

**SIGNATURE GUITARS****1 JACKSON**

DEMME/LITTON KING V

£1229 [WWW.JACKSONGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.JACKSONGUITARS.COM)**WE SAID:** Doomy thrash rhythms and brittle alternate picked solos rolled off our fingers. So good it hurts.

★★★★★

**2 GIBSON** JOAN JETT  
MELODY MAKER£559 [WWW.GIBSON.COM](http://WWW.GIBSON.COM)**WE SAID:** Gibson's first female signature artist delivers an old-school style guitar with serious balls.

★★★★★

**3 WASHBURN**

WI-26 JOE TROHMAN

£356 [WWW.WASHBURN.COM](http://WWW.WASHBURN.COM)**WE SAID:** This guitar is outrageously playable. It's good at blues, classic rock, jazz and metal.

★★★★★

**4 SCHECTER** DIAMOND  
SYNSTER GATES CUSTOM£999 [WWW.SCHECTERGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.SCHECTERGUITARS.COM)**WE SAID:** Syn's trademark drop D chord stabs, sweeps and alternate picking are all feasible on this neck.

★★★★★

**5 FENDER** BILLY CORGAN  
STRATOCASTER£919 [WWW.FENDER.COM](http://WWW.FENDER.COM)**WE SAID:** If you crave a model that tweaks the nose of the Strat format, this demands investigation.

★★★★★

**PITCH-BASED EFFECTS****1 DIGITECH** WHAMMY£212 [WWW.DIGITECH.COM](http://WWW.DIGITECH.COM)

Bend notes like Uri Geller bends spoons. Squeals, moans, divebombs and octaves are all controlled by the Whammy's expression pedal.

★★★★★

**2 ELECTRO-HARMONIX**  
HOLY STAIN£75 [WWW.EHX.COM](http://WWW.EHX.COM)

If you've never owned a pitch shifter then you're in for a fun ride. Keeps the experimental guitarist very happy.

★★★★★

**3 ROGER MAYER** OCTAVIA£150 [WWW.ROGER-MAYER.CO.UK](http://WWW.ROGER-MAYER.CO.UK)

When used in conjunction with overdrive, the Octavia produces a note one octave above the one you're playing on your axe.

★★★★★

**4 MOJO HAND** MYSTICK  
OCTAVIUS£89 [WWW.MOJOHANDFX.COM](http://WWW.MOJOHANDFX.COM)

Vintage fuzz pedal with a switchable Hendrix-esque Octavia and harmonic drive. Time to chop down a mountain.

★★★★★

**5 BEHRINGER** SO 400  
SUPER OCTAVER£45 [WWW.BEHRINGER.CO.UK](http://WWW.BEHRINGER.CO.UK)

The SO400 can produce sounds two octaves below your original signal, and it has an onboard overdrive to boot!

★★★★★

**BUYER'S GUIDE**

A round-up of TG's best Rocked &amp; Rated gear

**ACOUSTIC GUITARS****FRESHMAN FA250D**£299 [WWW.FRESHMANGUITARS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FRESHMANGUITARS.CO.UK)**1 WE SAID:** Freshman's involvement at every stage of the process explains the tidy execution and watertight performance. On the lap, it's deep enough to satisfy purists, but that neck is no baseball bat. This model reminds you why spruce and mahogany is a classic partnership, combining a warm old-school 'boom' with a keen top end.

★★★★★

**FARIDA J66N**£649 [WWW.FARIDAGUITARS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FARIDAGUITARS.CO.UK)**2 WE SAID:** This is as good as acoustic guitars get at this price point. That big jumbo body kicks out more bass than the parcel shelf of a chav's motor. We reckon the J-66N tops the list with the best of them thanks to its great build quality and tone.

★★★★★

**LAG WINTER GLA 400D**£350 [WWW.LAGGUITARS.CO.UK](http://WWW.LAGGUITARS.CO.UK)**3 WE SAID:** First impression is the LAG's distinctive shape, with a 100mm depth and 402mm diameter – getting us close to the fretboard without compromising the ferocious natural volume that is a dreadnought's calling card.

★★★★★

**WALDEN NATURA D710**£289 [WWW.WALDENGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.WALDENGUITARS.COM)**4 WE SAID:** It's classic dreadnought territory, but the D710 is compact and pint-size players should cruise on the smooth, manageable neck. It's great for crashing through open chords, but its fluid sustain implies a more expensive instrument.

★★★★★

**CORT EATH100 QB**£279 [WWW.CORTGUITARS.COM](http://WWW.CORTGUITARS.COM)**5 WE SAID:** The Earth's mighty size translates into some serious welly. Hitting this baby with a pick results in serious brightness and jangle; but we actually think it sounds better when you apply fleshy fingertips and dig out a darker, less biting tonality.

★★★★★

**HOW TO BUY AN ACOUSTIC**

**T**he search starts with the sound. You won't be relying on a preamp to shape your sound, so it needs to be right to begin with. A good-quality solid top acoustic doesn't have to cost a fortune, and it gets better with age. Pick a neck and body size that feels comfortable to play and you'll have a long lasting acoustic cohort.