
Subject: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?

Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 21:38:26 GMT

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Just daydreaming for a minute or two...

I'm a fan of DEEP bass tone...no 4-10 cabinets thank you. I prefer to hear the real fundamentals...not just harmonics. Give me real bass speakers, and a real amp to drive them.

Thinking about assembling the ultimate Kustom tuck and roll bass rig (within reason...so it will still fit in one vehicle).

Here's my thoughts...

K-400 head (or maybe two, K200's, since I have one already)...for a solid, clean 200 watts of RMS power.

Two, 2-15 inch speaker cabinets.

Each cabinet loaded with two JBL E140-8 speakers, for a total load of 4 ohms for each side of the head (to get the most available power from the K-400 head).

I know the E140 wasn't available when these amps were built, but they are 3db more efficient than the D140 was, and I do have 4 of them that match.

All this covered in some matching Zodiac Naugahyde sparkle of some kind...so as to be a thing of beauty for the eyes, as well as the ears.

I'm thinking this would pretty-much shake the house down.

What do you guys think?

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?

Posted by [stevem](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 12:08:08 GMT

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It depends if you want to have or build/ mod something.

I have one of the late 90's Kustom trb400 models, its the size of a k200 but deeper, 2 channels one with a tube first stage and one just stright SS. its got a 6 band EQ section a contour control on each channel to sweep the overall range of EQ you have set,plus its got a built in adj crossover, preamp/power amp in and outs, and a foot switch to go from channel to channel.

Oh! and its 400 watts RMS at 4 ohms, fan cooled.You can get any sound out of it you like.

Its build quality chassie wise in not as good as the early stuff, but so far I have had no problems, and realy a simple but easy upgrade would be to drill out the threaded screw holes and install #8

machine bolts that with loctie.

The other thing you could do would be to make you own high wattage mosfet output section for one of your k200s.

there is plenty of room in there for a nice torodial PT putting out 80 volts for the powersupply rails, and plenty of room for a back to back heat sink assy, some things might have to be mounted on standoffs and you could get a small low current PT and use the original recto bridge to provide the 8 volts plus and minus for the preamp section.

Sounds like a fun winter project to me!?

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [steven](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 12:14:22 GMT
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I`am a 15" man myself(at least speaker wise)but I do have one of the once again ,90s kustom t&r 4-10 cabs to match the trb 400 head, and I`ve got to say one k200 2-15 cab loaded with my altec 421`s or k140`s, with the head on top of that and then the 4-10 cab on top of that is a impressive rig, and sound great as you might guess.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 14:54:04 GMT
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Unfortunately I no longer have the pictures, but my son used a pair of siren cabinets with E140's and horns connected to a QSC PLX1602 power amp driven with a K200 all in Cascade. Not the QSC. The sound guy just gave up. The PA rack was hiding behind the sirens. The K200 was sitting on top. I am a HUGE JBL E fan. I use only E140's and E120's for my PA rig. The weight is a slight issue but who cares? The sight is worth the effort.
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 15:15:22 GMT
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"I`am a 15" man myself(at least speaker wise)"

You crack me up man!!!

My last big Kustom rig (bought new in about 1970) was a K400, with two of the 3-15" cabs. Unfortunately those cabs didn't really get the most of of that head, and I only had the budget for CTS woofers.

Is there some place on the Vintage Kustom site where we could post pictures?

I'd love to see some shots of that new/old combo 2-15/4-10 rig.
I've never seen that newer TRB head either...Is there some place where there's some info on it?

I use a Crest FA901 for my "loud" rig (800w RMS at 4ohms). Probably could fit just about all the guts in that inside the K200 chassis.

"The sound guy just gave up."
Love that line too!!!

Thanks guys for the ideas, and the fun!
Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 16:05:29 GMT
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Rather than cobble a K200 looking rig, I just drop a QCS behind the speakers and use the K200 as a preamp. If you are a 15" man, then I must be a Bose man. (Think about that one for a while.)
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 17:42:11 GMT
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Thought seriously about doing that...just putting the Crest in a little road-rack behind the K200 and Kustom cabs...driven from the K200 pre-amp out. Might still do it that way. Still somehow, it seemed like cheating...not "real Chanute Kansas Kustom".

So then I considered trying to find a suitable K400 head. One went for a little more than I wanted to pay yesterday on eBay.

Just daydreaming mostly. And trying to figure out how I wanna use these 4 JBL E140-8 speakers.

