

Tech 21 Power Engine Deuce Deluxe

Tech 21's Power Engine Deuce Deluxe is a full-range, flat response (FRFR) amplifier that has been devised end to end to be a flexible tool for working musicians. This is (no pun intended) a true 21st century piece of technology.

Tech 21 has a long history of product innovation, and with their SansAmp pretty much invented the market for professional tube emulation guitar preamplifiers. The Tech 21 Power Engine Deuce Deluxe continues in that tradition of innovation and offers up a wide range of usable features for the gigging musician and also solves a lot of real-world interconnect problems that working musicians commonly encounter in studio or live situations.

The original Power Engine 60 was introduced in 2001, so the innovation of its design is not

Power Engine Deuce Deluxe you can use your imagination and use your legacy preamplifiers and effect processors in new and creative ways.

The XLR input and output connections on the Power Engine Deuce Deluxe allow you to connect it directly into your house PA or studio mixing board in a variety of mono and stereo configurations. For stage use, this means you can chain multiple Power Engines together in left/right mono or stereo output, main stage or monitor configurations. You can also, for example, take the "dry" line output of any solid state guitar amplifier and run 100% "wet" out of your stereo effects processor into one or two Power Engines. What you can't do is take the speaker output of your guitar amplifier and run it into the Power Engine Deuce Deluxe. You can, however, run the speaker output of your

With all that interconnectivity being possible, the Power Engine Deuce Deluxe's 200 watts are more than loud enough for most stage applications without running into the house PA. You can take the Power Engine Deuce Deluxe to your next band practice or club gig and have no problem keeping up with your drummer.

Keep in mind, the Power Engine Deuce Deluxe is not a traditional guitar amplifier even though it looks and, to a certain extent, acts like one. All of the tone-shaping controls are there to help dial in the gain stage of whatever signal path you input. This means you need to dial your tone, for the most part, at the preamplifier stage rather than the gain stage.

I tested the Power Engine with a variety of preamps and all-in-one effect devices and got the best results using a stand-alone preamp



new for Tech 21. The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe is a later generation of the original Power Engine technology with more wattage and features, and it is now suitable for use with both electric guitar and bass, acoustic guitar, electric violin—pretty much any amplified electrical musical instrument.

The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe is designed to take the input from just about any tube or solid-state instrument preamplifier, all in one amp modeling device, acoustic preamplifier, effect processor, pretty much anything with a gain stage from any manufacturer new or old. This opens some interesting possibilities. Suddenly, a bunch of old preamps and pedals that a lot of us have sitting around collecting dust come back to life.

When the first generation "all-in-one do-it-all" guitar preamplifier effect pedals were first made, the concept of a FRFR "guitar" amplifier for the working musician did not exist. From a gigging standpoint, you really had no way to accurately reproduce the tonal characteristics of said device without tonal coloration. Now, with the

guitar amplifier into a dummy load box, run that into a signal processor and then run a mono or stereo output into one or two Power Engines.

The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe features a 1 x 12 speaker with a switchable tweeter in a dual ported cabinet delivering 200 watts of transparent, color neutral power. The cabinet itself is covered in a good-looking road-worthy vinyl covering.

The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe features three band active EQ controls—high, mid and low—which gives you the flexibility to dial-in whatever preamp or gain stage device you plug into it. You also get high and low pass filters and a 10 dB pad accessible from the top of the amp. There is also a built-in professional grade headphone output, a self switching worldwide power supply and a quarter inch auxiliary input. You also get 10 dB instrument level input compensation and 0 dB line level and input compensation switches. The back of the amp features a quarter inch extension speaker output, XLR balanced inputs and outputs, a ground lift switch and a 20 dB pad.

and then running effects and tone coloration devices in series into it.

The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe is designed to accurately reproduce whatever you input into it. If you are looking for some additional "warmth" you can use a tube-based preamp and then sweeten your sound with whatever pedals or effects you want. As a guitarist, you may need to rethink your favorite tone stack settings because the device's on board controls work in some ways more like sweepable three band EQ rather than a traditional guitar amplifier tone stack.

Again, you can use this device with a range of instruments. I tested it with an acoustic guitar preamplifier and it sounded great.

The Power Engine Deuce Deluxe from Tech 21 is a lightweight, professional-grade product that you will continue to find new and creative uses for in both live and studio situations. It is MAP priced at \$449.

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