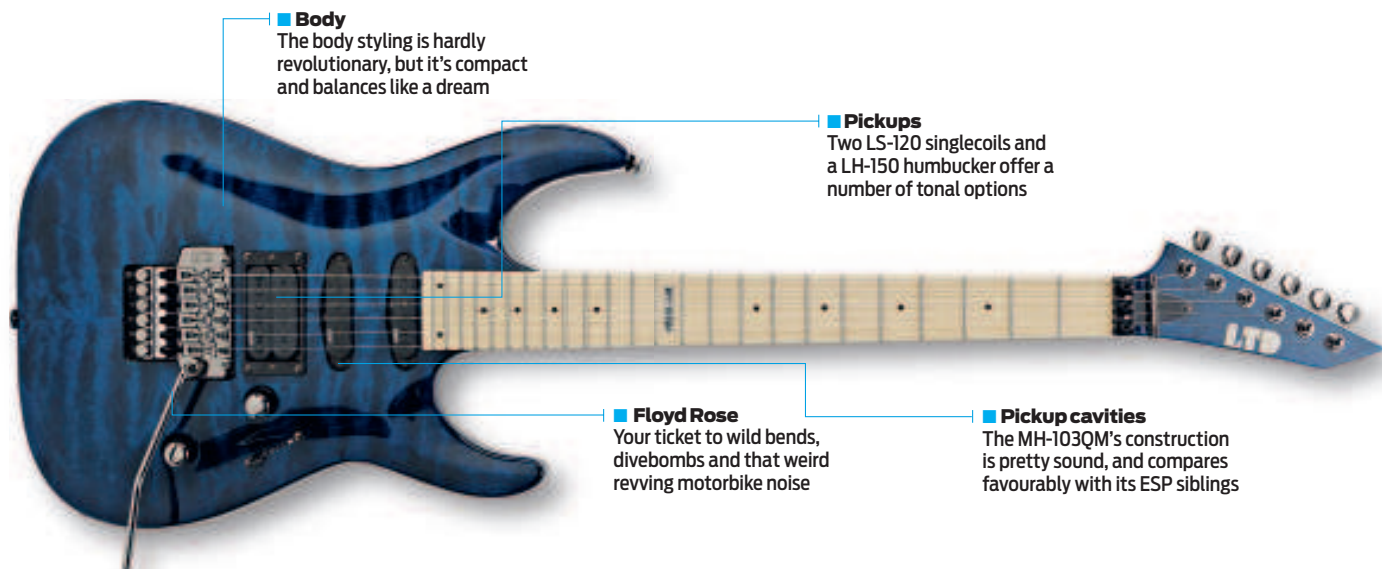


# Rocked & Rated



"LTD'S ENTRY-LEVEL MH-1030M IS FUNCTIONAL, COMFORTABLE AND AGGRESSIVE WITHOUT SCARING OFF NON-METALLERS"

**Body**

The body styling is hardly revolutionary, but it's compact and balances like a dream

**Pickups**

Two LS-120 singlecoils and a LH-150 humbucker offer a number of tonal options

**Floyd Rose**

Your ticket to wild bends, divebombs and that weird revving motorbike noise

**Pickup cavities**

The MH-103QM's construction is pretty sound, and compares favourably with its ESP siblings

PHOTOGRAPHY **JESSE WILD / AMANDA THOMAS**

# LTD MH-103QM

£329

With LTD, the size of your wallet needn't dictate the size of your crowd...

**A**re you in the market for a metal guitar, Sir? Then let TG take your leather jacket and lead the way. Does Sir have a figure in mind today? As little as friggin' possible, but of course. Perhaps Sir might like to stop salivating over the ESP models on the top shelf and consider the very fine LTD range, launched in 1996 to put classic ESP performance within reach of the, ahem, more *financially challenged* client. Take the MH-103QM. It's a lovely little doublecut Chinese electric, with a spec sheet out of all proportion with its £329 price tag. Perhaps Sir might like to try one for size?

**The sizzle:** The MH-103QM comes with a refreshing lack of blurb – LTD prefers to list the nuts and bolts in bulletpoints on the website, then steps back, looking smug. We're near the bottom rung of the MH range – it spans from £269 to £999 – but

it's hard to fault the inclusion of ESP pickups and tuners, a double-locking Floyd Rose-style trem and a quilted maple top furnished with recessed controls and a five-way selector. OK, basswood isn't the sexiest timber, and the thru-necks of the pricier MHs are absent, but this represents a bargain on paper.

**We say:** The outline might be derivative, but TG loved the vibe of the MH-103QM. It's functional, comfortable, aggressive without scaring off non-metallars, well-appointed without coming on like an 80s superstrat and nicely built by LTD's Chinese production line (albeit with untidy solder wire in the pickup cavities).

The MH-103QM has neither the look nor the performance of an entry-level electric. The slick two-octave fretboard and the U-shape neck profile make this a fast and satisfying performer. The jagged headstock and floating

tremolo imply shred, but this baby has soul too, responding well to weeping blues licks and sliding barre chords.

Some would prefer the active EMGs of the ESP range, but TG welcomed the versatility of the MH's configuration. The bridge unit is tailor-made for scything through a rhythm section, and the middle singlecoil offers a clipped, funky tone with shades of a good Strat copy. Our only issue is that we'd prefer the tonal weight of a second humbucker in the neck. But let's not dwell on that. This is your ticket from the bedroom to the O2 Arena. Sir should have no complaints.

Henry Yates

**At a glance****LTD MH-103QM**

**BODY:** Solid basswood, with quilted maple top  
**NECK:** Maple, bolted, thin U neck contour  
**FINGERBOARD:** Maple with dot inlays  
**SCALE:** 25.5"  
**PICKUPS:** 1x ESP LH-150 humbucker (bridge), 2x LS-120 (neck and middle)  
**CONTROLS:** 1x volume, 1x tone, 5-way pickup selector  
**HARDWARE:** Black nickel double-locking bridge, ESP tuners  
**FINISH:** Trans Blue  
**CONTACT:** Selectron UK 01795 419460  
**WEB:** www.espguitars.com

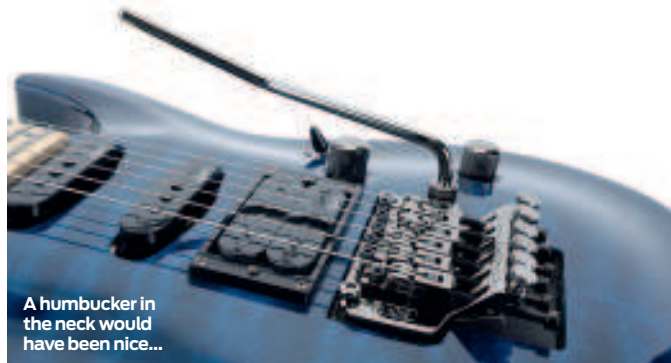
**SUMMARY**

**For:** Mighty spec for the money, ballsy performance

**Against:** Derivative body styling, no neck humbucker

☆☆☆☆☆

**TG says...** Cheap thrills for discerning rockers



A humbucker in the neck would have been nice...



Divebomb at will! The locking nut will keep you in tune

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