

BEST OF 20

2010 was a great year for gear, with hundreds of great products passing through Guitar Buyer HQ. **But which were the best?**

1 BEST ELECTRIC OVER £1,000

Winner: Vigier GV Rock
Reviewed in: Issue 105

We said: 'This really is one of those guitars that far exceeds your expectations. On first glance you really do think you know what you are going to get, but the GV simply surprises you at each turn. Both beautifully engineered and crafted, yet never feeling anything less than organic, the guitar is extremely comfortable to play and easy to get on with. From its great feel through to the never-less-than-impressive tones, the GV Rock is a refreshing revelation that is both versatile and 'unputdownable.'

High Tech Distribution UK
T: 01722 410002
www.vigierguitars.com

AND THE RUNNERS UP ARE



Case Guitars J1
Reviewed in: Issue 105

We said: 'Fascinating and highly enjoyable to play, and lovingly put together. Give Case Guitars a call, and you might just end up with the guitar of your dreams!'
T: 01843 847229 www.caseguitars.co.uk



PRS Guitars 25th Anniversary Custom 24
Reviewed in: Issue 103

We said: 'After 25 years, the Custom 24 has earned its position as a modern classic, and is one of the few designs that can stand along the likes of the Telecaster, Stratocaster, ES-355 and Les Paul.'
Headline Music Ltd T: 01223 874301 www.prsguitars.com



Gibson Johnny A. Signature Model
Reviewed in: Issue 108

We said: 'Represents a genuine collaboration between artist and manufacturer and is, in our opinion, one of the best new models that the company has come up with in a long time.'
T: 0800 4442 7661 www.gibson europe.com

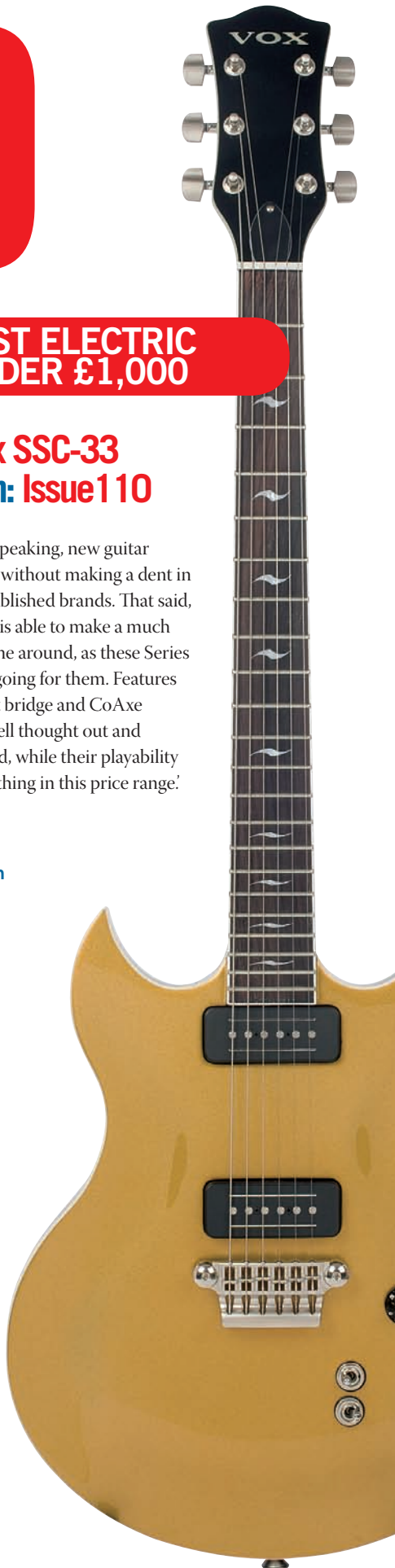
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1 BEST ELECTRIC UNDER £1,000

Winner: Vox SSC-33
Reviewed in: Issue 110

We said: 'Generally speaking, new guitar designs come and go without making a dent in the sales of more established brands. That said, we do hope that Vox is able to make a much bigger impact this time around, as these Series 33 guitars have a lot going for them. Features like the MaxConnect bridge and CoAxe pickups have been well thought out and expertly implemented, while their playability will easily match anything in this price range.'

Korg UK
T: 01908 857130
www.voxamps.com



AND THE RUNNERS UP ARE



Epiphone Les Paul Standard 1959
Reviewed in: Issue 105

We said: 'You can physically feel the BurstBuckers' fulsome growl rattling your chest cavity and giving your internal organs a good stirring; this is certainly a great-sounding guitar.'

T: 0800 4442 7661 www.epiphone.com



Fender American Special Strat & Tele
Reviewed in: Issue 107

We said: 'There's little feeling of compromise or cutting corners here; these are solid, dependable guitars at an attractive price that turn in an impressive performance.'

T: 01342 331700 www.fender.co.uk



G&L Tribute Rampage Jerry Cantrell
Reviewed in: Issue 107

We said: 'Rock, pure and unadulterated. If you are an Alice In Chains fan and want to cop the Cantrell vibe for a lower price, then you are going to want this guitar no matter what we say.'

