

Ashton AEA30

By Todd Burman

Hands up who is sick and tired of not having control over your acoustic sound in a live performance environment. Tired of constantly fighting to hear your sound through the foldbacks. Ashton has the answer – the AEA30 acoustic amplifier. The acoustic amplifier product market is not exactly flooded, so Ashton have taken the bull by the horns, and given us an amplifier without a high price tag.

The AEA30 is a two channel 30 Watt RMS amplifier with built in Reverb and Chorus. It is extremely robust and will easily withstand the rigours of live shows, and will become your favourite workhorse. While some of you may not be rushing out the door to purchase an acoustic amplifier, you may just need to take heed as Ashton have produced one of their best products to date.

The Specs

- 30 Watts RMS
- 10" Coaxial speaker
- 2 Channels – Combo input and 1/4" input
- Footswitchable chorus and reverb
- CD input
- 5 band graphic EQ
- Line out
- Extension speaker output

Tone Aplenty

The AEA30 will have no problem cutting it live; this little beast has plenty of power. The 30-Watts RMS and 10" coaxial speaker give the power and control to produce the tones you need for live performance. Channel One is a 'Combo Jack' input, which can be used by both an XLR input and 1/4" instrument cables. Ideally Channel One is for a microphone XLR input, and

Channel Two is for your acoustic guitar. Channel One has simply the 'Combo Jack' and Level control.

Channel Two is for your acoustic guitar, and features Bass, Mid, Mid Freq, Treble and Chorus (Speed and Depth) Controls. The Mid Freq control in my mind is the essential control for contouring your sound. It has a range between 200Hz and 4.5 KHz, and it will eliminate any undesirable Mids from your acoustic. Each of the Bass, Mid and Treble controls have -15 to +15 over the frequency. When each control is at 0 it is inactive.

The Acoustic tones in Channel Two are fantastic. Ashton has worked hard to produce a great EQ section on Channel Two. No matter what style of acoustic you play, you will have no trouble in producing some rich, gorgeous acoustic tones. The overall tones from the AEA30 are warm and rich, and you could not ask for more an acoustic amplifier.

Channel two also features in built Chorus. The Chorus effect can be switched on via the front panel or via the footswitch. Chorus will add Depth and texture to your acoustic tones, and has been a mainstay for acoustic tones for decades.

The built in Reverb is also switchable via the front panel or the footswitch. The Reverb has separate controls for Channel One and Two, which is great when running the two channels at once, as you have total control over both channels. The Reverb is preset so each control is simply a volume control.

The Master section of the amplifier features a 5-band graphic EQ and a master volume. As the 5-band graphic is in the master section it will affect both channels one and two. However, I don't believe you will need to 'tweak' your



sound too much, as the EQ controls over channel two will do most of the work. The CD input in the master section will connect a CD, mini disk or any line level equipment to the amp.

The major benefit of the AEA30 is the Extension speaker connection on the rear panel that allows the addition of another speaker. This is perfect for increasing the sonic boundaries of the AEA30. Any speaker enclosure can be used but it must have an 8ohm impedance. The Rear Panel also features the footswitch input, Line Out input and an Effects Loop.

Overall the acoustic tones in the AEA30 are fantastic, and I am very impressed with the

work that Ashton has put into this amplifier. Ashton has already carved its own niche in the lower end acoustic market, and the AEA30 will become one of its biggest drawcards in its product range. Building an amplifier of this quality at this price is very rare these days, so don't hesitate when looking for an acoustic amplifier, the AEA30 is the answer. The AEA30 will have no problem clocking up sales in the product market. Two thumbs Ashton - good work my son. For more info visit www.ashtonmusic.com

RRP \$399

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