



Gas Supply

Our pick of the month's most delectable and wallet-bothering new gear

Charvel Guthrie Govan Signature MJ San Dimas £2,299

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JARGON CRUNCHING

Single-coil simulation
"Guthrie's signature includes a 'single-coil simulator', engaged by a mini-toggle switch. But whatever you do, don't call it a coil-tap! Charvel Product Development Manager, Peter Wickers explains, "Guthrie expressed the desire for a single-coil 'type' sound without the hum, while maintaining similar levels to the humbucking positions. This is a unique sound that we were able to achieve with the help of our great engineering team"

That's a serious-looking instrument!

Indeed. Serious technical ability requires an instrument to match, and this Charvel is the latest signature model for one of the scariest players on the planet, Mr Guthrie Govan. This time it comes out of Charvel's Japanese facility, cutting the price of a Guthrie signature model by hundreds, while still offering the features we've come to know and love from GG's collaborations. But before we start throwing the 'affordable' word around, it's still a pro-level instrument with a far-from-cheap price tag.

Where does this sit with the US-made models?

Let's take a look next to the full-fat version. Basswood body? Tick. Caramelised maple neck? Present (sans flame). HSH pickup configuration with oodles of switching options? Yes, siree!

All the ingredients are here with only seemingly minor tweaks to the spec along the way, and production costs being kept down by its country of origin – which, if you're anything like us, you stopped being concerned about at least one pandemic ago...

What else does it have?

Starting at the top, you get Guthrie's preference of headstock shape: a licensed Fender Strat headstock. That's loaded with six Gotoh locking tuners, and there's a Graph Tech Tusq nut sitting just below. The compound radius fingerboard (304.8 to 406.4mm/12 to 16 inches) is maple, but it's been heated and dried, producing a caramelised look, before being fitted with 24 stainless-steel, extra-jumbo frets.

The front-facing dots are a classy creme, while the side markers are stage-friendly Luminlay dots, as are the volume and tone control knobs. That maple neck is of the Speed Neck variety, comes in a satin finish and is home to graphite truss rod, which is conveniently adjusted at the body end. Further down, you'll have spotted the Charvel locking vibrato unit, which has been recessed, just like Guthrie's other signature models.

Tell us about the finish...

While 80s shred was full of hot fluorescent finishes, you may have noticed contemporary face-melters have long been leaning toward a more discerning – some would

SWITCHING

An HSH pickup configuration plus five-way switch and mini-toggle means there are plenty of switching options to hand

FINISH

If you like to see the wood for the trees, you'll love the deep grain of the ash top, sprayed in a three-tone sunburst finish for additional class



LUMINLAY

The player-facing fretboard edge and both control knobs are decked out with glow-in-the-dark markers, so you'll always be able to find your way on stage



The signature model was made in Charvel's Japanese facility

say mature – palette. Guthrie is no exception, and both of his US models come to the party showing grain.

Here, that basswood body is topped with the unmistakable pattern of ash, which has been sprayed in a three-tone sunburst to give it a refined look and allow that grain to pop through.

You mentioned switching – what's the deal?

There's a pair of Charvel Custom humbuckers bookending a Charvel single coil, and five-way blade switch to jump between positions. There's also a full bridge humbucker; bridge inner coil and middle; bridge outer coil and neck outer coil; middle pickup and neck outer coil; and neck humbucker. Plus the mini-toggle that's present on Guthrie's other signature models. With this engaged, selecting positions 1 and 5 gives us a 'single-coil simulation'. The only option not present is engaging the middle-position single coil on its own.

Anything else?

It's currently right-handed only. Expect to see these filling racks around October, priced at £2,299. [SW]

PREMIUM FEATURES

It might be more affordable, but this guitar is by no means budget. Gotoh hardware, Charvel Custom pickups and a Graph Tech Tusq nut are all present



STRATOCASTER HEADSTOCK

Charvel has snuck next door and borrowed the headstock from big brother. It's caramelised to match the visuals of the fingerboard, too

ALSO OUT NOW...



IK MULTIMEDIA AMPLITUBE X-GEAR €299

IK Multimedia is the latest software company to expand its hardware offering in the form of its new AmpliTube X-Gear pedals. The four-pedal line-up of 'boutique' digital effects, ports the power of AmpliTube's algorithms into guitar-friendly pedals: X-Drive (distortion), X-Vibe (modulation), X-Space (reverb) and X-Time (delay). Each has 16 effect models, a range of real-time controllers and true/soft bypass options.

There's plenty of connectivity, too, with analogue outputs, MIDI and a socket for an external controller. The X-Drive also has a cab-simulated output, while the mod/time-based pedals include stereo ins/outs, plus flexible handling of trails when switching. All pedals feature a well-spec'd USB audio interface and license for AmpliTube 5 SE. Prices start at €299, but IK is offering pre-order bundles on two or more units, which are due to start shipping in this month. www.ikmultimedia.com



BOSS EURUS GS-1 £1,699

Companies have been on a quest of late to offer more ways of making the instrument sound like everything but a guitar. Boss has joined the party with its first six-string electric guitar – and it's packed with synth technology. The announcement makes total sense, given parent company Roland's pedigree in creating guitar-synth products.

The GS-1 features an alder body, satin C-shape maple neck and 24-fret Indian rosewood fretboard (304.8 to 406.4mm/12 to 16 inches compound radius). The pickups are a pair of Euror humbuckers. The GS-1 is also fitted with a polyphonic synth engine, giving you analogue synth sounds with six assignable presets available from the guitar.

Thanks to the Synth Control knob, you can modify the sounds in real-time. Bluetooth functionality connects you to the Boss iOS or Android editor and also lets you hook up to Boss's new EV-1-WL MIDI expression pedal. Finally, you get two outputs (one 'traditional', one for the synth sounds). The Euror should start shipping in autumn.

www.boss.info/uk