



GUILD JETSTAR

£539

Taking flight again

There can be an odd paradox with electric guitar players – some bemoan a lack of innovation and fresh approaches to guitar design, but when they come they're passed over by the majority in favour of the tried and true. Nevertheless, there are always people looking for something different and Guild might have just what they want.

The US company has previous form recently reviving its 60s oddity the Thunderbird as the T-Bird, and now resurrecting another 1963-born model, the single-pickup S-50 Jetstar with changes for the modern era here. Guild has never been a go-to for electrics in the way it has with

the great upper fret access. The 254mm (10") radius neck hitches its wagon between the Fender and Gibson worlds; so while the shape may put some off, the feel is more in a middle ground.

The Jetstar balances quirky retro with evergreen rock appeal, and that's reflected in performance because those Little Buckers cover the breadth of ground we hoped for with jangle and raucous bite on the bridge that's surprisingly Fender-y. They help fuzz and distortion sound articulate, rather than mushy, with the resonance coming through sustain that begins to suggest this is a solid contender for a main instrument.

Of course, we are all familiar with how certain guitars lend

IT BALANCES QUIRKY RETRO WITH EVERGREEN ROCK

acoustic but the new T-Bird made a strong case for that to change. Can this Jet fly as high?

The Jetstar's back contoured body looks broad in pics but it's deceiving – this is packing Guild's new LB-1 (standing for Little Bucker) mini humbuckers and the dimensions make a lot more sense now we see it before us, though it's not what you'd call slim. There's a glossy black neck to match the body and it does look mightily impressive set with the contrast of tortoiseshell scratchplate and chrome hardware. The back angled Firebird-esque headstock design fits in well too.

This 7.74lb guitar sounds resonant unplugged – always a good sign – and a slinky low action combined with a shallow C-shaped neck offers alluring comfort for bends and runs, allowing us to take advantage of

themselves to specific approaches when you pick them up, and we can't help but find ourselves going down the riffier blues rock route a la Rival Sons and Gary Clark Jr. But stoke the gain and the bite channels into chunk clarity for classic metal rhythm, with some wonderfully plummy lead tones on the neck.

All in all, it's no slight return for the Jetstar but rather an update that offers players a wonderful, eye-catching design with a solid build and powerful performance that manages to be retro without being niche.

Rob Laing

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

1 CONTROLS

If the Gibson approach of two tone, two volume on the more expensive SG-leaning new Guild S-100 Polara don't suit, you can revel in the streamlining here. But a coil-split would have added versatility for the price

2 NEW BUILD

Up until now the Newark St Guild revival series has been built in South Korea but the Jetstar is the first to be manufactured in China

3 SCALE

Unlike the original 60s Jetstar, this new version has a longer Fender-style 648mm (25.5") scale

AT A GLANCE

BODY Mahogany
NECK Mahogany, glued-in
SCALE 648mm (25.5")
FINGERBOARD Pau ferro
FRETS 22, narrow jumbo
PICKUPS 2 x Guild LB-1 mini humbuckers
CONTROLS Three-way toggle pickup selector, master volume and tone
HARDWARE Nickel-plated tune-o-matic-style bridge with stud tailpiece, vintage
LEFT-HANDED No
FINISH Black (reviewed), Seafoam Green, Vintage White all gloss polyurethane
CASE Gigbag included
CONTACT Selectron UK Ltd 01795 419460 guildguitars.com

