

Ashdown Fallen Angel 60 £798

An amp with a sound that fills the dark recesses of the mind

WHEN THE WORDS FALLEN

ANGEL pass your lips, it's like chanting a secret incantation, a far cry from the soul-less numeric product codes of most modern amps. The head's dark and mysterious exterior is solidly assembled, as you'd expect from Ashdown, leaving no doubt as to its roadworthiness. Inside this concrete crypt lie a quartet of 12AX7 preamp tubes and a pair of EL34 power output valves, making it the only all-valve amplifier on test.

There's something extremely cool about having a VU meter on the front. Hit a powerchord and it's like seeing the dial go crazy when revving your car. The two channels are laid out 'back-to-front' with master controls to the left of the array and input to the right. This is because the head version of the Angel is an inverted combo unit in a smaller chassis.

Part of the appeal of this amp is its claim to handle downtuned and baritone instruments without flinching. Well, we just had to put this to the test. Beginning with a clean

tone and all controls set to 'noon', the Ashdown's wonderfully spongy dynamics deliver some truly great tones. There's ample power available to deal with baritonic bass riffs without straining the amp and the gleaming clarity and punch of the fundamental sound is immensely satisfying. Great reverb too.

But no Fallen Angel would garner any respect without a trip to hell and with overdrive channel 2 in play, that's just where we're headed. Cataclysmic distortions with all the muscle you need for the dirtiest riff. This is what we like. This rig would put a demonic smile on the face of any player, but if your vibe is on the darker side of rock you've just found your guardian angel. **WG**



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Sound
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AT A GLANCE

Ashdown Fallen Angel 60

- **Price:** £798
- **Origin:** UK
- **Type:** Hi-gain all-valve 60-watt half-stack with custom cabinet
- **Features:** Twin channels, twin master volume, reverb, output stage VU meter
- **Contact:** Ashdown Engineering 01376 572872
- **Web:** www.ashdownmusic.com

- **FOR** Powerful soulful tones, supremely dynamic clean tone, makes you want to get low down and dirty
- **AGAINST** The crunch tone feels a little underpowered

PERFORMANCE	9
VALUE	7

WhatGuitar? SAYS... "Awesome power holds hands with tonal sophistication."