



ADVANCED SEARCH & DEEP-DIVE RESEARCH

MARKET PRICING RESEARCH

1978 Marshall JMP 2203 MK2 Head & 1979 Marshall 1960A Slant-Top Cabinet

Independent market pricing research on a period-correct Marshall half-stack — history, specifications, cited valuation, and a plan to sell. **A sample of MVTech's Advanced Search & Deep-Dive Research service.**



The subject: 1978 JMP 2203 head on a 1979 1960A slant-top 4x12 cabinet, Blackback-loaded.



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MARKET PRICING RESEARCH · SAMPLE ENGAGEMENT

1978 Marshall JMP 2203 MK2 Head & 1979 Marshall 1960A Slant-Top Cabinet

Vintage amplifier rig — documented history, verified specifications, and current market value

PREPARED FOR
Michael Vetter

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7/4/2026

ENGAGEMENT
Market Pricing Research

SOURCES CITED
10 — see p. 6

The question: What are this head and cabinet realistically worth on today's market, and where — and how — should they be sold to get that number?

THE BOTTOM LINE

ITEM	REALISTIC MARKET RANGE	WHAT DRIVES IT
1978 JMP 2203 MK2 head — all original	\$2,600 – \$3,200	Unmodified survivors sell at and above the top of the published guide range ^{[1][5][6]}
1979 1960A slant-top cab — matched Blackback quad	\$1,400 – \$2,000	The speakers, not the box: a matched T1281 quad alone trades near \$900 ^{[2][7][8]}
Sold together as a period stack	\$4,000 – \$5,200	Separate sales usually net more in total; a combined sale closes faster

KEY FINDINGS

- **This is the JCM800 before the badge.** Marshall's 1981 "JCM800" version of the 2203 was a purely cosmetic facelift of this exact circuit — the amp behind an entire decade of hard rock.^{[3][4]}
- **"100% original" is the scarce condition.** Modified examples are common; unmolested amps with provenance (dated factory QC sticker, original transformers, caps, and tubes) command the premium end of the market.^{[1][3]}
- **The cabinet's value is in its quad.** Bare 1960-series cabs trade as low as a few hundred dollars; original matched Celestion G12H-30 Blackbacks are what buyers pay for.^{[2][7][10]}
- **Documented honesty sells.** Disclosing the 47-year-old filter caps as due for service positions the amp for collectors, who prefer to commission that work themselves.^[1]

THE EQUIPMENT

Both pieces were physically documented by the owner; identification below is drawn from chassis markings, date stickers, and component inspection, then verified against published reference material on Marshall date features and Celestion speaker codes.^{[3][4][9]}

The Head — 1978 Marshall JMP 2203 MK2, 100W Master Volume

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Model	JMP 2203 MK2 Master Model 100W Lead — produced 1975–1981 ^{[1][3]}
Date evidence	Original handwritten factory QC inspection sticker on chassis, dated 12/19/1978
Circuit	100% original factory circuit — no modifications, no added holes, no aftermarket master-volume or gain mods
Transformers	Period-correct Dagnall / Drake units
Filter caps	Original large blue Daly capacitors — functional; at end of design life (disclosure item, see p. 5)
Power tubes	Original GE 6550s — the US-market spec of the era ^[3]
Cosmetics	Plexi-style gold control face, all legends legible; tolex intact; original logo plate; original vinyl Marshall cover with white piping

The Cabinet — 1979 Marshall 1960A Slant-Top 4x12

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Model	1960A slant-top 4x12 — this basketweave-grille generation produced through 1979 ^[2]
Speakers	Factory-matched quad of Celestion G12H-30 “Blackback” T1281, 16Ω, 55Hz bass-resonance cones ^[9]
Speaker dates	April–May 1979 (matched set, original cones, no re-coning)
Cosmetics	Original basketweave grille cloth, exceptionally clean; corners and castors intact; original wiring; original vinyl cover with white piping

WHY THE PAIRING MATTERS

A 1978 head with a 1979 cab and both original factory covers is a **period-correct rig**, not two separate pieces that happen to share a logo. Collectors pay for that coherence — and the original covers alone are a scarcity item most examples lost decades ago.