Go To Guitars Ltd
T: 01925 444696 www.glguitars.com

1 BEST ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Winner: **Baden A-style** Reviewed in: **Issue 107**

We said: 'The Baden A-style is an impeccably put together and beautiful-sounding instrument which offers hand-built quality for a relatively modest price. Whatever your opinion of the minimalist and modern aesthetics, they sound every bit as classy as the classic acoustic guitars that we all covet and, for all but the most confirmed traditionalist, are highly recommended.'

440 Distribution
T: 01132 589599
www.badenguitars.com



AND THE RUNNERS UP ARE



Moon 0003 Reviewed in: **Issue 104**

We said: 'An interesting beast. At £1,600, it's incredibly affordable for a hand-built, luthier instrument. If you want a hand-built guitar, this is pretty much the entry level price, and the 0003 justifies it completely.'
T: 0141 632 9526 www.moonguitars.co.uk



Vintage V1200N Reviewed in: **Issue 106**

We said: 'The V1200N feels like another genuine step forward for Vintage - a sub-£400 guitar that looks like something considerably more expensive, with great playability to back it up.'
JHS T: 01132 865381 www.jhs.co.uk



Walden Madera CD4040 Reviewed in: **Issue 108**

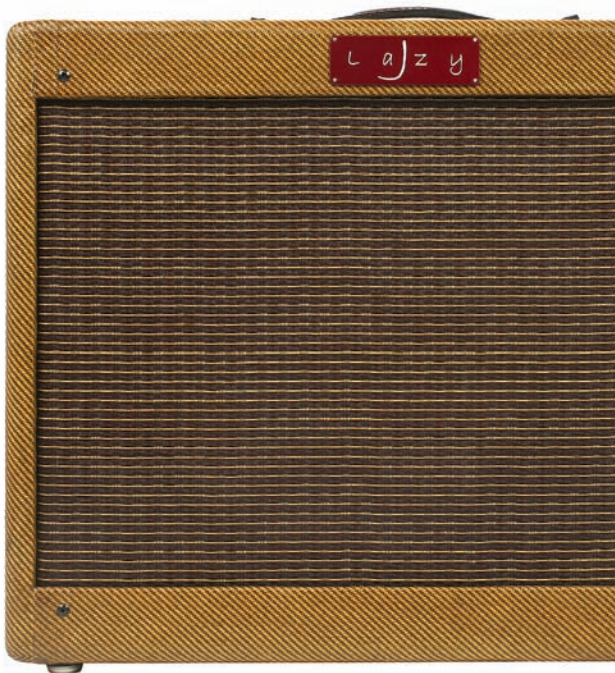
We said: 'It appears Walden has produced a guitar that allows you to do your bit for the planet without looking like you knit your own yoghurt. Best of all, that doesn't come at the cost of performance.'
FCN Music
T:01892 603730 www.waldenguitars.com

1 BEST AMP

Winner: Lazy J J20
Reviewed in: Issue 106

We said: 'Easily one of the best amps being made in the UK today. Over two decades, Jesse Hoff has corrected perceived inadequacies in the Tweed Deluxe design but at the same time ensured that none of his additions get in the way of the thing that matters most – tone. And on this amp, it's nothing short of remarkable.'

Lazy J Projects T: 0843 289 4089
www.lazyjprojects.com



AND THE RUNNERS UP ARE

Mesa transatlantic TA-15
Reviewed in: Issue 109

We said: 'This amp, with its ease of use and tonal versatility, really is a pro piece of kit that, matched with the right cab, would cover almost every conceivable musical situation in the right context.'

Westside Distribution
www.west sidedistribution.com
www.mesaboogie.com



Blackstar HT Club 40
Reviewed in: Issue 108

We said: 'If you need that flexibility of tone, great cleans and raucous overdrive, there is every chance you will love the HT Club 40. It's a jack of all trades and a master of more than a couple of them.'

Blackstar Amplification
T: 01604 652844
www.blackstaramps.co.uk



Volt Over-drive Super RR
Reviewed in: Issue 104

We said: 'Geoff Pugh is keen to stress that he sees this head as a musical instrument in its own right. On the evidence of our own ears, we'd have to agree. Whoever they are, the future owners of this amp are guaranteed one thing: great tone for life.'

Aston Electronics
T: 01785 812071
www.astonelectronics.co.uk



1 BEST FX

Winner: MXR Custom Shop '75 Vintage Phase 45
Reviewed in: Issue 107

We said: 'For the first time in this particular reviewer's career I can honestly say that as a player there is now a reissue that I would buy instead of an original. On top of how wonderful it sounds, at first glance even a seasoned MXR expert will still have to ask you 'is that an original?', the only clue being how new this unit looks.'

T: 01132 865381
www.jimdunlop.com



AND THE RUNNERS UP ARE

Providence Stampede OD
Reviewed in: Issue 112

We said: 'The first thing that comes to mind when playing through the Stampede OD - 'Where have you been all my life?'

T: 01227 832558
www.providence.jp



Diamond Vibrato
Reviewed in: Issue 112

We said: 'The Diamond Vibrato is one of the most musical and luscious sounding effects we've had the pleasure to come across.'

Rose Lane Music
0151 709 7171
www.diamondpedals.com



Pro Co Limited Edition '85 Whiteface Rat
Reviewed in: Issue 109

We said: 'Pro Co has produced the Rat we know and love, exactly as it was when we first heard it in the mid '80s. Simply stellar.'

Aria UK Ltd T:01483 238720
www.procosound.com

