

ARCH OF TRIUMPH

Prestige Classic electric guitar

*BY ERIC KIRKLAND

B RITISH COLUMBIA'S **PRESTIGE** Guitars is one of the youngest manufacturers in the industry, garnering rave reviews soon after its first guitar rolled off the line in 2003. Although the basic shapes and configurations of Prestige axes are inspired by classic instruments, each guitar is distinguishably modern in design. For example, the new Prestige Classic appears to be a standard, midpriced Les Paul-style guitar. Look a little closer and you'll see that its maple top is gracefully arched. Plug it in and you'll hear bright and lively sounds that are just as unique and unlike the expected tones of a mahogany singlecut.

FEATURES

THE CLASSIC HAS a gorgeous, AAA-grade flamed maple over an extremely light mahogany body. Prestige isn't the first company to use a bowed top, but its application is perfectly arched and less radical than others.

The guitar's ergonomic appeal is obvious when you feel how the curved top places the forearm and right hand in an ideal position. Left-hand and arm positioning are similarly guided by the long and precisely shaped belly cut, which aligns the Classic against your body naturally. The curve also puts more wood under the pickups and less on the outer edges, which makes it possible for the Classic to produce copious high-frequency levels. This abundant spank helps the chrome-covered Duncan JB and '59

humbuckers sound more aggressive and sharp than they do in so many other guitars.

The moderately deep C-shaped carve puts a lot of mahogany neck wood in the palm, making the Classic not the fastest ax in the shed but certainly one of the more comfortable tools for everyday chores. Extra-jumbo frets aid string volume and touch sensitivity, while the rosewood board balances the ample upper midrange.

PERFORMANCE

THE CLASSIC'S CLEAN tones are bouncy, stringy and precise, attributes that are especially appreciated onstage, where the ability to cut a clear sonic path through the band is more important than conjuring the sweetest nuances. When the Classic runs into an overdriven amp, its punchy mids and edgy highs snarl and snap. These stinging responses can easily be transformed into whining cocked-wah-style overtones when a little pinch harmonic flavor is added to right-hand attack.

THE BOTTOM LINE

THE PRESTIGE'S CLASSIC is one of the most interesting and playable adaptations of the singlecut mahogany theme. Its bowed maple top is an ergonomic marvel, and the slicing highs add a unique excitement to every note. **SC**

+PRO	-CON
CURVED TOP EASES RIGHT HAND STRAIN • BRIGHT TONES • REASONABLE PRICE	DOESN'T PRODUCE THICK LOWS • NECK SHAPE DOESN'T PROMOTE SPEED

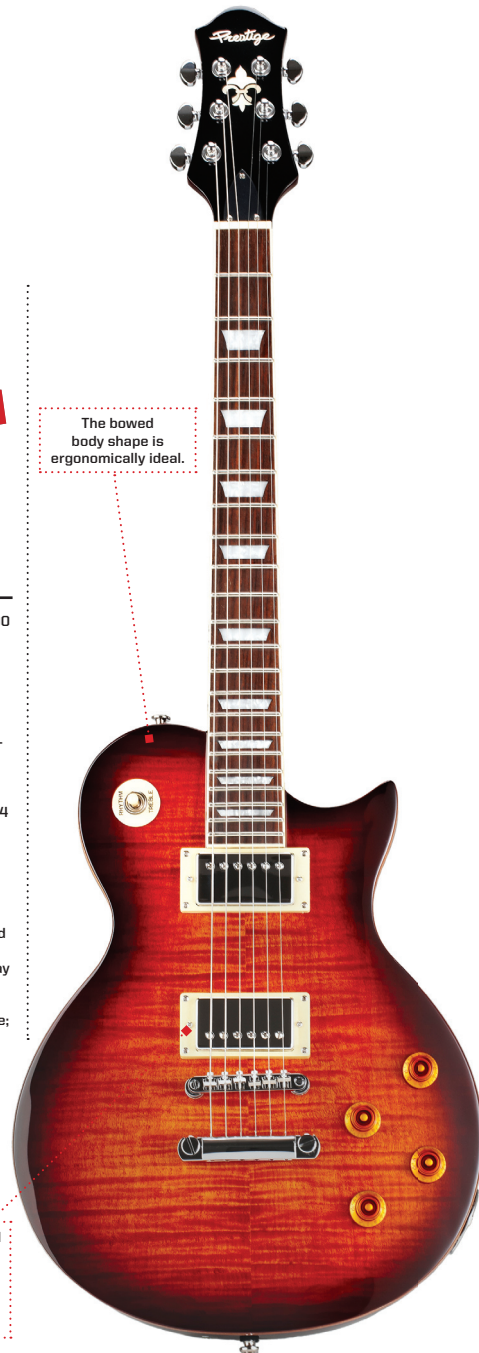


SPECS

LIST PRICE: \$1,250.00
MANUFACTURER: Prestige Guitars Ltd., prestige guitars.com
BODY: Mahogany, arced AAA-grade flamed maple top
NECK: Mahogany, set-in
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
SCALE LENGTH: 24 3/4 inches
FRETS: 22
HARDWARE: Chrome stop tail and Tune-o-matic bridge, chrome Grover tuners
CONTROLS: Dedicated volume and tone for each pickup, three-way selector toggle
PICKUPS: Seymour Duncan SH1-59, bridge; SH4-JB, neck

The bowed body shape is ergonomically ideal.

The chrome-covered Seymour Duncan JB and 59 humbuckers are loaded with attack and upper harmonics.



BUZZ BIN NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR

PLUSH VERBRATOR TUBE-DRIVEN DIGITAL REVERB

LOVE YOUR AMP but wish it had reverb? Or do you hate the "boingy" tones of your amp's spring reverb unit and crave the smooth, lush sound of digital reverb? The Plush Verbrator is an easy to use digital reverb unit with pro-quality sound and performance. The Verbrator also functions as an effect loop and a tube buffer for using long cables or driving

a pedal board.

The Verbrator is designed for placement in an amp's effect loop. Though it can be placed in front of an amp, like a pedal, it has no on/off switch, so the effect will always be on.

Inside the unit, a 12AX7 tube powered by high-voltage levels delivers fat analog tone that perfectly complements the pristine digital reverb

effects. Separate level and decay controls let you dial in exactly what you want, and on long decay settings the tails seem to trail off infinitely. Individual send and return controls let you match levels with effects connected to the pedal's loop section.

If you love reverb and want to sound like a pro, the Verbrator is the way to go.

—Chris Gill

SPECS

LIST PRICE: \$379.00
MANUFACTURER: Plush by Fuchs, fuchsaudio technology.com

