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Subject: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Mr.Toast](#) on Tue, 22 Sep 2015 23:25:15 GMT

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I am sure this is a dead horse topic for some of you, but I am only recently infected with the Kustom virus, so indulge me. As I search my local area for Kustom stuff, what are the pieces that you are all hoping to find? I understand that condition is a huge factor. Putting that aside, what Kustom piece would make you consider giving up a kidney to get?

AL

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [richardjohnson](#) on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 00:33:02 GMT

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I like them all but I prefer metal front 250's black is my preferred color. I just acquired a red 150 4x10 pretty rough but I'm gonna give it a go Welcome to the forum

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 01:26:37 GMT

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Well Pleat had posted on here at one time which colors were the most commonly made and black was it. I believe that charcoal was next, silver or blue, and that teal was the rarest. So that would probably make it the most valuable. Also the number of slant faced amp which came out after the flat K-200 series was a lot fewer as well. From what I have learned, the Kustom K-600 PA amp is pretty rare and that is why you just never see them listed anywhere. Any amp in excellent condition and all original is a prize trophy. The colored one are definitely of greater value. The Frank heads are also highly valued since there wasn't many of those made as well from what I have been told. Pleat is the guy that will have the actual input on this. Forgot about red and think is was before the teal.....seems that more of them are starting to surface now then in the past year.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Kustom\\_Bart](#) on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 04:06:28 GMT

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Figured 60% of the Kustoms made were black in color, that kind of paints a picture for you, Gold is a rare one too. A good "real" gold and not browned out silver is hard to find.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [C4ster](#) on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 15:13:53 GMT

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Hi Al,

I also have the Kustom bug and I decided to pick up one of every color K100 piggyback. So far I have 6 of the 7 colors with black being the only color left. I figured that one would be the easiest to snag. I have spent around \$350-\$400 for most of the units with the gold one being the least expensive at \$300 and the most was for a red 1x15. That one I paid a whopping \$1200 for. Not proud of that one I must say. However, I told myself that I would pay virtually anything for a red rig and when one came available on Ebay, I snagged it. They NEVER show up! OK less than a month later, another one sold for a more reasonable price. Who would of thunk! I will say though that the Cascade might be rare but I have 4 Cascade pieces and I had 4 others during my life that I let go so I didn't think that color was so rare. I would say Silver (white), Red and Gold are more rare. I try to buy the cleanest rigs possible but I do have 2 3x15 siren cabinets in Cascade that are pretty rough. They were rough when I bought them.

Conrad

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 15:56:24 GMT

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Wow \$1200.....I hope you got your money back. That's strange that you haven't found a black one yet. I agree, you'd think the black one's would be a dime a dozen since there are so many other amps out there in black all the time. To this day, I have never seen a real gold T&R for sale, only.....here it comes.....the cat peed yellow.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 12:55:38 GMT

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I am not actively looking for a black amp. My buying fervor has diminished recently. I don't collect for the sake of collecting. I like to use the amps I have. My main rig is a cascade K100-2 with Jensens. One son uses a cascade K200 with a 2x15 with "I forgot" speakers. Another son uses a blue K100-1 with Jensens also. The Gold K100 and Red K100 have JBL E140's in them and they stay at our church for Sunday service. I also have a silver K25 that our keyboard player uses at church. The rest, and there are quite a few more that are in my garage collecting dust, literally, that would be our PA when the feeling moves me to use those. I don't have an immediate use for more amps. Maybe later the bug will hit but in the meantime I have other reasons(cars) to spend large amounts of cash. Oh, and as far as the price I paid for the Red K100, once the money is out of my account, I tend to forget about it. No use in rehashing the past. Plus it's good fodder for discussions like this. "Do as I say, not as I do!"

Conrad

PS I also have a K200-A4 with 2 2x15 JBL D130 cabinets. In Black.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 16:43:31 GMT

I like all of the colors, but because my first one was a Cascade Frankie with the horizontal cab, I tend to like Cascades.

