

Price: **£569**

With two speakers aimed at your knees and two at your nose, this PJB offers surround sound for bassists. Review by Gareth Morgan

FACTFILE

FLIGHTCASE

Description: Single channel, 150W 4x5" digital combo with four PJB Neodymium 5" speakers. Marine grade plywood cabinet with front porting. Made in USA

Price: £569

Controls: Input Level, Lo Bass, Hi Bass, Lo Mid, Hi Mid, Treble, Limiter Level (with On/Off switch) and Master Volume controls. Input (with Passive/Active switch), FX Loop, Headphone, Tuner and Line out jack sockets. XLR DI Out with Ground Lift switch

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PJB

Flightcase

The PJB Flightcase bridges the gap between the Briefcase (see review in *G&B* February 2006, Vol 16/12) and Phil Jones' larger units. Standing 320mm wide, 345mm high and 405mm deep, this 10.9kg/24lbs unit is a neat, black vinyl-covered cube with steel corners, rubber feet and a single top-mounted carry handle. As always with PJB gear, proprietary 5" drivers are the speakers of choice. The Flightcase contains four Neodymium versions, but there's a twist: two sit on the front above three oversize cylindrical ports, but the other two are situated on the top in 'up-firing' style to provide excellent monitoring for the player without having to tilt the amp back.

The top-mounted control panel has Input Level and Master Volume controls, plus five tone controls numbering Lo Bass, Hi Bass, Lo Mid, High Mid and Treble, each offering +/-18db. The intention with Lo and Hi Bass is that the former adjusts the booty of the E and A strings and the latter the D and G, and a digital power section backs up this juicy-looking EQ section with 150W of power. Given the compact nature of the unit, the top panel also sensibly houses the FX return and Headphone sockets with Line Out, Tuner and DI-ing facilities on the back panel.

SOUNDS

You're never going to get serious thunder from a 150W combo but the Flightcase is loud for its size, and when you get the Gain level right it can handle a low B string without distortion. Some are cynical about the amount of bass that 5" speakers



produce, but the Flightcase really can kick out room-shaking boom. These smaller speakers also reproduce high mids and trebles in a more natural manner than horns or tweeters, so tonal reproduction across the whole spectrum is wonderfully even. If you're worried about overload, the Limiter won't squeeze the life out of your sound, but it will protect the speakers.

There's tons more width available from the Bass EQ and the Hi control's thickening effect on higher strings is a huge plus in the practicality stakes, with plenty of definition making your note even more forceful. Boosting Hi Mid uncovers a splendidly snappy attack whilst minor cuts induce a rounder note edge. Because it doesn't over-emphasise the nasal element, the Hi Mid control's crisper attack sounds like a result of tightening the tonal control rather than boosting a frequency band. It's a similarly happy story with the Treble knob, which gives

more bite in the form of a brighter note rather than one that's thin, metallic and just decays more quickly.

VERDICT

PJB always put emphasis on high-quality tone, and for its intended use the Flightcase scores big time. The EQ is all about classy variations, and the up-firing speakers really help you hear yourself. It's a little expensive, but you really do get what you've paid for. **G**

THE COMPETITION

FENDER Rumble 100/210 100W Combo
 A substantial, modern-looking unit offering decent adaptability
RRP: £299.99

GALLIEN-KRUEGER Backline 115 125W Combo
 Surprisingly high quality sounds from this USA-made belter
RRP: £363

CARLSBRO Bass Bomber 125W Combo
 A sturdy, dependable 1x15" combo that's also pretty versatile
RRP: £329.99

First Impressions

Neat and compact and definitely not a loud gigging amp

FINAL SCORE	
Build Quality	19
Versatility	14
Sound	18
Value for money	16
Vibe	15
TOTAL	82%
Good for... medium volume rehearsals, small gigs or home recording, with high-class tone Look elsewhere... if you're a valve fascist or for situations requiring serious volume	