

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Fender American Vintage II Series

The new Fender American Vintage II series was recently released with a selection of 50's, 60's and 70's guitars and basses in the line. These instruments feature nitrocellulose lacquer finishes, ash and alder bodies, vintage hardware & cases, vintage neck profiles, year specific pickups and original specs. Maverick received the 1951 Telecaster for review, and I was totally blown away by the attention to detail, fit and finish. Right out of the vintage styled tweed case it was apparent that the Tele was constructed with flathead screws instead of Phillips head screws like a period correct '51 Tele should be. The neck profile has a vintage feel to the shape but not too chunky as some of the later 50's models were. The blonde finish is stunning and allows the wood grain to seep through in all the right places. Sound wise the '51 Fender American Vintage II has plenty of bark and twang when you play it, but not piercing highs or too then sounding. This is an incredible instrument that you will want to play at live gigs and in the studio constantly. Other

Woman Tone Pedal by Aclam

The new Woman Tone guitar pedal by Aclam is an amazing effects unit that faithfully recreates Eric Clapton's sound from back in his Cream days. The pedal is essentially two effects in box with the Plexi amplifier footswitch to the right and the Woman Tone activation to the left. The Volume and Gain knobs are designated to the right footswitch and the centre Woman Tone knob controls the left. There is also an internal dip switch to make the sound even darker. Aclam pedals also come with their standard pedalboard locks on each side so you can secure them to one of their Smart Track pedalboards without attaching Velcro on your pedal. The designers behind the Woman Tone pedal truly did their homework as

Starfire 1 12-String by Guild

12-string guitars come in many shapes and sizes but typically they are acoustic electric. The new Guild Starfire 1 12-string is a nod to their past historic model. There are many features that separate this model from an acoustic 12-string, but foremost it has a mahogany center block that helps avoid stage feedback. The archtop semi-hollow body Guild Starfire 1 has a mahogany top, back and sides. For a 12-string the Guild is easier to navigate whilst chording thanks to the thinner U-shaped neck. The Tune-o-Matic bridge with stop tail piece adds to the stability and consistent tuning. Guild has loaded two Guild HB-2 pickups with Alnico II



Teles in the American Vintage II line include '63 Telecaster, '72 Telecaster Thinline, '75 Telecaster (double humbucker) and the '77 Telecaster (single humbucker). Next up they have included a '66 Jazzmaster, '57 Strat, '61 Stratocaster, '73 Stratocaster, '54 Precision bass, '60 Precision and the '66 Jazz bass. What appeals to me about the American Vintage II series is that it allows you to achieve a vintage correct Fender instrument without going through the extra cost of the custom shop. These are American made instruments based on the most popular years for each model. I think the American Vintage II series will be a big hit for Fender, just like the original models were.

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you can easily dial in Clapton's vintage sounds with this pedal and then mod them to your own taste. The beauty of it is that it doesn't require a Gibson SG to reach this sound thanks to the circuitry you can achieve with a Strat or Tele also. If you're an EC fan or just relish vintage 60's guitar tones the new Woman Tone by Aclam is a must have effect!

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magnets into this instrument. Controls consist of a three-way toggle for pickup selection and two volumes and two controls. Since they are fitting 12 strings on the headstock Guild installed mini chrome enclosed machine heads. It features a Cherry Red translucent finish on the body and neck with white binding and a bound rosewood fretboard. Traditional Guild control knobs, three step pickguard and headstock logo are reminiscent of past Guilds. Playing the Guild Starfire 1 12-string through an amp and PA system the guitar truly shines. I preferred the tonality when I rolled off the bass some and let the mid and treble frequencies come through more. The mahogany center block keeps the Guild balanced and not neck heavy as many 12-strings are. If you are an electric guitar player that has been apprehensive about approaching a 12-string this Guild Starfire could be just the ticket for you. The Guild Starfire 1 12-string does not come with a gig bag or hardcase, but I would recommend purchasing one to protect your investment. It is a very affordable electric 12-string that also looks and sounds great. Add some jangle to your sound with the new Guild Starfire 1 12-string!

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