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

1975 — Marshall's first master-volume amp

The 2203 was born in 1975 as Marshall's first master-volume design. Players wanted the cranked-Marshall sound at survivable volume, so Marshall took its proven 100-watt Super Lead platform, cascaded the preamp gain stages, and added a preamp volume control — distortion dialed in up front, loudness set separately.^[3] "JMP" on the panel stands for **Jim Marshall Product**.^[3]

1981 — the JCM800 rebrand changed nothing inside

When Marshall's export contract expired in 1981, the line was relaunched as the JCM800 series. For the 2203, the change was **purely aesthetic** — bigger logo, full-width panel, new dress on the identical circuit.^{[3][4]} That makes a late-'70s JMP 2203 the same amp that ruled the following decade — Slayer, Zakk Wylde, and Judas Priest on the heavy end; Jeff Beck, Andy Summers, and Buddy Guy far outside it.^[3] A JMP-badged example is simply the earlier, scarcer version of rock's default amplifier.

The 6550 tubes are American history, not a substitution

US-market Marshalls of this era shipped with 6550 power tubes — the American distributor insisted on them over the British EL34 for reliability, giving US amps more headroom and a harder edge.^[3] A US amp still carrying its **original GE 6550s** is period-typical and increasingly rare; the original 1978 glass is part of the provenance, not an asterisk.

The Blackback quad — the late-'70s British rock speaker

Celestion's G12H-30 with the T1281 code designates the 55Hz "bass cone" version — the heavier-magnet G12 fitted to Marshall 4x12s since the late 1960s.^[9] The 1970s "Blackback" era of this speaker is the sound of late-'70s British rock, and market discussion around 1960-series cabs is blunt on the point: the box is common, **the speakers are what matter**.^[10] A factory-matched, date-coded quad with original cones is the configuration buyers hunt for.^{[7][9]}

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR VALUE

Each piece carries its own collector story — first-generation master-volume Marshall on one hand, original matched Blackbacks on the other. Neither depends on the other to sell, which is why the separate-sale route prices higher in total (p. 5).

MARKET ANALYSIS — THE HEAD

DATA POINT	TYPE	FIGURE
Reverb Price Guide, JMP 2203 Mk2 (1975–1981) ^[1]	Published estimate, all conditions	\$1,904 – \$2,875
Austin Guitar House, JMP 2203 MKII consignment ^[5]	US dealer ask	\$2,549
Current Reverb listings, JMP 2203 examples ^[1]	Live asks	\$2,995 – \$3,344+
Vintage & Rare, 1978 JMP 2203 Mk II (UK dealer) ^[6]	European retail ask	€7,761

The published guide range covers **all** examples — modified, retubed, recapped, and original alike. Unmodified amps with documentation sit at the top of that range and above it, which is exactly where live dealer asks currently sit. European retail runs dramatically higher, confirming healthy international demand as a negotiation backstop. Range for this documented, all-original example: **\$2,600–\$3,200**.

MARKET ANALYSIS — THE CABINET

DATA POINT	TYPE	FIGURE
Reverb Price Guide, 1960A (1964–1979) ^[2]	Published estimate, all speaker loads	\$976 – \$1,951
Reverb recorded sales, 1960A ^[2]	Transactions, 3/2026–6/2026	\$525 / \$800 / \$975 / \$3,375
Matched quad, 1977 G12H T1281 Blackbacks (UK) ^[7]	Sold — speakers alone	£695
Matched quad, 1970s G12H Blackbacks ^[10]	Private-market ask — speakers alone	~\$899
Marshall 1960B loaded with G12H-30 Blackbacks ^[8]	Live Reverb ask	\$1,395

The recorded sales tell the real story: generic-speaker cabs sell in the \$500–\$975 band, while the outlier **\$3,375** sale (4/4/2026) shows what a premium-speaker example can do. With the quad alone worth roughly \$900, a 1979 cab holding an original matched set — plus exceptional grille condition and the factory cover — supports **\$1,400–\$2,000**, with room above it for the right buyer.^{[2][7][8]}

SELLING STRATEGY

The numbers below translate the market analysis into a concrete plan: what to list each piece at, and the lowest number worth accepting. List prices are set at the top of each realistic range to leave room for the offers a “best offer” listing invites; the walk-away floors hold the line at fair market value so a lowball never closes by accident.

