded their vision into boutique hand wired amps.

Launching their first production model at NAMM earlier this year, there is no doubt that the Revelation is going to make a lot of noise. We had a bash on the early prototype last year and became extremely excited to see how the final product would turn out. What was delivered to us was nothing we had expected. Impressed? Definitely. The revelation made us wonder if we'd just found the one amp could do it all.

The revelation features four independent channels that are unique in sound to one another. The pre amp for each of the four channels has the standard Gain, bass, mids and treble. A nice feature is the addition of a 3 gain selector switch that allows you to run each channel in high medium or low gain modes. With this nifty little button we were able to pull out the warmest of jazz tones, to glassy clean tones, thru to blistering metal armageddon.

The power amp stage once

again has the standard master volume, presence and depth but with a difference. This amp allows you to have two master volumes that are switchable. Gone are the days of having to sacrifice your 'meat and potatoes' tone to emphasise a lick or solo. There was no difference at all in the sound of the preamp (except for volume) when we switched between Master Volumes. The other nice inclusion at the power amp stage is 'power amp feedback' switch. This switch gives you three levels of control that allows you to really feel the brunt of the amp at any volume.

Just when you thought it was all over, we turned the head around to try out the 100%, 60% and 30% switchable output power selector. This gave us some tight

compressed sounds on the lowers settings. We were also able to play around with the power tube configuration.

In Triode mode the presence and depth controls became less responsive but the overall tone was warmer than in Pentode mode. By driving the pre amps, we were able to set some great vintage tones.

Fully loaded with EL34's we found the amp to sound great. But if you so desire, you can change your tubes to 6L6's or even 6V6's.

The effects loop section was one of the highlights of this amp for us. 4 series loops. Bridged and completely transparent. Each loop has its own send level to even out those nuances in our pedal board. Need we say more? When we added the footswitch to this head,

we ended up with not only 'four separate amps' but an integrated effects switching system as well.

### SOUNDS

The revelation claims to make you feel like your changing amps. We couldn't help but put this one thru its paces. Channel 1 is said to have been modeled on traditional American designs of the 50's and 60's, so we thought we'd A/B it with an original Fender Bassman head.

We were amazed to find the effects of the EQ and the volume on this channel reacted in a remarkably similar fashion to the bassman. The rumble on the bass as well as the brake up from clean to overdrive past 12 o'clock were standouts on this channel.

We were able to pull some great clean tones and classic overdriven sounds from this channel. The gain switch gave us more grunt while the way the amp reacted to effects and changes in guitars gave us a vast array of tonal structures.

Channel 2 is described as vintage and British in flavour. This was our favorite channel. The mid level gain on this channel gave us the classic overdriven tones made famous by the early Marshalls. Again we decided to A/B this channel against a Marshall SuperBass 100.

We were once again surprised to find that the response from the EQ sweeps and gain contours on the Revelation reacted very similar to the super bass. With a bit of tweaking in the presence and depth controls (as well as the amp feedback switch) we were almost able to tonally match the Super Bass using the Revelation. The only noticeable difference



The ultimate in effect sends.