



# TAYLOR AD27 GRAND PACIFIC

£1619

The most affordable American-made all-solid Taylor series yet

If you think the saying 'less is more' is becoming overused these days, how about 'less is cool' – because an acoustic guitar that eschews the bells, whistles, abalone and gloss to embrace a simpler approach can be a very attractive proposition. Especially in mahogany and sapele. A more minimalist approach is not something most of us might associate with Taylor, but here it is – and although it might not be obvious, there's also some more in the mix, too.

At street prices around £1349, this is still a sizeable investment for most of us, but it's also the most affordable USA-made solid wood acoustic we've seen yet from Taylor. And the recent Grand

ourselves more time in the dustier territories of the fretboard. True to Taylor consistency, we find those qualities here, too.

So too is the softer mid response – this is not a dreadnought for punchy attack. But it has an added low-end warmth to match its playable low action that we fall for very quickly, topping the 317 for us. It's a presence we don't hear much from many mahogany acoustics we've played. Now we know what we're missing.

There's no such thing as 'one size fits all'. We don't think the V-Class subtleties will appeal to some hard strummers and fingerpickers, but that will be the hook for others; it's refined and the sustain really is stunning.

## “ THE V-CLASS BRACING IS VERY MUCH IN THERE HERE AND NOW ”

Pacific slope-shouldered dreadnought has been the first Taylor design chosen for this American Dream series.

If the plainer look is part of a cost-saving approach, it's one we're onboard with. The open pore mahogany gives this guitar a traditional look that feels at home in the first half of the 20th century, but the V-Class bracing is very much here and now. The best of both worlds? We hope so...

This is part of the most affordable Taylor series yet with Andy Powers's structural innovation. When we reviewed the pricier 317E Grand Pacific last year, we were struck by the change it actually made; the compromises we all grow used to in the higher end of the fretboard didn't apply. Notes hung in the air and we found

Some of the dreadnought brashness is smoothed – it's almost pre-mixed. If you're new to it, it can take a little while to adjust, but the Grand Pacific voice offers an individual but attractive character that's a superb all-round choice.

If you're planning on playing live, we'd always opt for AD27E, as Taylor's excellent Expression System 2 is worth the extra, but as an acoustic guitar you could spend the rest of your life playing, this should be on your shortlist.

Rob Laing

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

### 1 V-CLASS BRACING

V-Class bracing maintains stiffness along the middle of the guitar, in the direction of the strings and its affect is noticeable – there's strong lingering sustain across the 'board that makes higher notes sing.

### 2 FINISH

The slope shoulder look of the Grand Pacific leans towards acoustic traditions, and the 2.0-mil matte finish embraces the aesthetic.

### 3 EUCALYPTUS

Taylor's commitment to sustainability will continue with it using fumed eucalyptus for the fingerboard, peghead overlay and saddle on the American Dream models. It's comparable with the ebony the company also uses – and it's actually ebony that's used on our early review model here.

### AT A GLANCE

**TYPE:** Slope-shouldered dreadnought-style acoustic

**TOP:** Tropical mahogany

**BACK AND SIDES:** Sapele in Urban Sienna stain

**SCALE LENGTH:** 25.5" / 648mm

**NECK:** Tropical mahogany

**FINGERBOARD:** Eucalyptus

**HARDWARE:** Taylor nickel sealed tuners, eucalyptus bridge, Micarta saddle, Tusq nut

**FINISH:** Matte

**OPTIONS:** AD17 Blacktop with black finish spruce top and ovankol back and sides £1715 (AD17E Blacktop with ES2 £1919), AD17 with natural spruce top and ovankol back and sides £1619 (AD17E £1835)

**LEFT HANDED:** No

**CASE:** Taylor AeroCase

**CONTACT:** [taylorguitars.com](http://taylorguitars.com)

