



Bugera BTX36000 'The Nuke' \$1,199

Holy bottom end, Batman! Is this a red hot bass rig or rackmountable seismic anomaly? *by Steve Henderson*



Come on, man. Does anyone need this much power? Behringer seem to think so, and they've packaged it into the Bugera BXT36000, a rackmountable power house of tone shaping.

Dubbed 'The Nuke' – and with good reason – the BXT36000 will produce 1,800 watts per side in stereo mode and 3,600 watts in bridged mono. It will also run in bi-amp mode using the built-in crossover controls, allowing adjustment of the crossover frequency and a balance of the two outputs. This means one side of the amp can be used for just the lows and the other for the highs – optimising the range of the speaker cabs. In other words, you can have all the lows going to your 15s and the highs going to your 10s.

The regular tone controls have a selectable mid frequency, at the critical bass frequencies, with 15db of boost or cut available. Also, the 9-band graphic can be activated via a footswitch (which is included, by the way). So it can be used for global tone shaping or as a featured effect.

The BXT36000 has a useful rear patch bay. There's essentially three effects loops: left and right inserts and a (footswitchable) stereo loop. There's left and right

line outs (jacks and XLRs) that can be used as DIs or, if you and the band have a death wish, feeds to more power amps and cabs. Plus, you'll find a tuner out (there's one on the front, too) and a bunch of speakons.

Sounds

We thought we'd do something useful with the loops so we hooked up an old Quadraverb, programmed with a soft chorus, to the left side of stereo and ran the right side dry. This gave us a really wide stereo effect, even with the cabs only six feet apart, like a simulated surround sound. Too cool. Better still, we switched the Nuke into bi-amp mode, used a 410 for the highs and added some plate reverb to the chorus. What a great sound! The upper harmonics chimed through the mix while the fundamental note was clear and solid. The reverb added a touch of ambience to those upper frequencies, which seemed to

affect the bottom end – even though we knew it was an illusion. The compressor works pretty well. While not having oodles of hands-on controls, it has been optimized for bass and added that little extra thud to the attack. We noticed that we "felt" the bass a little more with a touch of compression, and it never sounded squashed or undefined.

Verdict

No matter where we set the tone controls, the amp remained responsive and useful. BXT36000 is indeed built like a nuke but the tone has a certain finesse that surprised us, given all the power on tap. There are plenty of features (like independent overload protection!) to make this great value even at twice the sticker price and, to be honest, we don't know how Behringer can offer such value. But be warned, this thing is loud – so get ready to rumble. **G**



The effects loop has left and right inserts for stereo effects

The Bottom Line

We like: Great tone and facilities

We dislike: Finding a bigger room

Guitarist says: Top value – just be sure to warn the neighbours in advance



Bugera The Nuke

Price: \$1,199.00

Origin: China

Type: Solid state, rackmount bass head

Output: 300/550w

Valves: 12AX7 x 4

Channels: One

Footswitch: Included

Dimensions: 485mm/19.1" (w) x

315mm/12.4" (d) x 95mm/3.7" (h)

Weight: 27.3kg/12.4lb

Behringer Australia

(03) 9877 7170

www.behringer.com.au

Test results

Build quality ★★★★★
Playability ★★★★★
Sound ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★