



## At a glance

### Takamine G320

**BODY:** Mahogany (back and sides), spruce (top)  
**NECK:** Mahogany  
**FINGERBOARD:** Rosewood  
**FRETS:** 20  
**SCALE:** 645mm  
**ELECTRONICS:** N/A  
**HARDWARE:** Chrome  
**LEFT-HANDED:** No  
**FINISH:** Burgundy burst (pictured), natural  
**CONTACT:** Fender UK 01342 331700  
**WEB:** www.takamine.com

£163

## Takamine G320

This no-frills acoustic has all the goods to get first-timers started

The G320's fretwire is tucked inside the fingerboard edge for a supremely comfortable feel

### Brand

The Takamine name inspires confidence, and makes this model a sturdy investment

### Neck

This Takamine has an impeccably smooth and comfortable neck for its price

### Body

If you're not keen on the Burgundy Burst finish, the G320 is also available in Natural

With endorsees like Bruce Springsteen and Linkin Park, Takamine has long been regarded as a big dog in the acoustic backyard. It doesn't just focus its efforts on furnishing rock stars with top-dollar tone machines, however; the G Series is Takamine's weapon of choice for its foray into the bloodiest battleground: the entry-level acoustic market.

The G320 is a dreadnought, probably the most common acoustic shape, with a large body that's ideal for big chordal strumming. It's important to note that at this price point you get a guitar body that's made from laminated plies (mahogany for the back and sides, spruce for the top) rather than the more desirable solid construction.

Playability is key in an entry-level instrument, and the G320 scores highly, with a smooth, satin-finished neck. On some budget guitars, the edges of the frets can be rough, but here the fretwire is tucked inside the fingerboard edge for a supremely comfortable feel. Action (the distance from the fingerboard to the strings) is another important factor to consider. Our review guitar came with the strings set fairly high, which can leave your hands aching after long barre chord sessions. But it's really a

matter of personal preference, and most good guitar shops will make the desired adjustments for you before you buy.

Still, at this price, there are going to be concessions, which is apparent in the tuners. They give a smooth mechanical performance but they don't always wind the strings evenly, which means tuning can be more work than it needs to be. Tonally, the guitar is above average for the price. It has less bass than most dreadnoughts, which in some rooms can give you a boxy sound. The flip side to the G320's lack of low end is that it works well for fingerpicking and more delicate playing.

### Conclusion:

While £163 isn't mega money it's still an investment. Choosing the wrong guitar at this point can change your first steps into guitar playing dramatically. Thankfully, the G320 settles this apprehension. Here your money buys you a reputable brand's instrument (without the sense that you're paying extra for the name), with an ace card in the form of its super-smooth neck. As an all-round guitar, the G320 covers the fundamentals so effectively that you're unlikely to outgrow it in a hurry, and it could even suit pro players as a spare guitar.

Jonny Scaramanga

## SUMMARY

**For:** A very smooth playing experience

**Against:** The tone is average



**TG says...** A dependable first acoustic guitar

Takamine's G320 brings big-name class to the entry-level battleground