People my age were probably most influenced by CCR, because their use of Kustom amps was really well known. For the longest time a K200A-4 with 2-15 JBL cab in black was easily the most popular and most valuable because of the CCR connection.

It seems that most younger players barely know who CCR was and really don't care about what amps they played.

Newer collectors seemingly are more impressed with the quality of the build and the oddity of having an amp that has such a labor intensive cabinet that has lasted for 40 years. I can't imagine what it would cost to build a tuck and roll cabinet today, especially having it built with the same quality as Bud's originals.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 20:58:07 GMT

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Bill do you really want to know? I was thinking about building a 2-15's cabinet when I just couldn't find what I wanted.....and since I want my cabinets in silver I set down and figured right down to the last screw what it would run to build one including (2) 15 inch JBL's. Tuck& roll, plywood (marine grade), grille cloth, bass ports, casters, wiring, handles, sound proofing, hardware.....came to almost \$1300 and my labor was not even included in the estimate. Not a cheap project to say the least. That is why I opted to wait until a 2-15 surfaced that was cheap, didn't care about the color since it will eventually be recovered. I lucked out and have 2 cabinets now in black unfortunately but totally intact....one with JBL's and the other Altec and I paid only \$350 total for them both. That \$1300 I was going to spend just to build one will now cover the cost to recover both my cabinets now. Yeah Bud definitely knew what he was doing when he built this stuff. A lot of the stuff out there now is made of pressed wood or particle board and we all know how well that holds up when it gets damp.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [pleat](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 23:39:42 GMT

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Everyone hears differently and will have a preference to what sounds the best. I have my own preference So I won't say one amp or speaker choice is better than another.

I think the main issue is we have a love of T&R want to use it on the bandstand regardless of color or size.

According to Bud, PA systems were over 55% of total sales. Which makes perfect since that every band needed a PA.

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Bass amps were 25% and guitar amps were 20%. Color choices, Black was over 50% followed by Charcoal, Silver, Blue, Red, Gold and Cascade as the most rare.

Looking over the last 15 or 16 years, I would have to say that gold is the least color that pops up on eBay. That or people who own gold never sell.  
pleat

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 03:56:22 GMT

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A K-100 and 2-15 cabinet is listed on MusicGoRound in Lincoln Nebr. It doesn't say specifically if its gold or not. I think its the yellowed out silver but can't really tell since I have never seen a real gold one. Listed at \$600 if anyone is interested. T&R is in mint condition. Think it's gold or silver?

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [pleat](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 12:21:45 GMT

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I didn't see the 2x15 cab but I did see the gold K100-1 head with the matching 1x15 cab. I'd bet its gold. Most yellowed out silver will have darker brown area's around the corners.  
pleat

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Mr.Toast](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 16:47:40 GMT

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That gold 1x15 set-up at MusicGoRound looks to be in really great shape. The \$175 shipping cost is rough though, and I'd personally prefer a K100-2 head with reverb. Speaking of Reverb...it looks like Musicgoround is set-up like Reverb.com even the page lay-out looks the same, I wonder if they are connected or just a copy?  
AL

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 17:02:05 GMT

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The shipping charge is just the high end. Price varies depending on your location.

Reverb. com is totally separate from Guitar Center....there is no cross over. Reverb. Com may have copied the picture on Guitar Center to post on Reverb. If you notice Reverb is kind of like Ebay, your buying from individuals not a business called Reverb....they are the middle man collecting the money. At least that is how it looks to me.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [Mr.Toast](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 18:17:30 GMT

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Hmmm Musicgoround is connected Guitar Center? Guitar center has it's own online used gear site that is part of their main online store. I seems that MGR is maybe a collective of mom and pop stores around the country that all post inventory to a central web store. You are correct about Reverb, they are more like eBay. Anyone can be a seller, they take a cut (less than eBay), and they offer some protection for the buyer in the process too. I have had good luck buying an selling on Reverb. No auction format to get the feeding frenzy that sometimes happens on eBay, but Reverb does allow buyers to make offers below the listed price.