ITEM	SUGGESTED LIST	WALK-AWAY FLOOR
Head — listed separately	\$2,995 OBO	\$2,600
Slant-top cabinet — listed separately	\$1,795 OBO	\$1,500
Combined single-buyer deal	\$4,400 – \$4,700	\$4,000

- **Venue:** Reverb for national reach — its buyers shop against the same price guide cited here, which works in favor of a documented premium example. Keep a local-pickup option open; Las Cruces sits on the I-10 corridor between El Paso, Tucson, and Albuquerque.
- **Freight reality:** the ~85 lb cabinet is the constraint. Local pickup or buyer-arranged freight (uShip-style, typically \$200–\$300 CONUS) keeps the sale clean; direct box-and-ship should be priced separately, not absorbed.
- **Provenance photography:** the QC sticker, transformer codes, cap cans, tube stamps, and speaker date codes are the value — photograph all of them. They substantiate every premium claimed on page 4.
- **Disclose the caps.** Stating plainly that the original 1978 filter caps are at end of design life reads as competence, filters out the wrong buyers, and matches how collectors prefer to buy — original, then serviced to their own taste.^[1]
- **Sequencing:** list separately first; the combined deal is the fallback lever for a single buyer who wants the period stack, not the opening position.

METHODOLOGY

WHAT WAS SEARCHED — AND WHAT WAS NOT

Research performed 7/4/2026: published price-guide data and recorded marketplace transactions (Reverb), current US and European dealer listings, speaker-market sales, manufacturer-history reference material, and collector-community commentary. Ten sources cited on page 6; every figure in this report traces to one of them.

Not performed: physical inspection or electrical testing by MVTech, authentication beyond the owner’s documentation, and no formal appraisal of any kind — see the scope note on page 6.

SOURCES

All sources accessed 7/4/2026.

1. **Reverb Price Guide** — Marshall JMP 2203 Mk2 Master Model Lead 100W (1975–1981): estimated used value \$1,904–\$2,875, with live listing asks.
reverb.com/p/marshall-jmp-2203-mk2-master-model-lead-100-watt-guitar-amp-head-1975-1981
2. **Reverb Price Guide** — Marshall 1960A 4x12 Slant Cabinet (1964–1979): estimated used value \$976–\$1,951; recorded sales 3/2/2026 (\$975, Very Good), 4/4/2026 (\$3,375, Good), 5/25/2026 (\$525, Good), 6/23/2026 (\$800, Good).
reverb.com/p/marshall-1960a-4x12-slant-cabinet-1964-1979
3. **Bowcott, Nick** — “The History of the Legendary Marshall JCM800 2203,” Sweetwater inSync, 7/9/2022. 1975 origin, master-volume design, JMP naming, 1981 cosmetic-only rebrand, US-market 6550 tubes, artist history.
sweetwater.com/insync/the-history-of-the-legendary-marshall-jcm800-2203/
4. **SoloDallas** — “The Vintage Marshall Guide.” Model nomenclature; JCM800 launch as a largely cosmetic change.
solodallas.com/blogs/blog/the-vintage-marshall-guide
5. **Austin Guitar House** — Marshall JMP 2203 MKII 100W head, late '70s, consignment listing at \$2,549.
austinguitarhouse.com/marshall-jmp-2203-mkii-100-watt-head-late-70s-early-80s-used/
6. **Vintage & Rare** — 1978 Marshall JMP 2203 Mk II 100W Lead Head, UK dealer ask €7,761.
vintageandrare.com/product/Marshall-JMP-2203-Mk-II-100W-Lead-Head-1978-122926
7. **The Music Locker (UK)** — Quad of 1977 Celestion G12H T1281 30W Blackback speakers — sold, £695.
themusiclocker.co.uk/shop/quad-4x-vintage-1977-celestion-g12h-t1281-30w-blackback-speaker/
8. **Reverb listing** — Marshall 1960B loaded with Celestion G12H-30 Blackbacks, ask \$1,395.
reverb.com/item/128339-marshall-1960-b-celestion-g12h-30-blackback-speakers
9. **Bygone Tones** — “Vintage Celestion Greenback Models.” T1281 identification: G12H with 55Hz bass cone, fitted to Marshall 4x12s from the late 1960s.
bygonetones.com/vintage-celestion-greenback-models.html
10. **Vintage Marshall Amps group (Facebook)** — collector-community commentary on JMP MK2 and 1960-series values and speaker premiums. Used for market color, not as price authority.
facebook.com/groups/406766946698113/

Scope of this report. This document is market research and public-information compilation prepared by MVTech. It is **not a formal appraisal**, and MVTech does not authenticate equipment; identification relies on the owner’s documentation, and no electrical testing was performed by MVTech. For insurance scheduling, tax, or estate purposes, engage a credentialed personal-property appraiser — this report is designed to be handed to one.

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