

**UDO AMPS** DA CAPO 75

# The ears are amazed

Acoustic guitar amps are available in all price ranges, power classes and dimensions. It's not easy to set new accents with a new amp.

Why Udo Amps succeeded with the Da Capo 75, find out more here.

**T**he man behind Udo Amps is none other than Udo Roesner, who founded AER in 1986 together with Susanne and Michael Eisenmann and developed classic acoustic amps such as the

Acousticube and the Compact 60. After leaving AER, he went into business for himself and created the Udo Amps brand. With his former work colleague Thomas Mattiussi, another amp designer, he founded MARco-labs in France with the goal of

developing an acoustic amp without compromise. The first result of this German-French friendship is the Da Capo 75, a small, compact, but powerful acoustic guitar amp, in the development of which Udo's now 35 years of experience

flowed. Therefore, it is not surprising that this amp already counted acoustic guitar boss Tommy Emmanuel among its users shortly after its release. Since the Da Capo 75 is manufactured in Indonesia, it can be offered at an attractive price. The



small amp comes in a smart, well-padded gig bag, which underlines its primary purpose as a stage amp. However, as we will see, it also feels right at home in the studio, rehearsal room or living room. With a live weight of just 7.5 kilograms and its extremely compact dimensions, it can easily be transported on the long arm even on public transportation. The multiplex cabinet coated with black polyester lacquer and the metal speaker grille are extremely sturdy and therefore suitable for road use without restrictions.

### A heart for Hertz

The amplifier has a two-channel design, with both channels equipped with combo jacks so that either microphones or instruments can be connected. It is thus the ideal companion for the singer-songwriter traveling with guitar. Channel 1 is equipped with a gain control and a three-band EQ that boosts and cuts bass, mids and treble at 100 Hz, 800 Hz and 10 kHz. Channel 1 also has a "Tone" switch that boosts the mids around 700 Hz and the highs around 8 kHz to slightly brighten the signal. This makes an acoustic guitar sound a bit more transparent and airy. Channel 2 has a high-pass filter that attenuates low frequencies, such as those produced by footfall or the proximity effect. The frequency can be adjusted between 40 Hz and 350 Hz. The different configuration of the two channels suggests that channel 1 is intended for guitar and channel 2 for vocals. Of course,



other assignments are possible at any time. On the back is an aux input in the form of a mini-jack, which can be used to feed in an additional audio source - such as a player for break-time music. Of course, an acoustic amp should not be without an integrated effects unit. With the Da Capo 75, you can choose between six effects that

are optimized specifically for guitar and vocals: A long, universally applicable reverb, a short, dry reverb (Room), a discreet chorus, a combination of delay and reverb, Udo Roesner's favorite delay ("My Delay"), and an echo for which you can tap in the delay time with an optional foot switch. The effects are programmed in a practical way

throughout and are of very good quality. If you miss your favorite effect, you can additionally loop it in via the send/return jacks. The "Level" control adjusts the effect intensity. You may wonder how the effect is distributed to the two channels. For this purpose, a "Pan" control is provided, with which the effect portions of channel 1 and 2 are comfortably and clearly under control with only one control. Finally, the "Master" control determines the overall volume of the amp.

### Many connections

A headphone jack is featured on the back of the amp, which turns off the speaker when used. The send/return jacks have already been mentioned. The Return input can optionally be used as an additional input for





another instrument. Two optionally connectable footswitches are used to turn the internal and external effects on and off and the second footswitch can alternatively be used to tap in the delay time. The two line outputs are configured differently. While Line-1 carries a level lowered by 10 dB and is thus suitable for connecting a sound card, Line-2 offers a high level for connection to a mixer. In addition, there are two balanced DI outputs (one for each channel) in the form of XLR sockets, which tap the channel signal either before or after the EQ. The setting can be made separately for each

DI channel. The line and DI outs make the Da Capo 75 extremely flexible for use in the studio and for integration into a larger stage setup. However, the Da Capo 75 does not have a ground lift switch for ground-free operation.

### Sound revelation

The Da Capo 75's 75W power amp drives a specially designed 8" dual-cone full-range speaker integrated into a bass-reflex design. The amp's volume is easily sufficient for clubs and smaller halls. Unfortunately, a speaker stand flange could not be integrated for space reasons, so other solutions

are needed to place the amp at overhead height. But now to the absolute highlight of the Da Capo 75: its sound. Here comes unbridled enthusiasm and you can feel - and hear - the experience that Udo Roesner has put into the little amp. The small cube sounds first and foremost natural, which means that it reproduces the sound produced by the pickup of the acoustic or the microphone almost identically. All guitars and pickup systems that we tested on the Da Capo 75 came out of the speaker pleasantly authentic, clear and transparent. An acoustic guitar sounds just like an acoustic guitar here. However, it also sounds full and balanced while producing a great punch. The guitar sounds crisp, fresh and powerful. This is exactly the sound you want as a singer-songwriter. The comparatively high gain of the input stage allows for high dynamics and an excellent signal-to-noise ratio.

### Top Overview

The operation of the Da Capo 75 is simple and intuitive due to the non-cluttered, clearly structured knob and button

landscape. The EQs work musically and the effects are all parameterized in a practice-oriented manner. Below the surface, i.e. on the electronics board, further functions are available via jumpers. Here, the input attenuation of the two channels can be individually adjusted by +12 dB and 9.5 dB for both the XLR and the jack input, respectively. A voice filter can be added to the microphone inputs to increase the intelligibility of voices. For each of the two DI outputs, you can choose whether the signal is tapped before or after the EQ and whether phantom power is switched on and off for each channel. Another jumper defines the function of the second footswitch (external effect on/off or tap delay). To reach the jumpers, however, the amp has to be unscrewed briefly. The two balanced DI outputs are interesting in both stage and studio setups, as they can be used to route each channel separately to the mixer. The overall signal, on the other hand, is available at the line outs. Here, too, Udo's attention to practical detail is evident, optimizing one output for mixers and the other for sound cards.





### The big league

The Udo Roesner Da Capo 75 without doubt operates in the big league. Sound, features, dimensions, weight and road suitability harmonize in an ideal way. To conjure up such a natural, full sound from such a small and light speaker is an art that Udo Roesner obviously masters brilliantly. Above all this, but also other details such as the quality of the input stages, the extremely flexible outputs, the practical effects including tap delay and the great dynamics of the amp make the Da Capo

75 stand out from the crowd. It is therefore the ideal companion for the solo performer on his club tour, in the studio and at home. Against this background, the asking price is more than justified, especially since a well-padded gig bag is included.

*Dr. Hans J. Schäfer*

MODEL	<b>Udo Amps Da Capo 75</b>
ORIGIN	Germany/France/Indonesia
POWER	75 watts
SPEAKER	8" - dual cone full range
CHANNELS	2x Mic/Line
CONTROLS	Channel 1: Gain, Bass, Middle, Treble Channel 2: Gain, Bass, Middle, Treble, High-Pass-Filte Master: EFX-Select, EFX-Level, EFX-Pan, Master Volume
SCHALTER	Channel 1: Mic/Line, Tone Channel 2: Mic/Line Master: Mains
CONNECTIONS	Channel 1: Combi-Jack, DI-Out Channel 2: Combi-Jack, DI-Out Master: Aux-In, Phones, Double Footswitch, Send-Out, Return-In, 2x Line-Out, Mains
DIMENSIONS	32,5 x 26,5 x 24,5 cm (WxHxD)
WEIGHT	7,5 kg
INTERNET	<a href="http://www.udo-amps.com">www.udo-amps.com</a>
RRP	999,- Euro