Subject: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Wed, 07 Apr 2004 23:21:15 GMT
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I have a vintage Kustom Commander amp that has been in storage for 20+ years (I purchased it used in 1976). It has blue rolled and tucked covering, twin speakers, and still looks extremely good. The model number on the rear plate states "28-L". Is there a market for this amp, and if so, what's it's value?

Thanks!

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 02:07:31 GMT
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Value depends on condition

Do all the controls and the pilot light work?
Does the reverb work?
Does amplifier play loud and clean (no distortion)?
Are these any burns or tears in the naugahyde?
Any cuts, tears in the grille cloth?
Are the casters and the handle in good condition?
Do both speakers work?
Are the speakers original?
Does it have premium speakers (JBL, Altec, EV)?
Do you have a cover for it?

For excellent condition I would say $300 to $350
For very good - $250
For good - $175 to $225

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 17:00:04 GMT
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Thanks for the detailed reply. Here are the answers to your response:

Do all the controls and the pilot light work? *Yes*

Does the reverb work? *Yes*

Does amplifier play loud and clean (no distortion)? *Yes, although there is a noticible hum. I'm not sure if that is normal or not. I can and will have it looked at by a local shop.*

Are these any burns or tears in the naugahyde? *No, the amp has no physical damage, and other than normal discoloring from age, it looks new. I can post photos if anyone would like to see it.*

Any cuts, tears in the grille cloth? *No*

Are the casters and the handle in good condition? *Yes*

Do both speakers work? *Yes*

Are the speakers original? *Yes*

Does it have premium speakers (JBL, Altec, EV)? *The speakers are tagged as Kustom Electronics. I have no idea as to who actually manufactured them.*

Do you have a cover for it? *Yes, and it too is in perfect condition.*

Hope this helps. Thanks again.

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 18:22:09 GMT
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bc,
Your amp sounds like it is in excellent condition.

With the hum fixed, it should be worth about $300 to $350.

are worth and sometimes for less.

when you are playing at a low to medium volume. Does the ground reverse switch help any?

were going to keep it, you should change the cord to a 3 prong anyway, and it is possible that this might reduce the hum.
-LesS

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Fri, 09 Apr 2004 17:27:02 GMT
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Yes, the amp has absoultely no marks or tears at all, and the handle and casters are rock solid.

I traced the hum down to the cord between the guitar and amp. A new cord and the noise is now gone exept for a very light hum that you actually have to get your ear within a foot of the speaker to hear. A search through the "Repairing Kustom Amps" thread here seems to identify a light hum as being a trademark of the Kustom. If anyone here knows different, please advise.

I also notice now that if I put any side pressure on the volume switch knob when turning it, the amp crackles and pops loudly and sometimes the speakers go dead as well. Any cure for this other than replacement, as I would like to keep it original, but in good working order as well. Make note that the amp has been in HVAC controlled storage for 22+ years.

If I sold it on Ebay, what's the preferred method of packing and shipping something so heavy and bulky?

Thanks for the input. It has been quite helpful and most definitely appreciated.

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by rodak on Fri, 09 Apr 2004 18:56:07 GMT
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I always use FedEx Ground for anything over about 2 pounds. They're about 30-40% cheaper than UPS, and at least as reliable. Just don't go to a MailboxesEtc or PakMail type store - they tack on hefty surcharges to UPS and FedEx's shipping rates.

I find that bubble wrap is the packing material of choice. You can get an enormous roll of it off eBay for under $20. Get the "Large Bubble" kind.

www.combo-organ.com

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Sat, 10 Apr 2004 02:08:09 GMT
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bc,
Try turning the volume control its full travel about 50 times. This might clean it up. If you open the amp up, it is very hard to spray it with contact cleaner as the holes face the circuit board.

For packaging I would use 1 layer of bubble wrap and double box it.

two boxes the correct size. I usually add two pieces of cardboard over the cabinet front. Using double boxes is a good idea if you intend to get extra insurance over the standard $100, because if you get the extra insurance they will usually open your package to see how well it is packed.
-LesS

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Thu, 15 Apr 2004 14:07:19 GMT
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Thanks to all. I went ahead and pulled all of the switches and sprayed them with contact cleaner, blew the dust out, and the amp now sounds great. Thanks again!

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Tue, 20 Apr 2004 23:28:21 GMT
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If anyone is interested, I have posted the Commander amp on Ebay. Thanks again!!!!

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&category=43373&item=3719406214&rd=1&ssPageName=WDVW

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 00:44:26 GMT
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bc,
Hey your Commander looks great.
I think the color is cascade (blue/green) instead of blue. If it is cascade, it could be worth a little more.
Serial number 87471 would be made about July 1972.
What does it weigh?
-Les

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 02:18:33 GMT
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Thanks. yes, as I said previously, the amp is in perfect condition and looks great for it's age.

As for the color, it has a black undertone with a blue and green glitter overlay. Standing back a few feet it looks blue, but close up there is indeed green glitter throughout. If you like, I can take a closeup photo outdoors in true light and then post it. Do you think I should ask more, as I really don't know what it's worth?

I was wondering when it was built. Thanks!

I don't have a scale handy, but I would gues it to weigh 60-65 lbs. I recall lugging it up various stage steps years ago, and it got heavy quickly! LOL!

I appreciate your input.

Thanks again.

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 03:01:43 GMT
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bc,
If it has green and blue sparkles, then it is definitely Cascade (not blue).
I wouldn't ask more $, it will more than likely go up anyway; and you already have one bid.
Weight is probably closer to 80 lbs net/90 lbs boxed.
-Les

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 14:54:15 GMT
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Yes, it definitely has blue and green sparkles. And I must be stronger than I thought, as the amp weighs exactly 80lbs. as you predicted. You do know these amps!

Thanks!!!

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 22:19:10 GMT
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I had a question posed to me that I can't answer. Perhaps you'll know the answer to the following as well !

"How many watts (RMS) is this (amp)"?

200 comes to mind. Anyone?

bc

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by LesS on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 23:54:45 GMT
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Hi bc,
Output is 75 watts RMS.

-Les

Subject: Re: Identify Commander amp?
Posted by billco on Thu, 22 Apr 2004 00:49:21 GMT
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Thanks!!!!!

bc
