

At a glance**EASTWOOD TUXEDO**

BODY: Hollow, maple top
NECK: Maple, set
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
SCALE: 25.5"
PICKUPS: 2x custom P90s
CONTROLS: 2x volume, 2x tone, 3-way pickup selector
HARDWARE: Vintage tuners, tune-o-matic bridge, trapeze tailpiece
FINISH: Black/White [pictured], Flamed Sunburst
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■ Body

The Tuxedo has a hollow body. Even your gran could bench-press it...

■ Pickups

The twin P90 pickups sound awesome with a touch of overdrive

£549

It won't rock hard enough for metallers, but everyone else will find the Eastwood Tuxedo a perfect fit

■ Scratchplate

The period 50s details help this guitar stand out from the crowd



EASTWOOD TUXEDO

Eastwood is famous for its vintage guitar replicas, but how well did the Tuxedo fit?

Those alive in the 50s might remember a hollow-bodied electric called the Airline Barney Kessel. Well, you couldn't afford one now, granddad (the original guitars change hands for around £1,500), but you might be able to stretch to the Tuxedo, the latest vintage doppelgänger fresh off Eastwood Guitars' bandsaw. Young bucks might also want to try it on for size.

The sizzle: Eastwood founder Mike Robinson bullishly told TG via email that, because of modern construction techniques, the Tuxedo is actually *better* than the original. He's probably right too. Korean built, this baby combines a maple top and back with mahogany sides, gets retro with an old-school trapeze tailpiece, and sweetens the deal with a pair of P90 singlecoils custom-wound to replicate the 'Kleenex boxes' of

yore. Mike reckons the bluesmen are snapping this guitar up, but that its adaptable tone and feel doesn't exclude anyone. He would say that, wouldn't he?

We say: The Tuxedo looks like a wine-waiter from a posh restaurant, and its performance was classy enough to justify the £549 bill. Despite being thick as a breeze-block, the hollow construction makes it light as a feather, while the bound rosewood fingerboard is beautifully fretted and combines with a Les Paul-ish neck profile to excel at bend-heavy rock over noodley modal wank-offs.

The P90s supply a sparkling clean voice and glorious warmth at the bridge, then bite your hand off when you push them into overdrive. It won't rock hard enough for metallers, but everyone else will find the Eastwood Tuxedo a perfect fit.

Henry Yates

SUMMARY

For: Gorgeously old-school, but copes with the modern gig circuit

Against: Doesn't play hard enough to top the bill at Download

★★★★★

TG says... Like a vintage guitar you find in the loft, without the mice

