



At a glance

Ibanez GIO GRGR121EX

BODY: Basswood
NECK: Maple, bolt-on with reverse headstock
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood, with dots
FRETS: 24 medium
SCALE: 25.5"
PICKUPS: Ibanez PSND3 (neck), PSND4 (bridge)
CONTROLS: Master volume, tone, three-position pickup selector
HARDWARE: Black
FINISH: Candy Apple (pictured), Black Night
CONTACT: Headstock Distribution 01215 086666
WEB: www.ibanez.com

£195

The first thing you notice about this guitar is the quality of the neck - and it's extremely comfortable

Pickups
 There's a good variation of tones between the pickups

Headstock
 The reverse headstock conforms to the metal design of the guitar

Neck
 Few guitars at this price point feature a neck profile as good as this

Ibanez GIO GRGR121EX

Get great sounds for fewer pounds with this entry-level metal machine...

When Ibanez released the GIO range in 2000, it unleashed a value-packed series of monsters on the entry-level market. The latest model is the GRGR121EX reverse headstock, designed with the cash-strapped metal fan in mind.

The sizzle: Ibanez claims that "a guitar doesn't have to cost a bundle to sound good" and we'd definitely agree. In recent months we've seen plenty of guitars offering a superb design deserving of a higher price tag. With this theory firmly in mind, Ibanez has fashioned the GRGR121EX with simple but effective features. A pair of stock Ibanez PSND humbuckers and one volume and one tone control are mounted directly to the basswood body, with a slim profile maple neck bringing "Ibanez quality in a more affordable package".

We say: It might be entry level, but the first thing you notice about this guitar is the quality of the neck. It's not quite up there with the famed 'Wizard' neck featured on Ibanez's more expensive models, but pound for pound it's not far off. The flat, thin profile makes it extremely comfortable to play, and the reverse headstock is a definite plus given its target market.

The dual humbuckers are also surprisingly versatile: the neck pickup provides a punchy low end that's well suited to chunky rhythm playing and bluesy lead tones, while the bridge is the key to unleashing the true metal fury. Being the greedy pedants that we are, we reckon Ibanez may have missed a trick by not adding a coil tap, and the lack of a vibrato may discourage some players. But then we remind ourselves of the price tag and realise it's still a bargain overall.

Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

For: Playability and rock tone on a shoestring

Against: No coil tap or vibrato



TG says... It's GRGReat!

They're stock pickups-but these 'buckers can sing

