



JOE DUPLANTIER SIGNATURE PRO-MOD SAN DIMAS STYLE 2 HH MAHOGANY

£719

Another Signature model from the Gojira frontman, but this time he's gone vintage

What do you do when you're a huge fan of Fender and Gibson guitars? Well, you take your favourite bits of both to create one super-guitar, of course. At least that's the case with the latest signature model from Charvel and Gojira frontman Joe Duplantier. And you just have to take one look at this new Pro-Mod San Dimas Style 2 to realise that. Having already gone for very clean and modern finishes with his two previous signature models, Joe sought to go down a more vintage route and "wanted the colour of the guitar to look like your grandmother's table". A lovely thought, although we're

The vintage/modern combination is perfectly summed up with the pick-up choice, a DiMarzio PAF 36th anniversary edition in the neck and Joe's own signature DiMarzio Fortitude in the bridge are paired to perfection. In fact, the latter can be considered a beefier version of the PAF, especially in the low-end department. This is where the guitar really earns its personality. The Fortitude has been voiced to Joe's own specifications after being so impressed with the PAF 36, he knew he wanted to take it further and with the help from the folks from DiMarzio, the result is vintage warmth and clarity with bags of bottom-end heft.

“SAILS THE VINTAGE/MODERN VIBE WITH APLOMB...”

not sure our grandmother's table looked this good.

The mahogany finish with a black pickguard is familiar territory for any Telecaster fan, but slap on a Tune-O-Matic bridge and cover the fretboard in pearloid big block inlays and you're in Gibson country. On paper, this shouldn't work, but it does. Combined with the worn nickel finish on the DiMarzio pickup covers and you can consider the vintage aesthetic nailed. It's not all vintage, though, as the twist is that this model is equipped with some thoroughly modern essentials. Locking tuners, a graphite-reinforced neck and a heel-mount truss rod adjustment wheel firmly bring this model bang up to date.

1 NECK

Big pearloid block inlays, luminlay side dots, graphite-reinforced, truss rod with heel adjustment, 12"-16" compound radius, ebony fingerboard with rolled edges and a natural oiled finish all make for a very swift and comfortable neck.

2 PICKUPS

Joe's own DiMarzio Fortitude signature pickup makes its debut in the bridge and paired with a DiMarzio 36th anniversary PAF provide enough dynamism, warmth and guttural punch to make you turn your nose up at active pickups for good.

3 BODY

Natural Mahogany in a satin finish is as unpretentious as you can get, and fully sets up the workman-like vintage vibe that is so easily partnered by the sound and feel of this guitar.

AT A GLANCE

BODY: Mahogany

BRIDGE PICKUP: Joe Duplantier Signature DiMarzio Fortitude

NECK PICKUP: DiMarzio PAF 36th Anniversary

CONTROLS: Volume

PICKUP SWITCHING: 3-Position Toggle

BRIDGE: Charvel Fully Adjustable Radius Compensated Bridge with Anchored Tailpiece