Finding another 2x15 Kustom cabinet shouldn't be too difficult. St. Louis is just up the road a bit from me. Bet there are plenty laying around up there. Seems like every band used either Kustom or Fender back up there in the late 60's and early 70's. Must have been a part of the union membership requirements...but I don't remember. After my Dual Showman caught fire on stage one night, I bought the K400, and never looked back.

The most costly thing would probably wind-up being the re-cover of it all...to a pretty new, matching Zodiac Naugahyde color. I have a couple of samples coming from Gary's Upholstery.

The older I get, the more like a Bose guy I become!

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 19:25:40 GMT
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I don't think using a slave to increase the power is cheating. No different than having the PA guy line out your amp to the house. Better yet, a good Shure Beta drum mic to get the speaker ambience. I come right out of the speaker output to the power amp in. Keep the level on the K200 at 9:00 and set your volume with the slave. The line out is VERY low level.
Dead serious request. If you happen to run across a Red K100 in good to very good condition, hell player condition even, let me know. I would run down there and grab it. So far I need red, silver and black to complete the K100 Kollection. Black is easy, silver shows up every once in a while, but red, never! I would consider silver if it is available.
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 19:54:44 GMT
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I'll keep my eye out for one during my speaker cab search.

Do you want just a K100 red-head, or the whole thing?

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2007 21:13:12 GMT
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The whole thing preferred. I guess if I have to assemble it, that would OK. The prices on Ebay get way out of hand sometimes. Thanks.
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [steven](#) on Fri, 16 Feb 2007 11:40:37 GMT
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Hey Conrad, are you talking Bose as in their new live use, 5 ft speaker and sub set up they have been promoting in the advertisements over the last year?

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Fri, 16 Feb 2007 13:21:33 GMT
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No, I'm talking the original 8 4" speaker cabinet on a stick. Smaller speakers but more of them. What a stupid concept!
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [BC](#) on Sun, 18 Feb 2007 18:38:03 GMT
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The ultimate bass rig.....that fits in one vehicle.....that depends on the size of the vehicle....but you can put a 3x15 cabinet in a 95 Camry with a little help from your friends!

A few years back Artoo in Chicago put a 400 head on top of two 1x15 Kustom cabinets and loaded them with D-140s. I have a 1x15 with a 421 Altec in it being driven by a single 200 and it is pretty impressive. Double that and wow! Also a twin (two cabinets)2x15 CTS rig with a single 200 head will surprise you in what it can do. Not a lot of brute force...but sweet tone and plenty of it. I have thought about trying a single 15 in a 2x15 cabinet to see what sort of tone it would have. I have tried the power amp out of a 200 head on several 3x15s and it was not what I was looking for. Perhaps too much power for the speakers (CTS) I am not sure.....but the tone was thin to me. I have a couple of 2x15 cabinets loaded with JBLs and they sound very different. I have E 140s in a 200 slanted cabinet.....when used with a 200 head they sound nice but choked like they are not being driven to the sweet spot. I have D-140s in a 250 style cabinet that has a little more cabinet volume and they are much nicer to my ears with either a 200 or 250 head. My 2x15 Altec 421 cabinet has more punch than either of them....but less bottom. I suspect the best sound would be to use the Altec and a JBL cabinet and drive them with a 400 head or a 250 and a powermodule (ala Kustom 500) to get the punch and the bottom benefits of both cabs!

Hey Dave! Where in Missouri are you? I am in KY about 3 hours from St Louis. BC

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Mon, 19 Feb 2007 22:57:05 GMT
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I'm near Cape Girardeau in SE Missouri.

The slant 2x15 cabinets are probably just a little too small for really effective deep bass...but it's what I've got to work with.

The K400 / two 3x15 rig I used to use had plenty of stage volume, but really wasn't as deep as I was expecting it do be. I think the 2x15 cabinet loaded with good speakers might actually be better...tone wise. That old rig would just be way too much for me to try and drag around...much less make room for in the house.

On the subject of "cheating" with an out-board (non-Kustom) power amp... I just bought a McIntosh MC-2100. What an amp! Can't believe how cheap I got it (\$250)...and it's in like-new condition.

I might put that Mac in-line between my present K200, and the two 2x15 cabinets, loaded with the E140-8's. Looks like the MC-2100 doesn't clip till about 145 watts per channel. I think that would be a pretty good match for these E140's...about 75 watts / driver.

I'm still not believing how overwhelmed by options I am...A nice place to be!

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [BC](#) on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 13:08:01 GMT
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Hey Dave!.....I am near Paducah. Do you want I should bring some Kustoms over for experimentation? BC

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 14:01:43 GMT
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Good to know there's another Kustom fan not too far away!

I'll report back after I get the second cabinet loaded with these E140's.

