FEW OF US can afford our own amp tech who can dial in an amp until it’s just the way we like it. Fortunately, Egnater has introduced its new Tweaker 15-watt amp head and combo, which features a variety of switches that allow players to customize the amp to their personal tone preferences or pair the amp with any variety of guitars plugged into it. The Tweaker is also ideal for the studio when you need to precisely shape a guitar’s tone to make it fit perfectly with the track you’re working on. I took a look at the Tweaker 112 combo, which features the same chassis as the compact Tweaker head plus a single Celestion Vintage Series G12H 30-watt 12-inch speaker in an open-back cabinet.

FEATURES
THE HEART OF the Tweaker is a 15-watt amplifier powered by two 6V6 tubes, with three 12AX7 tubes driving the preamp section. The Tweaker is a single-channel amp with controls for master volume, gain, treble, middle and bass. In addition to On/Off and Play/Standby switches, the amp provides five mini switches that deliver a high level of tweakability. The gain control has a Hot/Clean switch that provides a slightly midscooped overall tone, with a noticeable boost in upper frequencies by +6dB. The Tweaker’s output section includes main and extension speaker jacks, a four-/eight-/16-ohm speaker impedance switch, switchable 100/115/230 AC transformer voltages (for using the amp overseas), and a buffered effect loop with mono 1/4-inch send and return jacks.

PERFORMANCE
WHEREAS MOST SWITCHES on amps provide subtle tonal variations without affecting the amp’s overall character very much, the switches on the Tweaker produce a wide range of tonal variations that can change the amp’s character dramatically. The Vintage/Modern, USA/AC/Brit and Hot/Clean switches in particular affect the amp’s tone in broad strokes, while the Bright/Normal and Tight/Deep switches have a more subtle character. Selecting the Vintage, USA and Clean settings produces classic blackface tones similar to a Fender Princeton, while the Modern, Brit and Hot settings provide the aggressive, gnarly character of a modern high-gain amp. The AC setting provides a slightly midscooped overall tone, with a noticeable boost in upper frequencies that provides the glassy sparkle that Vox players love.

While the Tweaker can sound like a variety of amps, one of its strengths is its ability to adapt to a wide variety of guitars or musical styles. Thanks to the simple control layout, you can custom-tailor the tone in seconds while switching from a Les Paul to a Strat or when you finish a set of classic metal tunes and want to go into a blues jam. The Modern and Hot settings can be dark and thick, but can also brighten things up using the AC tone stack or the Vintage master volume setting if you don’t need that much gain. The Celestion 12-inch speaker is a great match for the Tweaker’s wide variety of tones, andolum the combo’s open-back cabinet design provides a big sound that fills the room.

THE BOTTOM LINE
THE EGANATER TWEAKER combo is a remarkably versatile amp that allows you to customize your tone the way you’ve always wanted it to sound, and do so in mere seconds.