HARDWARE FINISH: Chrome

TUNERS: Charvel-Branded Die-Cast Locking

NECK MATERIAL: Mahogany

NECK CONSTRUCTION: Bolt-On with Graphite Reinforcement

NECK FINISH: Oiled

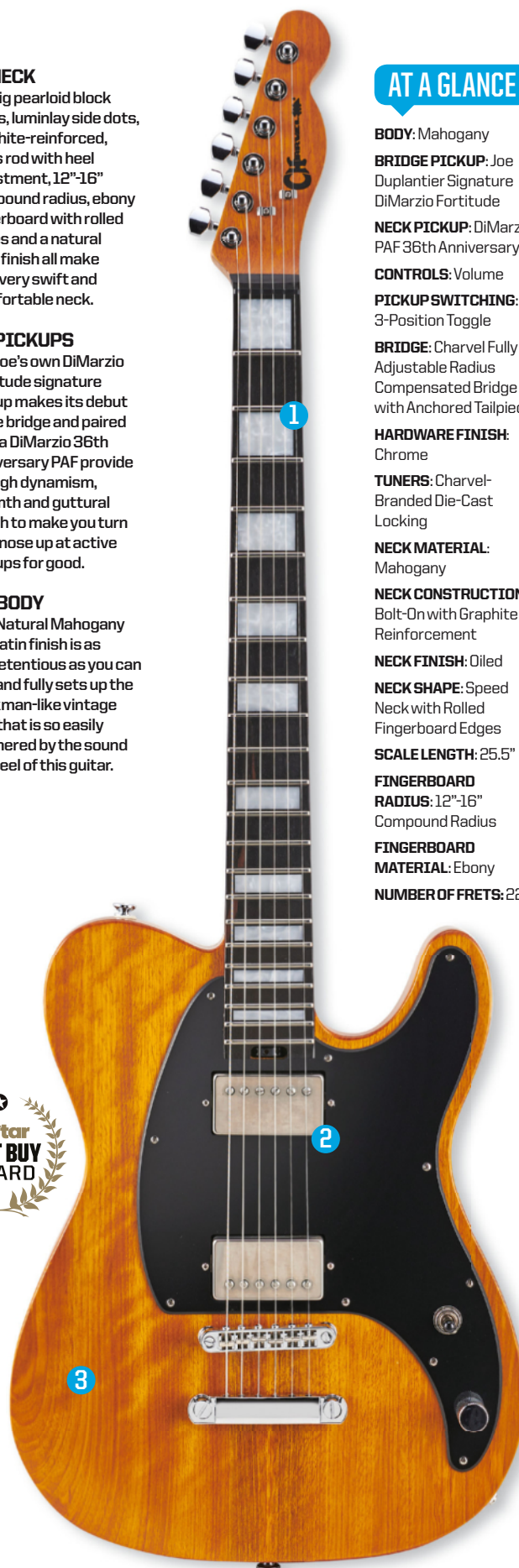
NECK SHAPE: Speed Neck with Rolled Fingerboard Edges

SCALE LENGTH: 25.5"

FINGERBOARD RADIUS: 12"-16" Compound Radius

FINGERBOARD MATERIAL: Ebony

NUMBER OF FRETS: 22





For the love of PAF

The story behind the pickups, in Joe's words

“Wilson from DiMarzio lives right next to my studio in NY and brought a panel of pickups so I could compare them whilst recording. I realised when using old gear that it's not too hot. For instance, passive pickups versus active pickups. The passive pickup has more dynamics, it's not compressed, it's not powered or whatever, whatever is going on in there. So already, I knew that I liked old stuff. When I tried the PAF in a guitar, I did some takes and I thought, 'Okay, I want to go down that road for my signature pickup.' I basically A/B'd all DiMarzio's pickups and chose my favourite one, and did a twist on that for the bridge pickup. As for the neck pickup, which I use so rarely anyway, I decided to keep the PAF 36.”

the PAF 36 and Fortitude pickups combine for a useful palette of tone to suit those blues meanderings should the mood take you.

One thing that impressed us the most on unboxing the JP San Dimas 2 was how comfortable it immediately felt. The setup was nigh-on perfect; the intonation, tuning and action are at the level that we've become accustomed to from Charvel and it's parent company, Fender. With all the vintage and modern touches, we're glad to see that Charvel and Joe have plumped for a natural-oiled finish on the neck and it feels like



you've been playing this guitar forever. And above all else, it is lightning quick, all thanks to the 12"-16" compound radius and 'Speed Neck' with rolled fingerboard edges. It's these touches that most guitarists would instantly reach for when modding a guitar. It's well-considered and, most importantly, neat.

We have to say that the Joe Duplantier Signature Pro-Mod San Dimas Style 2 HH Mahogany nails the vintage/modern vibe with aplomb. Well-pointed finery is meticulously laid out with a finish that not only looks the business

but also feels like you've owned this guitar for years. That feeling of comfort is backed up with a very confident pickup pairing that doesn't sound like every heavy-tinged axe going but brings with its own personality and a platform for you to explore yours, all at a fair price, too.

Simon Arblaster

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

ALSO TRY...

CHARVEL PRO-MOD SO-CAL STYLE 2 24 HH HT CM

£799

Charvel's other T-style guitar is positively dripping in modern touches. Definitely, something to think about if you're not feeling the 'vintage' thing.



FENDER VINTERA '70S TELE DELUXE IN MOCHA

£799

And on the flip side of the same coin, should you want to drop those modern touches for something a little more authentic, then the Vintera is where it's at.



CHAPMAN GUITARS ML3 MODERN

£639

Lovers of heavy tones should definitely check out the Chapman ML3. It's cheaper, but not as well finished as the JD signature.

