

# ZT AMPLIFIERS

## The Lunchbox

Some big things come in small packages, right? Well, ZT Amplifiers is poised to give that old cliché some new life. The one-year-old company has been busy blazing new trails in the small-amp-big-sound arena, introducing a series of pint-sized amps that deliver an incredibly huge wallop. The company's first offering, appropriately called the Lunchbox, packs the power of a big-room stage amp into a chassis that is the size of a grade school lunchbox. Really! This thing pushes a remarkable 200-watt signal through a 6.5-inch built-in speaker, and it actually sounds pretty darn good.



### FEATURES

Plain and simple, the Lunchbox is a single channel, solid state amp designed for power and portability. It's controlled by a basic four-knob setup, with Tone, Volume and Gain knobs, plus an Ambience knob designed to emulate the reverb setting of an open-back cabinet. A 1/4" high-power output connector allows users to hook up their speaker cabinet of choice to this extremely powerful head. A 1/8" stereo jack allows for line inputs from an outside audio source, like an MP3 player. If used like this, the balance between your guitar and an MP3 player can be tweaked using the Gain knob. A separate line output channel also allows you to run stereo headphones, house sound or a recording rig.

### SOUND AND EASE OF USE

The Lunchbox pushes a louder clean tone than amps four times its size and, in most cases, you shouldn't need to play it past 6 or 7. Tone-wise, the Lunchbox offers rich, jazzy tones at a low setting, and a sound optimal for chicken pickin' when cranked up. Dirty tones, however, are a different story. The Lunchbox has a tough time breaking up the signal at high-Gain/high-volume settings, but overdrive pedal lovers shouldn't have any problem achieving the necessary distortion levels with their stompbox of choice. In this case, the Gain should almost always be set at least halfway to assure a tight, expressive tone and low operating noise. Anything lower offers a marginally cleaner tone at the expense of pickup dynamics and inflection. The Ambience control is aptly named as it gives a subtle effect. I found that at high levels it can almost sound like the reverb setting on a digital delay unit. Don't, however, expect it to sound like a spring reverb—no surf sounds here.

### IS IT FOR YOU?

The Lunchbox is a perfect rehearsal amp, and probably equally suitable for some gigs, depending on the size of the venue. It's light, portable, and definitely loud enough to push a clean sound over the hardest-hitting drummers. It is not a gigging amp for players needing many tones from a single box, nor was it designed to be. However, with a few effects and the right speaker cab, the mighty Lunchbox could indeed be part of a very worthy stage setup. —Adam Lovinus **GE**

### IN A NUTSHELL

- 9.5 lbs.
- 200 Watts
- 6.5" Speaker
- External Speaker Output (8 ohms minimum)
- Volume, Gain, Tone and Ambience Controls

• Rear Panel Controls for Headphone/Line Out Volume, Internal Speaker Switch  
**MSRP \$359**  
[ztamplifiers.com](http://ztamplifiers.com)



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# Danelectro

REVIEWS

## Cool Cat V2 Drive, Fuzz & Transparent Overdrive



You know the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Thankfully, the mad scientists at Danelectro didn't get the memo. Following on the success of their critically acclaimed Cool Cat series of effects pedals, they've actually made a good thing even better with the second version of three originals.

### FEATURES

The Danelectro Cool Cat V2 series—currently made up of the Drive, Fuzz and Transparent Overdrive pedals—contain the same features found in the first generation, including True Bypass 3PDT footswitches, metal jacks and cases. The V2 series boasts features normally found on pedals costing many times their price. Options such as internal DIP switches, trim pots, and mini-switches give you more control of your sound.

### SOUND AND EASE OF USE

The V2 Drive has the same three knobs as the original Cool Cat Drive, with the addition of an internal trim pot and a Lo-Fi switch. I was able to get everything from a straight clean boost to an EBow-like endless sustain with this pedal.

The V2 Fuzz has a concentric 2-Band EQ instead of your typical Tone knob, plus three DIP switches under the battery compartment that place various LEDs into the mix. I found it was easy to dial in thick, biting tones reminiscent of Queens of the Stone Age and Mudhoney. This is a very versatile fuzz pedal.

The V2 Transparent Overdrive is identical to its predecessor, with the addition of four internal DIP switches that add assorted modes of clipping, plus a 6dB boost that can kick an already great sounding tube amp over the edge.

### IS IT FOR YOU?

Danelectro has improved on an already great thing, and in the process become a contender in the boutique effects marketplace. These pedals produce some of the greatest tones around at prices that **cannot** be beat. —Jason Allwood **GE**

### IN A NUTSHELL

#### V2 series:

True Bypass 3PDT footswitches, metal cases/jacks

#### Fuzz:

Volume, Treble/Bass and Fuzz controls; three internal DIP switches; **LIST \$69**

#### Drive:

Volume, Tone and Drive controls; internal trim pot for input sensitivity; Lo-Fi switch; **LIST \$59**

#### Transparent Overdrive:

Volume, Treble/Bass, and Fuzz controls; four internal DIP switches; **LIST \$69**



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