BTW, what version of the Altec 421 do you suggest?

I've been wanting to upgrade the CTS speaker in my Ampeg B-15n. I think some version of the 421 was offered by Ampeg as the "upgrade" speaker in that amp, but no one has ever been able to tell me which version. I was thinking the 421A might be the one...but I'm not really sure.

Just did the reverb upgrade in my K200 head over the weekend. I'll post the details of that in another post however. I can tell you, it's quite an improvement.

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [stevem](#) on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 18:00:58 GMT
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The 60`s ampeg B SERISE amps came with the 421a, as my friend has one in his studio that he got from another studio that was selling old gear.
The 60 watt version of the B serise sounds great with the stock CTS and killer with the altec.
A jazz bass or a precision with this amp is heaven! like something from the god`s.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 18:35:12 GMT
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The E140's are copper edge wound voice coils that can handle 200 watts RMS. I routinely drive the 4 I use, wired in parallel for 2 ohms pushed by 1/2 of a PLX 3402 at 1700 watts. Thats 425 for each speaker with great results. That is for PA use but 2X rated RMS power is a typical rating. The only problem I had, was a music passage that I was running through the PA had a low sine wave frequency as part of the music and I was pushing about 1100 watts for the pair and by the time I got to the board to reduce the volume, it was too late. They were fried. OOPS! I found a great speaker parts store in Florida that sells JBL aftermarket kits for \$69.00. They are more work than genuine JBL drop in kits but for half the cost. The speakers sound as good as the originals. Conrad.

PS I am in the Milwaukee Area

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 19:13:24 GMT
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Thanks for solving the Ampeg Altec mystery for me Steve!

I spoke with a fella who does re-cones last week about the Altec 421's. He said the re-cone kit for the 421A was no longer available...at least from Altec. Might have been feeding me a line...I don't know.

He said they use the 421LF kit...which I don't think has nearly the same TS parameters as the A version. He also said the frame was the same for all the 421's...so any 421 could become any one of them with the right re-cone kit. The guy seems like he used to work for Altec...so I guess he should know.

My B-15n puts out right at 40 watts at clipping into 8 ohms BTW. Guess that's why James Jamerson went to his Kustom K200 for live gigs. I can't imagine using a B-15 for a live gig...unless you like a lot of clipping.

Sounds like I won't be frying any E140's...even with that MC-2100. I've never really pushed them to the limit...but it sure sounds like Conrad has!

I did try an E140 in my Ampeg BTW, but I really didn't like the sound much. It was much louder than the CTS, but it just didn't sound very good. I also had to double the gasket thickness, because the JBL cone was bumping into the baffle board on low notes.

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Tue, 20 Feb 2007 19:45:26 GMT
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My brother, who also posts here on occasion, has 2 red 2x15 with JBL D140's and a K200B1. He absolutely loves the depth he get with that rig. He has 1 8 ohm cabinet and 1 4 ohm cabinet. He uses the 4 ohm most of the time and uses the extra power from the K200. He does like 4 15's though on some occasions but I'm not sure if he has a second head or just runs them both. Maybe if he sees this, he will jump in.

I can really push the E140's hard. I will do an entire stage through the PA. It is really fun to see if I can rumble the floor with the bass guitar. I usually line out the bass and then add more bass from the board. It really gets intense with a 5 string.

Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [JohnF](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 15:12:33 GMT
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Con's got it right. My main rig is a red 2x15 w/ JBL 140's (4 ohms total) and a K200B1. If I need to run through the PA, then I prefer to mic the cabinet. The line-in is easier and cleaner, but I prefer the sound of the mic'ed cabinet. I seldom drag out the second cab, since I prefer to keep the stage volume reasonable.

I started with a Kustom in high school, and I've been through lots of bass rigs since, but I ended back here. It's hard to beat the old T&R.

John
(Con's younger and much better looking brother)

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [BC](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 15:52:01 GMT
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Mine are white frame 421-A.....8 ohm. BC

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [BC](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 15:58:21 GMT
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I agree John....when you are using a vintage amp and cabinet you do not go direct! I have had more than one heated discussion with so called "sound men" on that issue. If you can mic a bass drum you can mic anything! BC

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 16:10:27 GMT
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I also prefer micing a good sounding cabinet...even for recording. Or at least, mixing in the sound of the cabinet with some of the direct feed. Phasing things correctly when this is done is also VERY important.

The trick is, using the right mic!

There are a lot of good choices out there...but you don't want some ticked-off sound guy sticking an SM-57 in front of your nice vintage bass rig, and saying, "see, I told you it would suck"...because it shure will.

