



SQUIER BULLET MUSTANG HH

£120

Affordable cult fave with added quirks

The original Fender Mustang is something of a cult classic. It was loved by alternative bands and players – including Kurt Cobain – in the 90s for its short scale, affordability and potential for modding. This is 2017, though: things have changed. Is there still appetite for a Mustang, Sally? Squier certainly thinks so, judging by the this new budget, HH-configured Bullet Mustang.

Available in Black or Imperial Blue with a natty metallic finish, this is certainly an attractive little guitar. In keeping with Squier's

hassle. The volume and tone knobs, often a clear indicator of quality control in budget guitars, are installed firmly enough with no evident wobble, while the pickup selector switch is angled so it won't get knocked if your playing becomes too... ahem... enthusiastic. Meanwhile, the 12-inch radius, rosewood 'board is pancake flat and makes string bends simple for even the most sausage-fingered player. The C profile neck is also extremely comfortable to hold, while the satin finish makes fretboard-spanning licks a doddle.

THE PICKUPS HOLD THEIR OWN ACROSS A RANGE OF GENRES

other entry-level models, the Bullet Mustang has a basswood body which gives it an incredibly lithe, lightweight feel. If you're used to the manly heft of a Les Paul then this, combined with its 24-inch scale length, can give the Mustang an almost toy-like feel when you first pick it up.

The two humbuckers are the most obvious departure from the original, providing angular grit in the bridge position and a pleasing, earthy warmth in the neck. Realistically, you're not going to be extracting much in the way of classic vintage tones on account of the basswood body, but the Mustang's pickups hold their own across a range of genres. The bolt-on maple neck and six saddle hardtail bridge feel reassuringly rigid, while the tuners did a sterling job in our tests of holding their pitch without too much

hassle. One exciting possibility this guitar offers is its potential as a base for modding. It's easy to see how those of us with DIY leanings could change out the pickups to something more upmarket, swap the tuners or even just practise our setup and maintenance skills without the risk of ruining a more expensive instrument.

Honestly? It's hard to be overly critical. By today's standards, £120 is practically peanuts to spend on a new guitar. For Squier to cram in the features they have, with the overall levels of build quality on display, is seriously impressive.

Chris Corfield

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

1 SCALE
The dinky 24" scale length makes the Squier Bullet Mustang easy to pick up and play, rather than being a beast you have to wrestle with

2 DUAL 'BUCKERS
Original Mustangs had two single-coils, but the Squier version packs in a couple of meaty humbuckers for extra versatility and punch

3 FLAT PROFILE
The 12" flat rosewood 'board belies the guitar's overall small scale, giving extra room for those complex chords and big bends

AT A GLANCE

BODY: Basswood
NECK: Maple
SCALE: 24"
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
PICKUPS: 2x Squier humbuckers
CONTROLS: Master volume, master tone and a three-way pickup switch
HARDWARE: 6 saddle modern hardtail bridge, standard sealed machineheads, 3-ply pickguard, 4-bolt Squier neckplate
LEFT HANDED: No
FINISH: Imperial Blue (as reviewed), Black
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