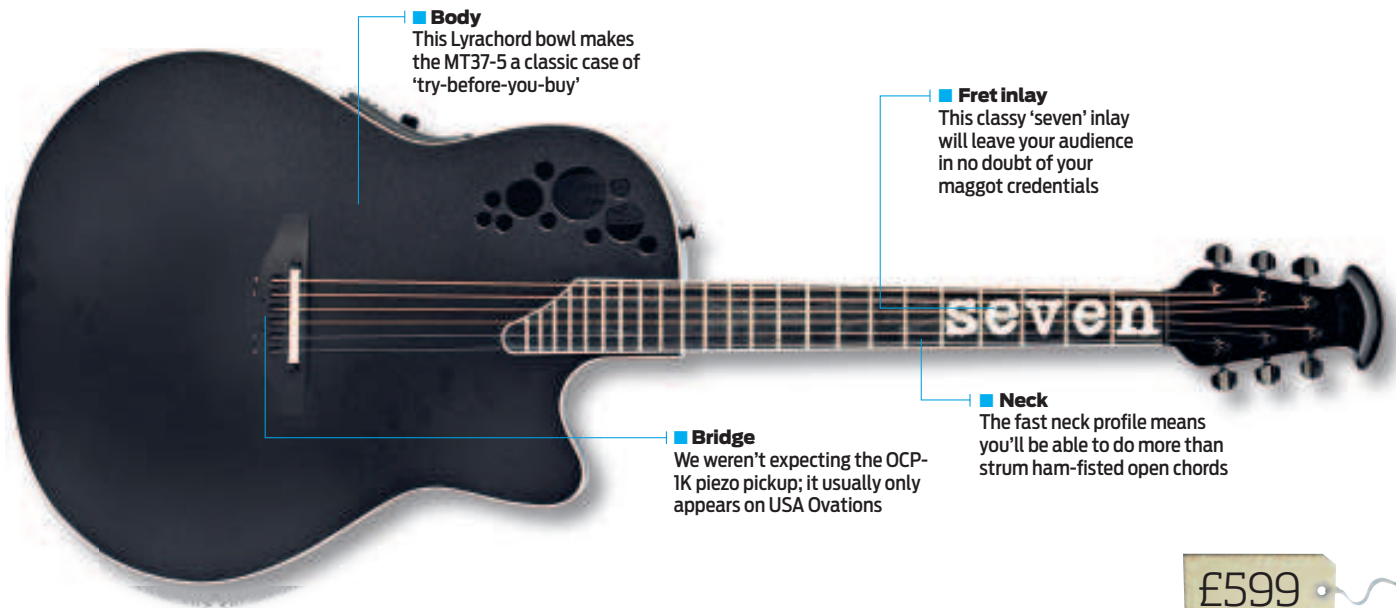


Rocked & Rated



Mick Thomson:
"An acoustic adds
brilliance the electric
just doesn't have"

"THE CLIPPED CLARITY OF THE
MT37-5 IS IDEAL WHEN YOU'RE
SHREDDING INDIVIDUAL NOTES,
AS THOMSON INTENDED"



Body
This Lyrachord bowl makes the MT37-5 a classic case of 'try-before-you-buy'

Fret inlay
This classy 'seven' inlay will leave your audience in no doubt of your maggot credentials

Bridge
We weren't expecting the OCP-1K piezo pickup; it usually only appears on USA Ovations

Neck
The fast neck profile means you'll be able to do more than strum ham-fisted open chords

£599

Ovation Mick Thomson MT37-5

Is this Slipknot signature acoustic a magnificent Seven? Or is it taking the Mick?

We thought we had Mick Thomson of Slipknot all worked out. Big fella. Boilersuit. Face like a medieval portcullis. And *always* a drop tuned electric clutched in his meaty paws. Naturally, TG assumed it was some sort of lowan joke when Thomson floated the idea of a signature acoustic... so imagine our surprise when the new Ovation MT37-5 rolled into the office. Unless Mortii signs as the new face of Nivea, you're looking at the most unlikely collaboration of the year.

The sizzle: Last month, Mick gave TG the scoop on the MT37-5, revealing he was active in deciding the spec and had used his spawn to "add brilliance" to Slipknot's forthcoming album. UK distributor JHS gave us more nuts and bolts. "This is a Korean version of the Elite T, which is Ovation's entry-level US model,"

said our man. "It has a contoured Lyrachord bowl (which is a high-spec fitment), a spruce top and a maple speed neck shaped to Mr Seven's spec. It also has the US OP-PRO preamp, matched to Ovation's OCP-1K pickup. And it's priced within reach of the fans at £599."

We say: Unrelentingly black, with a sinister 'seven' inlay punched into the rosewood board, the MT37-5 looks like the kind of acoustic you'd play round a campfire in hell. Growing less sceptical by the minute, TG picked it up, and was relieved to find that the bowl has less tendency to slide from your lap than most Ovations, and that the neck is fast enough to make alternate-picked runs as feasible as open chords.

Ovations have been divisive since the first one launched in 1967, for the simple reason that the Lyrachord bowl offers a more

biting, tippy tone than wood. It's business as usual with the MT37-5. Push through a chord and you'll get serious definition and volume, but it's at the expense of the organic warmth you'd expect from a 'normal' mahogany-backed dreadnought.

That will bother some people, but not TG. There's nothing worse than a soupy, indistinct acoustic tone, and the clipped clarity of the MT37-5 is ideal when you're shredding individual notes, as Thomson intended.

We really liked this guitar – *almost* loved it – and would advise everyone to give it a test-drive. Except the vicar, obviously.

Henry Yates

At a glance

Ovation MT37-5

BODY: Spruce top with contoured Lyrachord bowl
NECK: Maple, custom-shape, with block edge markers
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood, with 'seven' fingerboard inlay
SCALE: 25.25"
PICKUPS: OP-PRO with OCP-1K piezo
CONTROLS: 3-band EQ, Gain control, onboard tuner
HARDWARE: Black Ovation tuners
FINISH: Black [shown]
CONTACT: John Hornby Skewes 0113 286 5381
WEB: www.jhs.co.uk

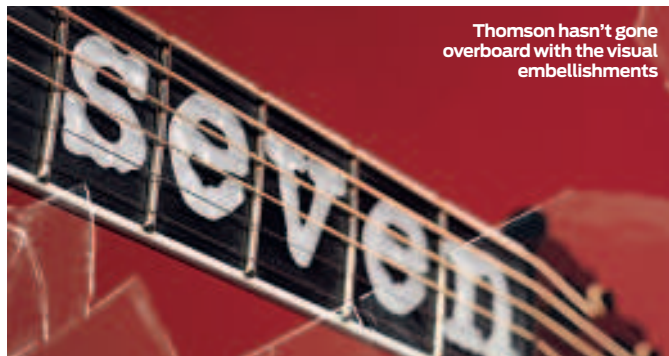
SUMMARY

For: Decent price, good looks, clear tone

Against: Unlikely concept and divisive tone

★★★★☆

TG says... Give it a standing Ovation



Thomson hasn't gone overboard with the visual embellishments