AL

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 18:56:45 GMT

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Sorry guess I was not clear....no Guitar Center is a chain store of their own. No ties with Music Go Round which also is a chain store. Guitar Center usually is priced lower and they do clean up their used equipment and check it out before selling. Music Go Round, which is usually higher priced, doesn't clean up anything they take it. Plug it in, if it comes on and makes any kind of sound, they have a cheat sheet they use for pricing. Usually will offer you half of what your asking for. Throw it up on the shelf for sale. Pretty cut and dry. Guitar Centers at least have a good return policy, not so sure about MGR since I always buy from them in person and check the equipment out from top to bottom. Like Pleat has always told me, these people are sales clerks and not professionals for the most part. Some are actually musicians but like a lot of us, they only know the music side and not the equipment side.

FYI

Call either store and ask about Kustom T&R and usually no one has a clue what your talking about.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [Mr.Toast](#) on Sun, 27 Sep 2015 12:42:26 GMT

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Wow, I have never seen an MGR store. I don't travel all that much but it still surprises me.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [zedsalt](#) on Sun, 27 Sep 2015 14:45:21 GMT

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I was a little surprised, too, to hear they have more than one brick-and-mortar shop. I plugged "Music Go Round" into a search engine just now, though, and the first result was a store about a forty minute drive from where I'm sitting (a town wherein I thought I knew every music store and pawn shop by rote). My curiosity piqued, I checked Music Go Round's website...tabs for locations in nineteen states...none of them Indiana...plugged the South Bend, IN street address into their site search...nothin'. Did one of those "brought to you by such and such telephone company" search local businesses by category searches...nada. I'm a little less surprised now.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Sun, 27 Sep 2015 18:39:43 GMT

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Yeah most are not close to me at all so that is why I search they're web site daily. Thing with them as well as Guitar Center, neither are very good at keeping current equipment listings up to date. So if your even remotely close to either store, its probably a wise idea to try and visit their stores as often as possible. Calling is a waste of time because like I said, most guys there don't have a clue what your talking about and never, and I do mean never call you back like they promise. I have chewed several managers ass's for incompetent sales staff.

I have been to the one's in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kind of funny how the stores seem to be in cluster within a hours drive from each other.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 17:26:35 GMT

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Music-Go-Round is a franchise operation that buys and sells used gear and some new things as well. They were really popular a few years back, but with the advent of Craig's List, Reverb, etc. they have been losing stores all over the place. I think that there were 3 or 4 of them here in the Chicago area, but I think that only one store is still in business.

Operation wise, they seemed to be run like pawn operations, buy for pennies on the dollar and sell at high retail pricing. And like some pawn shops, they seemed to do little or no checking about ownership of the gear that they would buy.

Guitar Center is a large chain that is owned by some venture capitalist firm that also owns Musician's Friend and some others. They started out as a single store back in the '60s in Hollywood that became the Vox Guitar Center. Later they dropped the Vox name and became the GC chain of stores.

I guess that they have fallen on hard times lately and have been trying to reorganize. They tried to be the Walmart of the music industry.

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Reverb is actually based here in Chicago. It was set up by the guy that owns the Chicago Music Exchange. I guess that he is some sort of tech mogul that bought the music store a few years back from the original owners. Reverb is sort of like Etsy for music gear only. There's another music only auction sight but I can't remember the name of it.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 18:38:01 GMT

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Thanks Bill for the history lesson. I kind of wondered where they both came from because I don't remember either being around in the late 60's. Mostly mom and pop stores and no nationally listed stores. Internet was still on Al Gore's drawing table at that time.

