



Rolling Thunder

Eden Nemesis NC410 4x10 combo

By **Laurence Kern**

LONG BEFORE the proliferation of today's boutique bass amp manufacturers, Eden Amplification, founded in 1976, was a leading purveyor of high-end, modern bass tone. The company's less-expensive Nemesis line, however, aims to satisfy pro requirements at a fraction of the cost of bigger rigs. The NC410 4x10, equipped with a remarkable semi-parametric EQ and a less aggressive tone than its Eden counterparts, is a substantial improvement over the company's previous budget-minded combos.

WHERE'S MY HEAD AT?

The combo's 320-watt NC-320 head is cleverly integrated into the cabinet, using a space-saving, top-loaded design. The handles on the top and sides of the enclosure make it easy to load the cab on and off stages and into vans. Four tough castors (with universal sockets that fit up to a 3.5-inch wheels) accents the cab's portability.

Although the NC410 is short on bells and whistles, it has all the basics: tuner or line level out, headphone out, push/pull, active/

passive input with clip light, pre-EQ effects loop, compressor, and direct line out are right at your fingertips. The D.I. has essential controls like a sweepable level control and ground lift, but although I thought the speaker on/off switch was cool, I would've liked to see an input for using the speaker with another head, and a speaker attenuation control.

The NC410's tweeter is an important part of this combo. Unlike Eden's plywood cabinets, with their narrow, sharp resonance, Nemesis cabinets are made from recycled cellulose fiber, an environmentally friendly composite much stronger than plywood. The result? Nemesis cabs have a broader, warmer tone, which is only enhanced by the FET power section. The titanium tweeter and EQ, therefore, are essential to the bass player who desires to cut through.

MULTI-TALENTED

This amp's 3-band semi-parametric EQ section is extremely responsive, and I had no problem dialing exceedingly different sounds. Although clean tones and velvety sustain with lots of low end are definitely the strengths of this amp, the EQ—with its ability to boost or cut 15 db of any frequency from 40Hz to 10kHz—was truly versatile. The truth, though, is that the amp sounded great with the EQ set at noon: The NC410's naturally warm and straightforward tone works for most styles of music.

A G&L L2000E 4-string player and Hartke user liked the NC410's midrange but thought it had a little too much "high end" for his punk/hard rock band. Another player, armed with an active Ibanez Soundgear 4-string, described the NC410's tone as "crystal clear." An Ampeg SVT fan, she loved the EQ for everything from punk sizzle to upright-like "big bass/muffly tone"; she thought the amp had "clarity without compromising the punch of the low end." Both testers felt the amp was easy to use and that it cut through quite well.

Other features really brought out the life in two different test basses—a very active, EMG-loaded Ibanez Doug Wimbish model tuned B-E-A-D, and a warm, old-school Music Man Sabre. The "Enhance" knob bumps the upper midrange frequencies. The compressor is very subtle. I liked the knobs's click wheel, which helped me remember my precise settings. And the "boost" feature is amazing—

when it says boost, it really means it! We cranked it up plenty loud and were pleased that the NC410 didn't distort.

As punchy as the combo's tight 10's were, I found it difficult to get super-focused, growing tones; adding some bite with a tube overdrive

or mild distortion pedal will help you be heard in a band with loud guitars. But the NC410's low end is impressive—I dare you to max out the bass without sending bookcases flying.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This combo is perfect for who players want their gear to sound great, be loud and powerful but be easy to move and simple to operate. Portable, powerful, and lightweight, this 62-lb. combo (available for as low as \$900) delivers monster low end and solid construction at a great price. ■

THEDEETS
LIST PRICE \$1150
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Meet Your Maker

with Eden's David Nordschow

What upgrades have you made since last model?

The current unit has a much larger power section—320 watts instead of 200—and it has a full fan-cooled system controlled by a thermostat vs. the original passive cooling system. The tone controls have been tweaked for better balance and voicing, and the front end has been adjusted for better headroom. The speaker cabinet has heavier bass speakers with longer drive ability and better low-end and better overall performance. We have also redone the titanium tweeter unit and crossover and added castors—the original had none. All in all, the NC410 is a much more robust and professional package.

Why is there no adjustment for the horn?

The tone control takes care of the volume of the tweeter. We're trying to keep this feature simple.

Why was there no switchable on/off for the semi-parametric EQ?

Simplicity and cost. Down the road, we may do a feature upgrade in the next revision. That might be a nice addition.

