



The TW47B is an electro-acoustic and features a great quality B-Band pickup and EQ system

The Tanglewood TW47B's distinctive looking top, back and sides are made from solid mahogany

£499

TANGLEWOOD TW47B

GO ACOUSTIC AND GIVE YOUR FUZZBOX THE NIGHT OFF WORDS: KIM WILLS

> THE SIZZLE

Now that the whole tortured singer-songwriter thing is popular again, you're probably itching to get your hands on a decent acoustic guitar. Thanks to folk like Bright Eyes, José González and Jack Johnson, plaintively strumming on an acoustic suddenly seems cool. OK, so the baffling success of acoustic bore James Blunt might have something to do with the current resurgence, but we would like to think TG's readers have better taste than that piffling. We prefer to attribute it to movies such as the country biopic *Walk The Line*, which has no doubt motivated a few people to follow in Johnny Cash's footsteps. Whether the Man In Black was strumming his guitar onstage or using it to wreck a hotel room, he made the acoustic guitar look like the coolest thing in the world. Now, everyone wants one!

Well, we might have just the perfect guitar for you. The pretty new TW47B electro-acoustic is part of Tanglewood's Superfolk range. It's basically shaped like a traditional folk guitar except that it has a single cutaway. That means you will look and feel the part strumming along with Johnny Cash or Bob Dylan, but you'll be able to reach all those high notes as well.

WHAT'S IT GOT?

The TW47-B boasts an all-solid wood construction. The top, back and sides are all fashioned from shiny mahogany, as is the guitar's silky smooth neck, while the fingerboard is made from rosewood with (faux) tortoiseshell binding. The tortoiseshell detail extends to the soundhole rosette and a pickguard that does a great job of protecting the guitar's sumptuous finish. The guitar comes fitted with a set of 'long life' Elixir strings that run over a bone saddle and top nut, before

WHO'S IT FOR?

Singer-songwriters, well-heeled buskers and avid frequenters of open mic nights

INFORMATION

ORIGIN: China
TYPE: Super Folk cutaway
TOP: Solid mahogany
BACK & SIDES: solid mahogany
NECK: Tortoise shell-bound mahogany
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
FRETS: 20
HARDWARE: Gold Grover machineheads
ELECTRONICS: B-Band EQ system
CASE: No
FINISH OPTIONS: Natural mahogany only
CONTACT: EMC 01959 571600
WEB: www.tanglewoodguitars.co.uk

ALTERNATIVELY

Yamaha FG502M – £499
 Tanglewood TW45-NS – £379
 Crafter GAE-8 – £279

ending up wrapped around a set of chunky Grover machineheads. Although some may want a bit of bling for their 500 smackers, we think the gold machineheads look a bit gaudy. It's down to personal taste, of course,

“£499 is a fair old wedge of cash, but you are getting solid mahogany for your money, all wrapped up in a tasty package”

but we would have preferred them to be a little less 'Beverly Hills'.

Moving on, a peek inside the TW47-B reveals a discretely mounted transducer pickup of the B-Band EQ system. The system is powered by a single nine-volt battery that's slotted into the bottom of the guitar and controlled via a conveniently located preamp with knobs and sliders on the top side of the guitar.

BUILT TO LAST?

We don't doubt that this guitar will be able to stand up to the rigours of being played frequently, and still be going strong in a few years' time. That said, you'll want to be a bit more careful than just chucking it in the corner of your room when not in use, or cramming it in the boot of your car when gigging or travelling. Don't get us wrong, this guitar is well-built and far from flimsy, but you'll still want to treat it with respect. Like most acoustics the TW47-B needs (and deserves) a bit of TLC. Give it some love and you'll get plenty back.

HANDS ON

The refined looks of the TW47-B make it hard to resist getting your arms round its curvaceous body. This is a comfortable guitar with great playability. If you normally play electric guitars you may initially find

the action a bit higher than you're used to, but persevere because your fingertips will soon toughen up. The Elixir strings ring out bright and clear, and the tone of the guitar is crisp and well-balanced with pleasing bass and plenty of treble. Chords sound rich and full, and picking sounds authoritative while the guitar stays in tune. It also sustains well, and generates more than enough volume for solo playing.

Of course, plugging the guitar in will provide enough extra decibels for performing live, solo or with a band thanks to the onboard B-Band EQ. This system is designed to offer 'absolute acoustic reproduction'. Without getting too technical, this means the pickup and preamp faithfully reproduce the sound of the guitar through your amp without adding any flavour of its own. Marketing spiel aside, we enjoyed the amplified sound of the Tanglewood. It didn't sound at all tinny like some electro-acoustics we have tried.

THE BOTTOM LINE

You know we'd rather be thrashing the ass off an electric guitar any day of the week, but sometimes we like to take it down a notch and express our sensitive side. The TW47-B guitar is perfect for such activities. It would make a good starting point for anyone getting into electro-acoustics for the first time, but it would also make a fine step up from a cheaper model. £499 is a fair old wedge of cash, but you are getting solid mahogany for your money, all wrapped up in a tasty looking package. It certainly deserves a cooler name, Tanglewood dudes...

FOR: Looks, sounds and plays great
AGAINST: Those gaudy machineheads

TG RATING:

