



## TRACE ELLIOT ELF £295

Heavy bass tone in a lightweight package

**P**lenty of guitar players also dabble in bass, but one of the biggest struggles facing part-time low-enders is the fact that while the ability to join the rhythm section will open up a world of dep gigs, it also increases the amount of gear you own. The Elf, by bass amp big shots Trace Elliot, is part of a new breed of lightweight, small-footprint heads that have become hugely popular.

It might surprise you, given that you could sit a couple of these in the space of an iPad, that this head is packing a maximum output of 200 watts. How's it done? Well, it

uses a digital power amp, which means that not only is it able to fit in a much smaller form factor, but it's light too, weighing in at just 730 grams. The onboard layout is simple: gain, three-band EQ and a master volume plus headphone socket on the front, and a speaker and DI outputs on the back. Impressive as that all sounds, it's all moot unless it sounds good.

Tonally, the Elf is classic Trace: clean sounds are the order of the day, and while the sound of our Jazz Bass is almost too bright with the EQ set flat, there's a lot of versatility in the EQ section. The mid control is strong and can

definitely add some more fat 'vintage' rock character to your sound when boosted, or remove clutter for pleasing slap tones when cut. Dirt players will need to use pedals for their gain, and while it's loud enough for small-medium gigs, you'll be using the DI to the PA for larger venues.

The Elf represents a great little platform if you need versatility in a small package. Rivals from the likes of TC Electronic and Fender offer more specs, but we love the size and sound of The Elf.

**Stuart Williams**

### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Bass amp  
**OUTPUT:** 130 watts (8 Ohm), 200 watts (4 Ohm)  
**CONTROLS:** Gain, bass, mid, treble, volume  
**SOCKETS:** Input, headphone out, speaker out, DI XLR  
**WEIGHT:** 730 grams  
**DIMENSIONS:** [HxWxD] 35 x 170 x 105 mm  
**CONTACT:** Barnes and Mullins

## THE ELF IS CLASSIC TRACE: CLEAN SOUNDS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	SOUND QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★