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Block Party

PRESTIGE GUITARS MUSICIAN STANDARD

By Eric Kirkland

GIBSON PIONEERED THE arched-top semihollow electric guitar in 1958 with the introduction of the ES-335. A thinline-bodied guitar, the 335 featured a solid block down its center, and hollow sidewings. The ES family of guitars became a favorite of electric blues players, like B.B. King, as well as rock and rollers, such as Chuck Berry, and the design has remained a favorite of blues, rock and pop players to this day. Prestige's affordable Musician Standard brings this classic design forward, blending old-world construction and a vintage Bigsby tremolo with noise-silencing contemporary appointments and a set of Seymour Duncan high-output pickups.

FEATURES Prestige chose particularly large dimensions for its maple-capped MS to achieve a wide soundstage and smooth attack. The one-piece mahogany neck remains true to vintage form, with a thin Sixties-style taper, tonal warmth and excellent balance. Unlike other guitars of this ilk, its rosewood fretboard is flattened to a 14-inch radius and topped with easy-to-play jumbo frets. Sealed Grover machines and a self-lubricating TUSQ XL nut enhance tuning stability and reject spurious acoustic noise. Furthering its playability, the guitar's Tune-O-Matic bridge is paired with an authentic Bigsby B70 vibrato that's refreshingly more responsive than aged versions. Prestige finished the MS with a Seymour Duncan SH-1 '59 neck pickup and an SH-4 JB in the bridge, enhancing the guitar's aggressive qualities, reducing microphonics and giving the MS modern crunch abilities. The Musician Standard is available in black as well as in a drop-dead gorgeous Trans Red finish.



PERFORMANCE Despite its rather large body, the MS doesn't sound boxy or bloated. In fact, the large upper bout enlivens the bass and engorges the lower midrange against the naturally bright top end. Its Duncan pickups add serious drive to this acoustic marvel—think Malcolm Young chords and Chuck Berry leads with a nice dollop of grind. Clean tones are equally outstanding, especially with half-round strings, offering buttery lows and a snappy top end.

CHEAT SHEET



LIST PRICE \$1,320
MANUFACTURER
Prestige Guitars Ltd.,
prestigeguitars.com

● **THE BOTTOM LINE**

With its vintage styling and ripping Duncan humbuckers, Prestige's Musician Standard TR is an inspiring platform for anything from rock, jazz and blues to pop, reggae and funk.

Buzz Bin

NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR



Decibel Eleven Hot Stone Deluxe DC power supply

▶ If you're a true pedal freak, chances are you have boutique effects that run at 18 volts, high-current digital units and maybe even a vintage germanium-transistor fuzz box (or an accurate replica of one). Putting all these effects on one pedal board can result in a tangled spaghetti of power cables and unsightly wall warts fighting for space on a bulky power strip. Battery power provides its own set of complications, especially if you like the "brown-out" tones of a fuzz pedal operating on a worn-down carbon nine-volt battery that's putting out only seven volts or less.

The Decibel Eleven Hot Stone Deluxe DC power supply allows various pedals with different power requirements to coexist in a tidy, gig-worthy, noise-free environment. Eight isolated output sections and 10 outlets provide ample power for up to 10 devices, with no hum or interaction between pedals. The 400mA sections are ideal for digital effects, while the two variable outlets can be set between five and nine volts to simulate a worn-down battery.

I connected several of my most power-hungry pedals, and the Hot Stone was absolutely noise free, with not a buzz to be heard. The compact Hot Stone Deluxe keeps your pedal board looking clean and sounding clean, allowing you and your pedals to perform their best. —Chris Gill

STREET PRICE \$179
MANUFACTURER Decibel Eleven,
decibel11.com