

FREE 2004 GREAT GUITARS CALENDER THIS ISSUE

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# Guitar

'59 Les Paul  
yours for just  
£150,000

## VINTAGE SPECIAL

Myth, Magic Or  
Just Old Guitars?

**PINK FLOYD**  
Paying tribute...

**MOTORHEAD**  
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A LINE 6  
VARIAX

Reviews:  
Gibson,  
Danelectro,  
Takamine..



# Micro Test



## Z.Vex Nano Head

Review by  
Dave  
Hunter

**B**outique effects maker Zachary Vex of Minneapolis has already created some of most individual pedals around, like the Wah Probe, Fuzz Factory and Super Hard On. Now he's squeezed a genuine valve amp into a box the size of an MXR unit. It's petite and bijou to look at, but this half-watter's designed to be a banshee rock beast... and, naturally, it's hand-painted by J Myrold in the distinctive Z.Vex tradition.

For controls, we have just a Volume knob and switches for Normal/Thin/Fat Body, Brightness, and Mellowness. You don't need more; if you did, it wouldn't fit. The heart of the Nano Head is its pair of sub-miniature 6021W valves (each just 1x3/8"), which have never been used in a commercial amplification product before. Also unique to the Nano is its use of a 'negistor' device to generate the 230VDC required to run the valves. The mere 12V supply that this power starts from is included in the cost. Vex tells us: 'I don't think anyone's ever used a negistor in a commercial product before. It uses a quantum physics phenomenon that includes time reversal and absolute-zero stuff as well, which I think is exceedingly cute – to have such a small vacuum-tube guitar amp with a time-travel device inside.' The man is being absolutely serious.

The first, and maybe only, thing you need to know is that this palm-sized beastie is fierce and fiery. Set Brightness and Body to taste and crank up into grind territory – which comes very quickly – and it really does a good floored-50-watter at neighbour-friendly levels. Fun in spades, and you can play it all day: no tinnitus likely here and you won't damage sensitive ribbon mics. I preferred it through a good open-backed 1x12", but a closed 2x12" gave good body and oomph. Don't think boutique amp tone, however: there's a little jagged *squonk* in the attack of single notes, and clean sounds aren't fantastic, but for juicy, thick leads and graunchy rhythm in a tiny package, step on up.



RRP: £425

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