

At a glance

Gretsch Electromatic

BODY: Laminated maple
NECK: Laminated maple
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
SCALE: 24.56"
PICKUPS: 2x dual coil humbuckers
CONTROLS: Master volume, master tone, volume neck pickup, volume bridge pickup
HARDWARE: Chrome
FINISH: Black [pictured], Walnut
CONTACT: Fender GBI 01342 331700
WEB: www.fender.co.uk

■ **Tailpiece**
 That Bigsby Licensed vibrato looks great and sounds even better

■ **F-hole**
 A hollow body means it's great for late night acoustic playing

£599

This guitar's renaissance was fuelled by a demand for looks, personality and faithful vintage tone

■ **Headstock**
 Gretsch has kitted this baby out with some vintage-style tuners

Gretsch Electromatic Hollow Body G5122DC

Well, it's a lot for the money, two for the show... TG rolls with the Gretsch

Big, bad and beautiful, Gretsch guitars are the very essence of rock 'n' roll. The company's fortunes really began to rise when rock 'n' roll was making out in post-war parking lots all over the USA. And though the GD5122 is made in Korea, you wouldn't know it to look at. It's a Cadillac axe at Hyundai prices. But will it drive you mad?

The sizzle: "It's the double cutaway version of the classic Electromatic G5120 hollow body. Twice the twang, two times the style," bellows the website, though you can't help thinking that this would be better played through an old TV with Bakelite knobs and a flickering screen. Anyway, the message is abundantly clear: the GD5122 – with its rosewood based Adjusto-Matic bridge, Bigsby Licensed B60 vibrato and chrome plated knobs and tuners – will leave

lipstick on your collar before the evening's through. Time to climb out the window...

We say: Oh, daddy! The G5122 has curves to melt the heart of any red-blooded guitarist, and with all those knobs there was a chance TG would go blind before we went deaf. Sure, it looks like there's a lot going on, but it's easy as pie to get those twangin', chicken-pickin' tones out of a guitar whose renaissance was accelerated by rockabilly revivalism and a demand for a guitar with looks, personality and faithful vintage tone.

Speaking of which, the laminated maple body and dual coil humbuckers make the G5122 sound fantastic, and slightly more airy than its solid-bodied counterparts. And anyone who doesn't enjoy wobbling a Bigsby vibrato is either dead already or doesn't know they're alive.

Jonathan Horsley

SUMMARY

For: Cheaper than a US model – we found one going for 500 quid
Against: We're running out of pomade

★★★★★

TG says... This Gretsch is cooler than Arthur Fonzarelli

