

# Rocked & Rated

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## Total Guitar TIP

### TRY MORE THAN METAL

"Keep your mind open because you can learn a lot from different music. It's cool to listen to jazz and blues, and not just metal. It doesn't matter what direction you follow in music. I studied classical guitar for years and it helps to open your mind to techniques when you write"

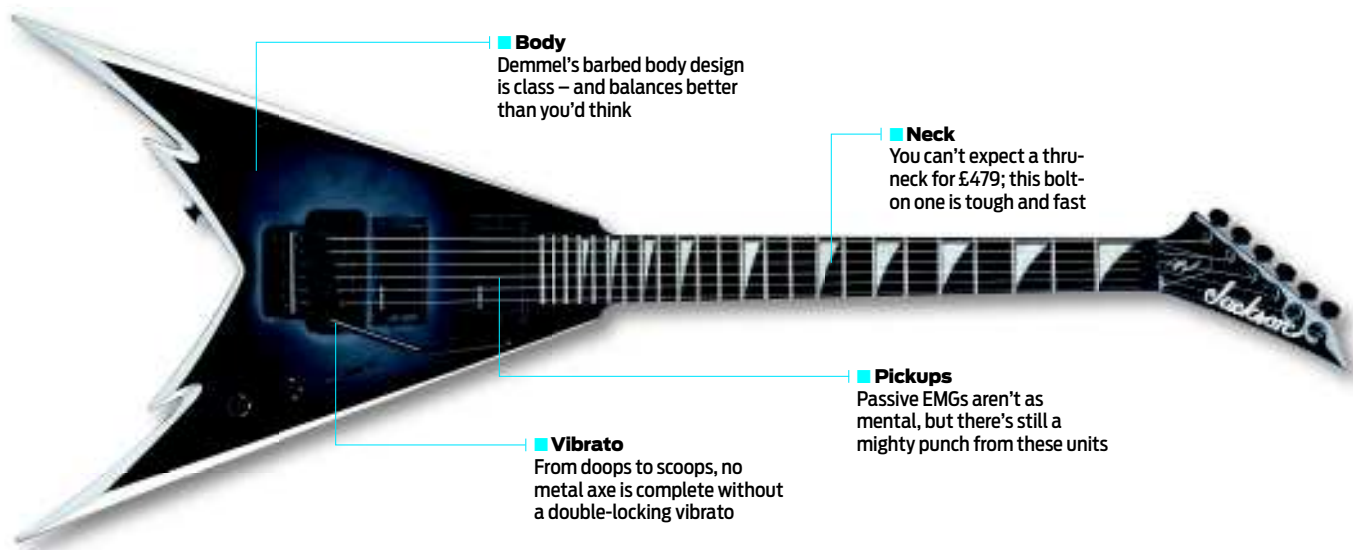
**ANDREAS KISSER,  
SEPULTURA**

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## Total Guitar LESSON

### GO EASY ON SCALES

Scales are good, but learning hundreds of them won't automatically make you a great player – some guitarists go their whole career with just one scale. It's better to spend time with one or two scales, focusing on phrasing (when and where you play) so that when you do learn more scales, you'll know exactly what to do with them!



■ **Body**  
Demmel's barbed body design is class – and balances better than you'd think

■ **Neck**  
You can't expect a thru-neck for £479; this bolt-on one is tough and fast

■ **Pickups**  
Passive EMGs aren't as mental, but there's still a mighty punch from these units

■ **Vibrato**  
From doops to scoops, no metal axe is complete without a double-locking vibrato

# Jackson PDX Demmelition King V

£479

Love Demmel's original King V, but don't have a spare grand? Here's Plan B

**T**wo years down the line, TG still has bittersweet memories of testing Phil Demmel's Jackson King V signature model. Sweet, because we got to luxuriate in its elitist, grand-plus spec, spew white-hot riffs and feel like the god of thunder for the afternoon. And bitter, because giving it back to Jackson felt like losing a limb. Phil feels our pain. He was once like us. That's why the Machine Head hero has just emerged from the Jackson workshop with a new X-Series Demmelition model that looks the same but costs half. Did the man on the street just get lucky?

Wake up. Phil Demmel is not Mother Teresa, Jackson is not a charity, and cuts have inevitably been made to get the PDX Demmelition down to £479. Some are irrelevant (do you seriously care that the finish is limited to black or red?). Others are negligible (would you honestly have noticed that the Floyd Rose is licensed – not 'official' – if we hadn't told you?).

OK, so you could strop about the substitution of a maple bolt-neck for the original's thru item, and bleat about the EMG-HZ humbuckers (they're passive, not

active), but that would kinda be missing the point.

This guitar gets close. Damn close, in fact, which by implication means it's streets ahead of most metal electrics in the sub-£500 price bracket. Visually, it's the exact same barbed arrow that Demmel sketched, and physically, it's vintage Jackson – a sleek, well-balanced body that leads onto a wide, flat neck whose compound-radius fretboard practically screams 'solo on me!'. Lazy, emotive bends aren't the forte here; it's all about legato, alternate picking and tapping.

It's not perfect, though. Sans overdrive, Jacksons can sometimes sound a little dull, and the PDX is more solid than spectacular on the clean channel. It's arguably not the most versatile axe, either. But that's OK: this guitar is all about the metal, and it knocks that out of the park, delivering a tone that roars at the neck, crunches at the bridge, and will satisfy punters hoping to approximate Machine Head's dark thrash. In the studio, you'll miss the high output and unbeatable filth of the active units; at a rowdy gig, you probably won't care.

**Conclusion:** If you're expecting the PDX Demmelition to take its well-heeled older brother to the wire in a game of spec sheet 'spot-the-difference', you'll be disappointed. But if you're a realist, you should see that it actually represents better value, looking the part, getting admirably close to top-dollar performance and blowing the already-competitive mid-range metal market wide open. Hit the guitar shop, play both, listen hard, and be honest: if you can't detect £500-worth of difference, put the spare cash towards a killer amp. Then get out there and cause some Demmelition.

Henry Yates

## At a glance

### Jackson PDX Demmelition King V

**BODY:** Solid alder  
**NECK:** Maple, bolt-on  
**FINGERBOARD:** Rosewood with shark fin inlays  
**FRETS:** 24, jumbo  
**SCALE:** 25½"  
**PICKUPS:** 2x EMG-HZ humbuckers  
**CONTROLS:** 2x volume, 3-way pickup selector  
**HARDWARE:** Black die-cast  
**FINISH:** Black with Silver [pictured], Red with Black  
**LEFT-HANDED:** No  
**CONTACT:** Fender GBI 01342 331700  
**WEB:** www.jacksonguitars.com

## SUMMARY

**For:** Great value, fast player, meaty sound

**Against:** A little flat when clean

★★★★☆

**TG says...** Long live the King

The PDX has a licensed vibrato and passive pickups for a low price



**"THIS GUITAR DELIVERS A TONE THAT WILL SATISFY PUNTERS HOPING TO APPROXIMATE MACHINE HEAD'S DARK THRASH"**