



Back to the
FUTURE !!



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A few words from Marco De Virgiliis

Inside any business we can find brands that are more customers oriented than others, brands that are more respected than others. Lets think for a second about Ferrari for cars or Apple for computers and smart phones, and what these two brands mean for their customers all over the world.

Both brands - and many other successful ones - have one thing in common: history! One specific history, one exciting history, which makes them so different from the rest of the market and their competitors.

When we can find "a well known face" behind a brand, we can also find an unprecedented loyalty and trust from their customers: they know exactly what to expect when they purchase those products.

On the other hand, we can find brands that share a unique and exciting history, but because banks and financial organizations often manage them, they lose their passion and enthusiasm throughout the years. Their products become a reflection of this lack of emotions.

Success alone isn't enough to generate emotions. We need that history behind the brand to be able to experience and deliver those feelings.

Everyone knows the history behind Music Man! Everyone knows Mr. Sterling Ball is the man behind that history. You can't find a bass player nowadays who wouldn't talk highly about Music Man, his owner and his products. They are a symbol for all musicians all over the world. They made and make history every day.

Similarly, today everyone knows my history and my brand Markbass.

Markbass is one of the most prestigious brands in the market of bass amplification, having established its reputation in only few years.

Markbass is known for its innovative products, for being highly respected

among all bass players around the Globe, but more importantly for making history and being part of that history every day!

Many of you might know that Sterling Ball and me have worked together in the late 90s. Since then, we have been always in touch with each other and very good friends. But not all of you might know that my success with Markbass came from those crossed destinies: thank to Sterling Ball Markbass made his big entrance in the US Market, gaining his leading role soon after.

A little while ago, it was night time, excited by the idea to propose again our old amplifiers, I sent an email to Sterling saying: "I have an idea...". Only five minutes later I received Sterling's reply saying: "LET'S DO IT!"

After only those two emails the project was alive and kicking! You can read so many things between the lines of those two emails:

Respect! Passion! Speed! Determination! Power of Decision!

You now know the history behind this new project. We are taking you:

Back to the Future!!

Inside this catalogue you can find our first product line, created with the maximum respect to our original philosophy.

All guitar heads are similar to the ones manufactured during the 70s and the 80s, which became so popular amongst all famous players.

All of them have a combination of a Solid State and a Tube preamp, following the vision of Tommy Walker, whom I have the honor to meet in 1998 in S.Luis Obispo thank to Sterling. The bass amps also get their inspiration from the 70s and the 80s product line.

This brand already went down in history!

Not one history, a crossed destiny of two great brands: It is the ultimate passion and professionalism coming back together!



Marco De Virgiliis

GUITAR



CLB 2

- Crunch / Lead distortion pedal with separate complete controls and booster
- True Bypass
- 9/12V DC power supply

212 HD 130



- Two solid-state channels with independent volume
- Treble
- Middle and bass controls
- Reverb and tremolo on channel 2
- Shared Master,
- 4 EL34 / 130W tube power
- 2x12" DV Mark Neoclassic speakers

HD 130 REVERB



- Two solid-state channels with independent volume
- Treble
- Middle and bass controls
- Reverb and tremolo on channel 2
- Shared Master

GS 412

- 600W
- Flat-front closed-back cabinet
- 4 x DV Mark Neoclassic 12" speakers
- Mono/stereo (8 ohms mono / 2 x 16 ohms stereo)

112 RD 50



- Two solid-state channels
- Each with independent volume,
- Treble and bass controls
- Plus a single ECC83 tube and gain controls on Ch2,
- Spring reverb
- 2 6L6 / 50W tube power,
- 1x12" DV Mark Neoclassic speaker

A few words from Sterling Ball

Sitting down to write this re-introduction of Music Man Amps brings back memories....all good.

Music Man was a company that was formed by Leo Fender, Tommy Walker, and Forrest White.

You all know Mr. Fender...but behind the scenes there was a very talented group of men and women that helped make the old Fender Musical Instrument company what it was...they we key people that were instrumental in creating the legendary "pre-CBS" era.

