

THE GAS STATION



SCHECTER SUN VALLEY SUPER SHREDDER FR

£679

Speed, speed and more speed

The 1980s has a lot to answer for, particularly in musical terms. And even more so in the worlds of rock and metal, which gave us mullet haircuts, neon spandex and power ballads. The only redeeming feature of the era is that the guitarists all had serious game. It was, you see, the dawn of the shredder. And it is to this age that Schecter is paying homage with its new Sun Valley Super Shredder series. As children of the 80s, we remember the impact these high-octane S-types had on the guitar world. It was the time of Charvel, Jackson and Kramer, where a sub-sect of guitars were built specifically with one thing in

with all manner of dives and wobbles, and tuning remained spot on no matter what we threw at it. Admittedly, the inclusion of a full-fat, original Floyd would have increased desirability levels somewhat, but it would also have added a fair wedge to the RRP, so it's an understandable concession to make.

An interesting inclusion is the EMG Retro Active pickups, which differ from regular active EMGs in that they offer an open-coil design and traditional windings paired with a preamp. The bridge pup has a warmth to its bottom end, while the neck gets you comfortably in the region of some interesting PAF-style tones. They may not

THE DESIRE FOR A CLASSIC SHRED MACHINE WILL NEVER DIE

mind: speed. Wafer-thin necks, ergonomic body shapes and Floyd Rose vibratos gave ultra-technical players the perfect tools with which to express themselves.

Schecter's Korean-built Sun Valley Super Shredder is a near-identical recreation of those classic speed-enablers from the 80s. You get a mahogany body and maple neck, with an extremely thin, C-profile 14" radius fretboard. The generous cutaways around the body and the bolt-on neck give ample room to reach those upper registers, and the overall quality and finish of the 24 extra jumbo frets is high.

The body comes in a variety of finishes, including flamboyant Lambo Orange and the rather attractive Sea Foam Green (on review here) and it feels nice and solid. The obligatory Floyd Rose Special vibrato copes admirably

excel at more modern takes on metal, but it's worth remembering heavy music comes in many different flavours. Back in the day, that usually meant filling solos with as many upper-register notes as humanly possible. At that, this package delivers wonderfully.

In its own way, this proves to be quite a grown-up guitar. It has high-quality pickups, it's well finished and does its one job exceptionally well.

While the haircuts may have changed, the desire for a fun, well-appointed, classic shred machine will clearly never die out.

Chris Corfield

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

1 PICKUPS

EMG's Retro Active humbuckers offer a more vintage sound than more modern actives, while also retaining the hum-cancelling benefits

2 FINISH

Sure, you could go for the black or white versions, but this Sea Foam Green finish is eye-poppingly attractive in the flesh

3 NECK

The 14" radius all-maple neck is a technical player's dream. It's quick, thin, and offers superb access to all 24 frets

AT A GLANCE

BODY: Mahogany
NECK: Maple
SCALE: 25.5"
FINGERBOARD: Maple
FRETS: 24
PICKUPS: EMG Retro Active Hot 70
CONTROLS: 2x volume, 3-way pickup selector switch
HARDWARE: Floyd Rose Special vibrato with locking nut
LEFT-HANDED: No
FINISH: Black, White, Lambo Orange, Sea Foam Green (reviewed)
CONTACT: Westside Distribution
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