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 16:17:57 GMT
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BTW, the guy also needs to be careful about the position of that mic.

You don't want it right on the grill cloth, in front of one of the drivers, or stuck right in front of the port. The frequencies coming out of the driver, and the port will be quite different...and you need to pick-up BOTH of them.

Usually, the closest distance that will work is about 12-18 inches, with the mic spaced evenly between the port and the driver.

Also (in most cases) you should make sure he puts a windscreen on the mic. The puffs of air coming out of the port sometimes can really make some odd sounds to the mic.

If it were me, I'd just carry my own mic, and set the position myself.

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [JohnF](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 17:09:58 GMT
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In my studio, I usually use a Shure Beta52 about 6-12 inches away, placed half way between the center and the edge of the cone. But mic choice and placement is about as subjective a topic as there is. At the end of the day, it's whatever sounds good to you.

John

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 18:39:34 GMT
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The Shure Beta 52 would certainly be one that's on my short list. As is...
The AKG D112
The EV RE-20 (and the RE-27 for a brighter sound)

I understand the less expensive AKG D11 is also pretty good...but haven't heard it. Ditto for the Sennheiser E902.

My son has been getting nice results with the Heil PR30 and PR40 as well. PR30 might be the best guitar cab mic we've heard so far...works very well in close.

For bass, most of the time I (personally) prefer the results with a mic positioned about half-way between the cone, and the port...at about 12-18 inches from the front of the cabinet. Every cabinet is different however...and sometimes closer is needed for better isolation.

Agreed...it's a very subjective thing, and it's good that there are a variety of different sounds out there. Keeps bass from getting boaring.

Dave O.

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [JohnF](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 19:49:46 GMT
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Thanks, I'll try that mic position.

There are definitely many good mic choices these days. Even the "bargain" brands work surprisingly well. It's nice to have reasonable choices for a home studio without shelling out big \$\$\$\$.

John

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [stevem](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 11:47:08 GMT
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Hey Conrad, I have 2 JBL K 140s that are buzzin and I will have to get fixed, so you say those re-cone kits that you get sound real close to original JBL parts?

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 14:04:55 GMT
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Yes, I have used drop in JBL recone kits and the Simply Speakers kits are a dead match for the voice coil and cone material. Actually, everything is identical. The only problem is the time it takes to assemble the parts and get a good fit. It isn't hard, just takes patience.
Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [stevem](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 18:05:15 GMT
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So this company will sell you the re-cone parts if you are just a retail customer and not a repair shop?

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 18:19:18 GMT
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Absolutely. You can even call them and talk to the owners. I have had a couple of conversations about speakers they don't list in the recone section. They set me up with all the parts for old JBL 122A speakers. They worked perfectly. I would recommend them highly.

<http://www.simplyspeakers.com/>

Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [C4ster](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 18:26:24 GMT
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Just one more thing. If you go to their web site and are looking specifically a K140 you won't find it. I believe that the E140 kit will fit the D, E and K series speakers. Hell, any number of speaker frames and parts are interchangeable. If you don't want the low frequency 140, recone it to a 130. It's actually a lot of fun if you have the patience. Steve, if you can spend hours looking for a defective part in an old Kustom, this is a piece of cake.

Conrad

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [stevem](#) on Fri, 23 Feb 2007 11:54:19 GMT
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Boy! do I know what you mean, last weekend I was working on a 3 channel marshall installing a 1/2 power switch and I was stripping a wire end, and had not noticed that one strand had come off and fell in the amp, so when I fired it back up I had no out put from the 3rd channel knowing full well that the amp worked fine when I open it up. It took me an hour and a half to find that stinking shard of wire! Thank god it did not get into the area of the amp with the semiconductors in it and blow something.
Thanks for the info!

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by [serabul](#) on Sat, 10 Mar 2007 14:55:36 GMT
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just picked up a k200 bass rig with the three 15s cts. the head however needs to be worked on it its in perfect condition no cut in the tuck and roll I currently have theme plugged into a peavey mark five 400 watt head. well needless to say it cranks Ive had friends come over and say wow I havent heard these since the late 60s & 70s when we where in school. And they would say thanks you know for restarting my heart the thunder is just amazing. thunder on Steve

Subject: Re: Ultimate Kustom T&R Bass Rig?
Posted by daveobergoenner@gmail.com on Sat, 10 Mar 2007 15:01:21 GMT
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Just wondering, do you mean you are driving the Kustom 3x15 cabinet with the Peavy head?

Be careful...wouldn't wanna damage those nice old CTS drivers!

What's wrong with the K200 head? Just about anything on them can be fixed BTW.

Dave O.
