

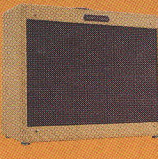




SPECS |

					
CONTACT	Budda, (877) 866-3439; budda.com	Divided by 13, (949) 631-1330; dividedby13.com	Fender, (480) 596-9690; fender.com	Nolatone Ampworks, (770) 544-9644; nolatone.com	Smith Custom Amplifiers, (334) 398-1968; smithcustomamps.com
MODEL	V20	CJ11	'57 DELUXE AMP	22 TANGO	CS25R
PRICE	\$1,995 retail/ \$1,596 street	\$2,100 retail/ \$1,950 street	\$3,000 retail/ \$2,400 street	\$1,799 retail/ Street price N/A	\$1,849 retail/ Street price N/A
CHANNELS	Two	One	One	One	One
CONTROLS	Rhythm, Drive, Treble, Mid, Bass, Master Volume; pull Bright on Rhythm volume, pull thick on Mid, pull channel change on Master	Volume, Treble, Bass, Master Volume; pull boost on Volume pot	Mic Volume, Instrument Volume, Tone	Gain, Treble, Middle, Bass, Master; switches for Boost and Bright	Volume, Boost (variable), Treble, Middle, Bass, Reverb, Dwell; three-way switches for Bright and Bias (boost)
POWER	20 watts	11 watts	12 watts	22 watts	20 watts
TUBES	Three JJ 12AX7 preamp tubes, two Electro-Harmonix 6V6GT output tubes, one Electro-Harmonix 5U4 rectifier	Two JJ/Tesla 12AX7 pre-amp tubes, two Groove Tubes GT6V6S output tubes, one 5AR4 rectifier	Two Groove Tubes 12AX7 preamp tubes, two Groove Tubes 6V6GT output tubes, one NOS 5Y3 rectifier	Three 12AX7, two 6V6GT, one GZ34 rectifier, all JJ	Four 12AX7 (JJ & Tung-Sol), two Electro-Harmonix 6V6GT, solid-state rectifier
EXTRAS	Channel switching (footswitch included), series effects loop, footswitch jack, dual speaker outs with 4Ω/8Ω/16Ω impedance selector	Two 8Ω and one 16Ω speaker out	Standby switch	Back panel tube bias check and adjustment points, Firm/Sag switch, jack for Boost footswitch	Footswitchable variable boost, switchable fixed/cathode output tube bias
SPEAKER	Budda-designed Phat 12	Celestion G12M Greenback (16Ω)	Jensen Vintage Reissue alnico P12Q	Celestion G12H-30	Weber 50-Watt Blue Dog
WEIGHT	45 lbs	42 lbs	25 lbs	40 lbs	39 lbs
KUDOS	Major volume for a 2x6V6 combo. Added versatility of great footswitchable clean and lead tones.	Meaty, old-school tube tones. Good clarity and headroom.	Great gritty '50s-style blues and rock'n'roll tones.	Solid tones with excellent clarity and definition. Outstanding headroom. Impressive build quality.	Stellar tonal depth and ultra-responsive playing feel. Outstanding build quality.
CONCERNS	Rhythm channel volume has a dramatic early taper. Pull switches are a little hard to get a grip on.	None.	Limited headroom. Expensive.	None.	Bottom-mounted power amp chassis is difficult to remove for servicing.

VERDICT

This one is tougher to call than many Fight Clubs because each of these amps excels in a different arena and might arguably be top dog depending on your requirements. The individual awards would run as follows:

BEST GRAB AND GO ROCK'N'ROLLER: Divided by 13 CJ11

BEST HIGH-GAIN ROCKER DISGUISED AS A CLUB COMBO: Budda V20

BEST HIGH-HEADROOM TWANG MONSTER: Nolatone 22 Tango

BEST SUPER-LUSCIOUS TONE MACHINE: Smith Custom Amps CS25R

BEST TWEED DELUXE IMPERSONATION: Fender

'57 Deluxe

For my own touch and tone preferences (and by this point things get very subjective), the Smith Custom CS25R slightly edged out the Nolatone 22 Tango—which was my second favorite—but it took one hell of a brawl to get to this decision. **A**