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Cedar Point

PRESTIGE ECLIPSE CEDAR/ROSEWOOD By Eric Kirkland

TODAY'S ASSORTMENT OF acoustic guitar flavors is almost as varied as that of electric guitars—from the baritone bellow of a jumbo to the polite parlance of a petite parlor instrument. Prestige's Eclipse Series falls squarely in the middle of the pack, where it adheres to the traditional ideal of an acoustic guitar as vocal accompaniment. The latest addition to the series is the auditorium-sized Cedar/Rosewood, a stunning piece of craftsmanship that creates its high-energy response with a select cedar top and exotic tonewoods.

FEATURES Cedar is gaining more favor as a respected soundboard wood, as it sounds softer and is less bright than spruce and livelier than mahogany or koa. The Cedar/Rosewood's Canadian-grown cedar is braced with Adirondack spruce in a typical X pattern, while gorgeous rosewood creates the back and sides. A bone nut and saddle and an ebony bridge and fretboard enliven the cedar's naturally warm

presence and enhance treble (ebony is also used on the headstock's fascia and tuners). Adding to the Eclipse's superlative beauty are numerous, high-end adornments, including figured maple binding on the top, sides, back, fretboard and headstock; mother-of-pearl logo and fretboard inlays; abalone surrounds on the top and sound hole; and striking padauk on the Venetian cutaway's beveled edge.

The satin-finished mahogany neck is C shaped, with a slight peak in the hill, similar to many modern electrics and almost as fast. The guitar features a Fishman Matrix Ellipse Blend pickup system, which includes a control panel seated on the inside edge of the sound hole, with a phase switch, a volume control, a pickup/mic blend control and a mic trim. The nine-volt battery pouch is also hidden inside the Eclipse, firmly affixed to the neck heel. (The guitar is also available with an L.R. Baggs Anthem pickup and endpin jack, as well as without electronics.)

PERFORMANCE Midrange punch, powerful chime and dynamic brilliance are the Cedar/Rosewood Eclipse's tonal keystones. This combination is ideal for fingerpickers who want the attack typically produced by a spruce top but also crave the midrange depth that's so easily drawn out of cedar. Flatpickers will love how the Eclipse's treble stays round and full, right up the neck, and how stable lows remain when the strings are really slammed. Any guitar can be loud, but the Eclipse exhibits an impressive (and, if necessary, explosive) dynamic range that doesn't stray from musicality or accurate intonation, and its chime is percussive and bell-like. The Fishman Matrix Ellipse Blend really captures the Eclipse's woody midrange voice and offers increased control over the amount of pickup and mic used in the mix.

Incidentally, if all of this sounds good to you, take note: Prestige builds only about 300 acoustic guitars each year, so get yours while you can.

CHEAT SHEET



LIST PRICE \$1,899
MANUFACTURER
Prestige
Guitars Ltd.,
prestigeguitars.com

- A solid Canadian cedar top and Indian rosewood sides and back produce an inspiring blend of crisp response, soft overtones and midrange warmth.

- Fishman's sound hole-mounted Matrix Ellipse Blend pickup system offers excellent control without interfering with the Eclipse's beauty.

- **THE BOTTOM LINE**
Prestige's auditorium-sized Cedar/Rosewood Eclipse offers exotic appeal, expressive mid-range tones and top-shelf craftsmanship at a low price.