



# HUMBLE, CAPITAL D

## The Louis Electric 6L6-183 Cobra

One glance at the control panel and cabinet styling of the Louis Electric 6L6-183 Cobra is all most will need to know what this amp is about – and builder Lou Rosano isn't shy about flagging it as his take on the coveted Dumble Overdrive Special.

Rosano's first Cobra 183 hit the streets in 2020 with a set of EL34 output tubes. An acclaimed version of the Dumble Overdrive Special (which is saying something), it was a transitional iteration between early and later Dumble ODS circuits, employing a unique combination of stages that produce magic when firing together. His 6L6/KT66 version joined the herd this year, capable of carrying a quartet of the American-flavored bottles also occasionally used by Howard Alexander Dumble.

The 6L6-183's front panel has two inputs – one passive ("Nor"), the other FET-boosted/buffered, along with controls for input Volume, Treble, Middle, Bass, Overdrive Gain and Level, global controls for Master (volume), Presence, and Feedback, plus switches for Bright, Mid, and Rock/Jazz to further sculpt the EQ. Back-panel features include dual speaker outs with 4-/8-/16-ohm switch, passive

effects loop, bias adjustment point, a jack for the included two-button footswitch (to access Overdrive and EQ Bypass/Boost), and a 50-/100-watt output switch. Inside, it is meticulously hand-wired on a series of wooden circuit boards, as Dumble himself sometimes used, with many of the essential components hidden under "goop," much as within the original 183.

Tested with a Telecaster and an ES-355 into an open-back 2x12" cab with Celestion G12-65 speakers (the same spec'd for Louis Electric's matching Cobra 2x12" cab, sold separately at \$900), the 6L6-183 opened a wide world of juicy, dynamic, multi-dimensional tone that instantly reminded us why the hallowed Dumble ODS circuit has become so... well, hallowed. Plummy, rich, thick, it's a voice that can surprise you by feeling more like a reed instrument than an overdriven guitar amp, but which proves extremely expressive once you learn to work with it.

Lest we forget them entirely, the amp's clean tones – often overlooked in this archetype – are extremely good, too. All of which is to conclude, if you know the ODS sound, Mr. Rosano does it very, very well. – **Dave Hunter**

Price: \$4,495  
www.louiselectricamps.com



### EHX LPB-3 LINEAR POWER BOOSTER/EQ

The Electro-Harmonix LPB-3 has active EQ and up to 33dB of clean gain. Controls include Treble and Bass plus parametric Mids with Mid Freq and Q, Boost to adjust overall output, and a Max switch to toggle between 20dB and 33dB of boost. Pre-Gain fine-tunes gain and volume. Other features include buffered/true-bypass switching and extended 300-volt power rails.



### VINTAGE REVO ELEKTRA

Vintage's Revo Elektra electric/acoustic guitars have bound-acacia bodies, spruce tops, bolt-on maple necks, bound-rosewood fretboards with pearloid block inlay position markers, Wilkinson WJ01 machine heads, rosewood bridges, bone saddles and soundhole rosettes, and Entwistle XS75-ND-HG-N pickups.



### SPECTOR EURO LX BASS

Spector's Euro LX bass has an alder body, figured-maple top, and a three-piece maple neck with rosewood fretboard. Available with neck-through or bolt-neck construction, they have an aluminum bridge and active EMG pickups with the company's new Legacy preamp and are offered in Transparent Black, Natural Sunburst, Haunted Moss, and Nightshade, all with matte finish.

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