

DEAN DBD TRIBUTE ML

Dimebag's axe on the cover of *Cowboys From Hell* is an ML, and so is this...

At a glance

Dean DBD Tribute ML

BODY: Solid basswood
NECK: Maple, bolt-on, with Classic V headstock and Tribute crest
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
SCALE: 24"
PICKUPS: 2x Zebra humbuckers
CONTROLS: 2x volume and 1x tone Dime traction knobs, 3-way pickup selector
HARDWARE: Chrome Grover tuners, tune-o-matic bridge, strings-thru-body
FINISH: Black [pictured]
CONTACT: Bill Lewington Ltd 01268 413366
WEB: www.deanguitars.com

£295

Visually, the Tribute is a textbook ML, but it's the feel and tone that are the real tribute to Dimebag

Body

It's impossible to look at the ML without thinking of Dime

Pickups

We love the old-school Zebra bobbins on this ML's twin 'buckers

Knobs

The control knobs have holes soldered in them for better grip

Everyone knows that Dimebag Darrell's last will and testament was the Dean Razorback. Rewind back to his adolescence, though, and you'll find the Texan guitarist in his hicksville bedroom, perusing the Dean catalogue when he should have been at school, and lusting after the ML model that he would play for most of his career. These days, you can blow £2,549 on a US Dimebag ML. But why would you do a thing like that?

The sizzle: The ML is now 30 years old, but Dean doesn't really need to say anything about this model – the countless photos of Dime in action with the guitar have seen it flying off the shelves. Besides, it's clear who is being targeted with the Tribute. Low price, functional hardware, own-brand humbuckers, basswood body... all hallmarks of an entry-level stunner.

We say: Visually, the Tribute is a textbook ML, albeit with Dime embellishments. For a kick-off you get his custom control knobs (which have holes soldered in them to boost grip). You also can't miss the cool Dime Kiss-style decals on the headstock and body. We're also taken with the old-school 'Zebra' humbuckers. It all adds up to a package that screams Dimebag!

Mind you, it's the feel and tone that are the real tribute. You may not have the chops, but when you sling this beast around your neck, race up the slender neck and attack the frets, you'll feel Dime's attitude coursing through your veins. Decent when clean, those Zebras are monsters when you flick the distortion, supplying a vulgar display of power that sustains for ages thanks to the obtuse shape. It's easy to see why Dime fell for the ML; we feel exactly the same.

Henry Yates

SUMMARY

For: Classic Dime vibe and monster tone

Against: Visually, it's tamer than the Razorback



TG says... Dimebag lives on with this cracking axe



The neck is a slice of heaven for all you cowboys from hell