For various corporate reasons they didn't fit into the post CBS buyout of Fender...But they weren't done creating and needed an outlet and that outlet was Music Man.

Many people think that Mr. Fender designed the Music Man amps, but it was actually my Godfather Tommy Walker. Tommy was one of the first reps for Fender but was a self taught electronics genius. He also designed the preamp in the Stingray bass.

When they started getting to the R and D phase Tommy brought in his god kids. My older brother and I would visit Leo's lab and play the stuff and then take it out to jam and bandstand it and report back. I ended up getting more involved and worked closely with Leo on the prototyping of the Stingray and the Sabre. One of the reasons why he liked me is that I would tell him what I felt. I had grown up around Leo and Tommy and wasn't afraid or intimidated to tell them if something wasn't right....a lot of better players than me would not be so open around Mr. Fender. Since Leo was a huge country music fan that was the core group of beta testers he used....We were the rock guys.

When the amps and instruments were ready I brought some great artists at the time to become endorsees...from Albert Lee to Eric Clapton and many more.

The Eric Clapton set up was really great....461 Ocean Blvd had just been released and I told Tommy that I had a chance for Eric Clapton.

He didn't know who he was but trusted me. I met him at the Long Beach Arena and helped him unload a head and two 4x12 cabinets out of his 1968 Cadillac Sedan de Ville. We set up and the Roadie liked the sound...



Sterling Ball

now it was time for Mr Clapton. He approved and that helped give Music Man instant credibility.

Please understand that Eric Clapton no longer endorses Music Man but we are all forever indebted to him for his early support.

The Amps were a big hit. The Stingray Bass was an even bigger hit. The guitar was a failure. It was way too bright and nobody liked the rotary switch.

Leo and Tommy and the rest had a finger pointing falling out and Music Man was going to be sold to the highest bidder at auction. I went to my Dad and told him that I thought that Ernie Ball should buy Music Man and concentrate on making forward thinking ergonomic guitars and basses and make them in San Luis Obispo, California.

This was 1984. I tried to make the numbers work to set up an amp factory but we just didn't have enough money to do both instruments and amps.

Tommy designed the amps and cabinets so well that there was not enough profit to justify the continued production.

So basically I killed the Music Man amp.

I have approached and been approached about re-introducing the Music Man Amps so many times I have lost count.

It was just never the right fit and nobody that I talked to could do the amps justice. When my dear friend Marco of Markbass sent me an early morning email asking if I was interested I said "Let's do it!" I had

zero hesitation. I had found my perfect partner to make these great amps come back to the market.

Why Markbass? Because I believe that our industry has been blessed with very few passionate geniuses and Marco is one of them. His drive and commitment to creating the very best audio products is so very impressive. I use and love Markbass...they are light as a feather, powerful, and nothing sounds as good as them.

I am so excited to see Marco and his team faithfully recreate the amps that a previous genius Tommy Walker helped create. Tommy is resting in peace but I'm sure he would be smiling if he were here today. Tommy Walker was one of the most important role models, mentor and friend that I have had in my life and these amps are my tribute to Tommy.

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BASS

BH 500



- Solid State preamp / analog power amp 500W@4ohm / 300W@8ohm
- Gain/Volume/Treble/Bass controls
- 5 Band Equalizer (footswitchable)
- XLR Line Out with Pre/Post EQ and GND Lift switches
- FX Send/Return
- Tuner Out

810 BS

- Closed cabinet
- 8 x 10" neodymium custom-made speakers
- 1" compression driver with custom horn (switchable) 1200W
- Mono/stereo (4 ohms mono / 2 x 8 ohms stereo)

115 B250



- 1x15"
- Solid State preamp / analog power amp 250W@4ohm / 150W@8ohm
- Gain/Volume/Treble/Bass controls
- 5 Band Equalizer (footswitchable)
- XLR Line Out with Pre/Post EQ and GND Lift switches
- FX Send/Return
- Tuner Out

