

SIGNATURE GUITARS

1 JACKSON

DEMME LITTON KING V

£1229 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

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

WE SAID: This guitar is outrageously playable. It's good at blues, classic rock, jazz and metal.

★★★★★



4 SCHECTER DIAMOND

SYNYSTER GATES CUSTOM

£999 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

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

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

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

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.MOJOHANAFX.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

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 & Rated gear

ACOUSTIC GUITARS

FRESHMAN FA250D

£299 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

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

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

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

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

The 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.

