

TAKAMINE GJ72CE-BSB

£514

**A serious gigging jumbo for 500 notes?
Trust Takamine to get the job done**

THE Takamine house was built on its electro-acoustic pickup and preamp systems. Of course, its guitars weren't too shabby either, and as well as high-line Japanese-made guitars, there are these more affordable Chinese-made G Series instruments.

Our review sample comes from the all-cutaway electro 70 Series that includes the same-priced dreadnought, the smaller NEX, and our reviewed six-string jumbo that's paired with a 12-string (at £562). Each model is offered in both this evocative looking 'burst or natural finish.

At 435mm (17.13 inches) across its bulbous lower bouts, combined with a 120mm (4.72-

Sound shaping is taken care of by the three-band EQ sliders and the mid-contour switch. Unusually, there's an EQ bypass button – handy for DI recording, where you can send a flat signal in and EQ it afterwards as your track develops, all without altering your onstage EQ settings. The notch filter has a simple in/out switch and a rotary control to filter out the feedback-creating frequencies. The tuner is big and quite bright, but doesn't mute your output for silent tuning.

Big-bodied jumbos don't always have the largest acoustic sounds, and here, that's pretty true; what we have is a very clean, clear and crisp high-end with a well balanced midrange and slightly tightened, defined lows. It's a

The GJ72CE is a good-looking, well-made stage-ready electro

inch) body depth, the GJ72CE is huge. Construction centres on a solid spruce X-braced top with laminated maple back and sides, which have a subtle flame figure. Embellishments are minimum: off-white binding, inner multi-stripe purfling and a little bit of abalone detail to the concentric soundhole rings. That said, a 'reversed mountain' abalone inlay at the 12th fret looks like it's been installed upside down. Anyway...

Playability is superb. The neck has a chunky C section topped with a bound rosewood 'board with a Gibson-like 305mm (12-inch) camber and medium-gauge frets giving a familiar electric-like feel; likewise the 43mm (1.69-inch) nut width and 52.5mm (2.07-inch) string spacing across the two-piece bridge saddles. Intonation is virtually spot on; only the G string is slightly sharp at the 12th fret. String height is low, too – again, very electric-like.

superb strummer from the feel of that neck through to the balanced sound. Amplified, the EQ is broad and adequate; a little low-end lift certainly warms things up. The mid-contour switch doesn't provide a preset sound, but alters the frequency centre of either the boosted or cut midrange slider.

For general use, this is a good-looking, well-made stage-ready electro. However, no tuner-mute function is odd, and the addition of a phase switch – which often cures feedback instantly – would have been welcome. Mind you, with street prices around £450, it's a little churlish to complain.

Dave Burrluck

SUMMARY	FEATURES				
	SOUND QUALITY				
	VALUE FOR MONEY				
	BUILD QUALITY				
	PLAYABILITY				
OVERALL RATING		★★★★★			

AT A GLANCE

TOP: Solid spruce
BACK AND SIDES: Laminated flame maple
NECK: Maple
FINGERBOARD: Bound rosewood
FRETS: 20
SCALE: 644mm (25.4")
PICKUPS: TK-40D preamp with built-in tuner
CONTROLS: Gain, notch filter, bass, middle, treble, tuner, mid contour, EQ bypass
HARDWARE: Gold-plated enclosed tuners w/ pearloid buttons
LEFT-HANDED: No
FINISH: Brown Sunburst (reviewed), Natural
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ELECTRICS

TAKAMINES are known as stage guitars, and the TK-40D preamp is well equipped with onboard tuner, notch filter, three-band EQ and an EQ bypass switch – handy for direct recording

TOP

UNDER the gloss three-tone 'burst finish lies an X-braced solid spruce top; the back and sides are laminated flame maple

BRIDGE

THIS split two-piece saddle aims to improve intonation over a one-piece saddle. It's used on the high-level George Lowden guitars, too