The thing I have noticed with Guitar Center is they really don't normally have a very good selection of used equipment in their stores so I am assuming they don't offer much in trade. MGR seems to be mostly all used from what I've seen. Unfortunately, like I said earlier, neither keeps they website up to date. Don't know how many times I have called on something listed for sale and it was sold months ago.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [chicagobill](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 19:20:56 GMT

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Like I said, GC has been in some sort of financial trouble as of late, and has been seeing a lot of employee turnover, etc.

As for used stuff, I don't think that they really want to be bothered with a lot of it, so unless you want to trade in a nice old '50s Les Paul on a shiny new Epiphone Les Paul, they probably don't offer much.

Just like a giant machine, it operates by moving stuff through the system. The more boxes they sell the more money they make. The more time it takes to check out/repair/recondition/list a used trade-in item the less money they make.

I know that I'm a dinosaur in this business and I won't be in it for that much longer, so it doesn't make all that much difference to me, but as a society we no longer value quality, and instead only want to get stuff for the cheapest price we can. And the manufacturers are just as bad, as they want to maximize profits so their CEOs can take home the huge salaries that they seem to demand to keep the stockholders happy.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms

Posted by [sunnhead](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 19:32:37 GMT

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All MGR have there hit ans misses. I bout my Gold 3x12 and K200B-4 head with covers for \$500 in davenport IA, I have seen stuff go for decent prices, but it all depends who is running that store. GC used to be better at vintage gear. Now its hit and miss, with most of the Miss. I knew a guy who sold his 56 Fender to GC for 12k and a new guitar.... some people just dont care and let the big box take you. Small town pawn shops still have treasures in them, however with the internet, hard to find that jem for next to nothing anymore.

-S

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [Iowa Boy](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 19:33:52 GMT

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So true I see it in my industry as well.....to keep prices from going thru the roof they make it cheaper. And the replacement parts are a joke since nothing is made in this country.... it comes from a garage in Mexico or a sweat shop in China. Neither country believes in quality control. But its our own faults since we elect these idiots to office that allow this to happen. Everything today is designed to fail because manufacturers think we are stupid enough to go out a buy another one of their faulty products. You get exactly what you pay for unfortunately.

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [zedsalt](#) on Tue, 29 Sep 2015 15:21:41 GMT

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South Bend also used to be home to "the largest musical instrument showroom in the U.S.". The Woodwind & the Brasswind were doing really gangbuster catalog-based business, too, judging by the size of their call center (walked past the open door to it once on my way to the john and saw a little slice of their I-don't-know-how-many-acres-big cubicle farm). They seemed well-positioned for the nascent internet trade, trading the number one spot back and forth with Musicians Friend, numbers two and three with American Musical Supply, and began buying out smaller internet/catalog retailers. Their contract with Music123 had a clause that kept most of the Z. Bros.' former employees on the job...and the WW&B violated it. Big time. A few years/millions of dollars later, they were in a storefront in a not-so-great neighborhood, selling elementary school classroom teaching tools/instruments and some marching band stuff; a Guitar Center moved into town (technically, Mishawaka, but they advertise as being in the Bend), and their biggest competition was another "See? With each bar mounted on its own plastic block, it's like a customizable xylophone!" shop, set up in the front eighth or tenth or so of their old building. I took the moral of the story to be "Play nice."

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Subject: Re: What are the rarest and/or most prized Kustoms  
Posted by [tito566](#) on Wed, 07 Oct 2015 16:52:54 GMT

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I usually come here for advice and tips but had to chime in. For me, I have had some good luck over the years finding real gems in thrift/pawn stores. More specifically a red K150-8(the guy asked for \$100 for it as it was unfamiliar to him)!! and a Cascade Frankie head and 2x15 cab w/Jensens, both in amazing condition(This one I paid more than I should have to get however. These are both keepers to me.

My cleanest sounding Kustom however is a blue Hustler. No pop when the amp is powered on or off and no background noise when plugged into. So I do not limit my searches to guitar center, or mom&pop shops. Although, I would give my business to the local shop before anyone else. Great topic by the way!

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