VG APPROVED GEAR

A RUSH OF SOUNDS

Tech 21's Geddy Lee GED-2112 Bass Preamp

While Rush fans who've seen the band perform recently may think bassist/singer Geddy Lee's sound was the result of a collaboration with Maytag, he's actually been working with the gurus at Tech 21.

The Geddy Lee GED-2112 is a single-rack-space bass preamp that offers two parallel channels – Drive and Deep – with independent all-analog/SansAmp outputs to drive a power amp/speaker cabinet or run direct to a mixing console.

Front-panel controls include an A/B input switch for the rear-input 1/4" jacks, Drive, Mid, Mid Shift, Blend, Treble, Bass, and Level controls for the Drive channel, a mute button, and Saturation and Level controls for the Deep channel.

Price: $369
Info: www.tech21nyc.com

The rear-panel layout includes XLR and 1/4" outs for the Drive and Deep channels, a 1/4" non-effected jack, a pair of 1/4" effects in/out jacks with Mix switch, and A/B input jacks.

Our tests put the GED-2112 between two U.S.-made basses with traditional/vintage pickup arrangements and a stereo power amp running to two Ampeg 4x10" cabinets, and also directly into a recording console.

The Drive channel offered a well-voiced EQ circuit and the ability to dial-in overdrive courtesy of the Drive control. The real magic, however, happened in the Deep channel; while comprised of just two knobs – the aforementioned Saturation and Level – it was *all* Geddy, producing an ultra-punchy midrange loaded with overtones.

Other well-conceived features include an A/B switch to ease use with multiple basses and a Blend control that mixes direct with SansAmp circuits. Tech 21's analog approach to tube emulation results in a warmer, more-musical tone with better response than one would encounter with a sterile digital footprint.

While many manufacturers promise all sorts of tube and analog goodness from their preamps and amps, Tech 21 delivers on the promise with the GED-2112, a truly warm, analog-sounding unit loaded with features. ***– Phil Feser*** VG