



Yellow Jackets™ in the Press

Guitar World Magazine

May, 1996

“... the next best thing to getting yourself a new amp.”

“What do you do if you're tired of the way your amp sounds, but don't have the bucks to buy a new one or to have some high-priced amp surgeon modify its innards?”

“Fortunately, THD has come up with the Yellow Jacket, a cost-effective, non-permanent amp modification that allows you to replace your existing power tubes with EL84s without rebiasing the amp. The concept is similar to that of 12AX7 preamp modifications like the Soldano Hot Mod, where you just plug an adapter and tube into the socket and you're ready to go. But unlike preamp adapters, which simply boost your amp's gain, the Yellow Jackets significantly alter the tonal and response characteristics of your amp.

We tried the Yellow Jackets in a 100-watt Marshall Plexi reissue. Because four EL84s provide about 50 watts of output, the amp wasn't quite as loud. The treble response was enhanced, the midrange somewhat thicker, and the amp produced rich, glassy distortion and sparkling clean tones similar to those of a Vox AC30. The Yellow Jackets transformed the Marshall into a totally different amp. Best of all, it took less than five minutes to install the adapters.

“THD's Yellow Jackets are the next best thing to getting yourself a new amp. Costing about the same as a good preamp or distortion pedal, they're the way to go if you want to explore new tones on a budget.”

Vintage Guitar Magazine

May, 1996

“... too hip!”

“THD Electronics, Seattle, has a device called the Yellow Jacket, which enables you to switch the output tube of your amplifier by using an external socket adapter that plugs into an amp's existing tube socket. These adapters come in several versions; they essentially allow you to use EL-84 output tubes in place of 6V6s, 6L6s, EL-34s and the extinct 7591 vintage Ampeg tube. No re-biasing is required because it automatically makes your amp go into simple Class 'A' operation. It's especially nifty if you can't find good (or the correct type) tubes for your current amp, or if you simply want to change its sound. List price is \$60 each, tube included - too hip! You can also use two of these things and leave the stock tubes in two of the amp's own sockets (in a 100-watt Marshall, for example), giving you a combination of both Class 'A' and Class 'AB.'”

Guitar Player Magazine

May, 1996

“... increase amplifier flexibility”

“THD's Yellow Jacket converters (\$60 each) increase amplifier flexibility by allowing you to run EL84/6BQ5 output tubes in any amp that normally uses 6V6s, 6L6s, EL34s or 7591s. They simply pop into the tube sockets, instantly reconfiguring the EL84s to Class A self-adjusting cathode bias. An EL84 is included with each converter.”