THD's UniValve was the amp of 2001 for us and it has continued to gather worldwide acclaim for style, innovation and, above all, tone. THD is one of the original American 'boutique' companies. While the brand is better known in the UK now than a year or so ago, in the States their reputation is huge and Andy Marshall's (THD's designer and CEO) passion for good design and killer sounds has resulted in many accolades from musicians and industry giants. The award-winning UniValve is destined to go down in amp history as one of the world's ultimate studio amplifiers. You can easily use it live of course, but with a maximum output of around 17 watts, clean headroom is sometimes at a premium. Which brings us neatly to the UniValve's big brother. The BiValve 30 debuted at this year's Winter NAMM and is reviewed here exclusively for the first time in the UK.

Like the UniValve, the BiValve is a single-ended pure Class A design. However, it has two output valves which are wired in parallel and combined through a special output transformer to deliver up to around 30 watts. You can use almost any output valve you like without touching any kind of bias adjustment, and get this: in the BiValve you can use them in any combination as well. Combined with the capability to take almost any preamp valve, this makes the BiValve even more of an amp-tweakers dream than its predecessor. Because there's such a wide range of tone available you can customise the amp exactly to suit your style.

The BiValve sits in the same compact pressed steel chassis as the UniValve and, except for the extra valve and control plate, it looks almost identical. The UniValve's acid-etched control plate was inspired by Glasgow artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh; this time round THD have gone for a marine theme, with an intricate diamond scale design. The control markings are screen printed, which makes them easier to see, but in our opinion detracts a little from the artistry of the background pattern.

Underneath the perforated steel lid there's a larger pair of transformers to handle the increased output, and inside there are two ultra-thick PCBs: one for the power supply and one for the audio. The four valve bases are bolted to the chassis and secured by locking nuts, with hi-fi style internal baffle plates to cut down on radiated hum. The standard of construction is

---

**THD BiValve 30 Head £1,199**

The UniValve's big brother makes its UK debut. The world's only dual single ended guitar amp has a big reputation to live up to: does it cut the mustard? by Nick Guppy

**CHOICE**

---

**THD BiValve 30 Test Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Build Quality</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Value for Money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WE LIKED:** Limitless tonal range, good looks and useful features, with volume to spare for live use

**WE DISLIKED:** The case isn't best suited to live gigging but, this aside, it's hard to fault

---

**THD BiValve 30**
The BiValve delivers totally on the UniValve’s promise, one of the best playing experiences any guitarist could hope for.

The BiValve is a 30-watt all-valve amp, designed to deliver the best of both worlds: the crunch and drive of a power amp, combined with the clean heads and sparkling highs of a clean amp. It’s a unique combination that makes it a perfect choice for both live and recording situations.

**Features**

- **Valve Selection**: The BiValve uses a mix of EL34 and 6L6 valves to achieve its sound. This combination allows for a wide range of tone options, from clean, clear tones to rich, overdriven sounds.
- **Output Switches**: The amp features a built-in output switch that allows you to choose between high and low output levels, giving you even more control over your sound.
- **Hotplate**: The Hotplate feature lets you add a unique high-end response to your sound, which can be especially useful for adding thickness and complexity to your guitar sound.
- **Effects**: The BiValve comes with a built-in effects loop, allowing you to add pedals and other effects to your tone.

**Sound Quality**

The BiValve delivers an incredibly rich and complex sound. The EL34s provide a warm, full-bodied tone, while the 6L6s add crunch and drive. The combination of these two valves creates a sound that is both versatile and grounded, making it a great choice for a wide range of musical styles.

**Conclusion**

The THD BiValve is a truly unique and versatile amp. Its blend of power and control makes it a great choice for musicians looking to add a touch of vintage style to their sound. Whether you’re a seasoned guitarist or just starting out, the BiValve is sure to impress.