

Mono M80 Road Test

After reporting on the range of hybrid guitar/bass cases from Mono last issue, we were keen to get our hands on them and give them a thorough road testing. We received the Mono M80, the company's flagship bass case. Although the M80 is essentially a gig bag and is carried on the shoulder, its hybrid construction puts it somewhere between a lightweight hard case and a standard gig bag. The case is constructed from an ultra light laminated foam shell with strategically placed ABS panels, meaning that protection is second to none. Inside the case, the neck can be secured with a well padded neck brace, while at the bottom there is ample protection from the strap buttons of your guitar - the bottom of a gig bag is usually the first place to wear out, so this was great to see.

The exterior of the case features a large, expandable main pocket with a few neat features. These include a cable holder and discreet pockets for storing items such as wallets and phones. The headstock end of the case features another storage compartment big enough for iPods and headphone amplifiers and also has compartments for pens - ideal for teachers!

I used the M80 for two weeks and took it out on a European tour as well as using it for all of my teaching engagements. During the tour the M80 kept my instrument safe and gave me more peace of mind than I've ever had from a gig bag. Thanks to its light weight it was no problem to carry around either. It was similarly impressive for taking into the school that I teach at. The extra compartments were very useful, and I was able to bring a small laptop, a headphone amp, iPod, pens and course notes without any problem.

Overall the M80 is an extremely well designed and executed gig bag. Protection is second to none, as are the storage capabilities. After two weeks with the M80 I felt I had no option but to honour it with the highest accolade I could think of - a purchase! The M80 is available from Madison and Fifth and currently retails at £99, although the company admit that the price will have to rise slightly in the near future, given the current economic downturn.

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Bass Ma Gui

On the 25th a
Manson celeb
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Stuart Clayton
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Whole Lotta Led Zepplin

