

Godin ASG-8 Acoustic Combo

This new offering from the Canadian company Godin is a twin channel acoustic instrument combo that pumps out "an impressive 120 watts and delivers a clean, relatively flat, very natural acoustic response with no colourisation". So says the marketing blurb! It comes in a choice of either black or a semi-gloss natural wood finish and carries a black leather handle.

Essentially created for steel and nylon strung acoustic guitars, it is also ideal for a variety of acoustic instruments as it highlights the natural sonics of both woodwind and other string instruments such as flutes or violins. Godin tell us that it is also "more than capable of producing clear and dynamic vocals".

With a white-on-black control panel (helpful for those with poor sight), both channels accept XLR and 6.35mm jack inputs and feature separate controls for gain, bass, treble, middle, reverb and resonance. The pushbutton controls include phase and effects/select on/off, and also a mute button, which is of course very useful when changing instruments during a live set.

To the rear of the unit is a headphone socket for silent practice sessions, while an XLR output supports a line out to front of house, mixing desks or additional monitors. The ASG-8 also offers the option of adding backing tracks from laptops or mobile

phones via the AUX input or Bluetooth connection, both with separate volume controls, so leaving each channel free for instruments or microphones. Condenser microphones are supported by a +24v phantom power push button switch. A major plus is the cab's rear recess which allows the unit to site itself with a backward tilt.

The ASG-8 is a perfect partner for pulling out some sumptuous, warm jazzy tones with a semi-acoustic instrument, and it reminds us of the SR acoustic amps that appeared on the market some 15 or so years ago. The Godin product does however offer many more practical and creative options. Priced at a competitive £599, it is definitely one to check out if you're looking for an ultra-clean sound with a multiplicity of onboard effects and functions. **(DG) www.jhs.co.uk**

