

Over the last couple of years I've had the great pleasure of frequenting Craig and Renee Synder's CR Guitars in Rhinebeck, NY.. The most beautiful, warm and fuzzy, stylish and serious guitar and amp boutique I've ever come across. Subsequently Craig and I have forged a great friendship which has afforded me an open invitation to drop in for a hang. Most recently I stumbled in to find a very hip looking amp in the shop. At first I thought it might be a vintage Magnatone or something but upon closer inspection with it's styling and vibe I knew it was something very special. "What's this", I asked Craig, "plug something in", he replied with a grin. With no shortage of the worlds finest guitars on hand (I began with a gorgeous Yanuziello) I was up and running. First reaction, "I want this!" Let me explain.

I use a wide dynamic range in my playing. I've practiced this, a lot. An electric (and acoustic for that matter) guitar is capable of great variation in dynamics. The technique just needs to be unlocked. So I love an amp that reveals every nuance of one's technique and man this Steven Fryette amp does just that, big time! Simply put, it's a super sensitive, direct transference of everything you play. Extremely 3D !!!! With the right amount of headroom it goes from a whisper to a loud bark all with your touch. That's cool but a lot of great amps do that. This amp however does it with a sonic envelope like a Baritone Sax! Notes blossom, chords blossom. I had a gas just hitting one note over and over again with different dynamics and articulations. It really hears everything you play. Of course that might be bothersome. I mean it also hears all the flubs (which is why I use the "Blame Shifter" pedal) but I've always chased down instruments that help reveal what you might want to address in your playing (we all want to improve, right?). Great simple design (with a flare) and good old real point-to-point wiring. What an instrument. Bravo Steven Fryette! Only a handful of builders achieving this kind of magic. Hats off to my good friend Craig Synder for bringing us the most inspiring tools of the trade.

Respectfully,

Mark Dziuba