



Vintage Guitar[®] Gear Reviews

magazine



Delicious Curves

The M-Tone Slipstream

When it comes to custom, hand-made guitars, many prefer an instrument that innately reveals the work of its craftsman

While many custom axes are modified/“improved” versions of Strats, Teles, and Les Pauls, M-Tone guitars are knock-offs of nothing. Its double-cutaway design reaches more for a gumby’d Teisco or Eko body

The Slipstream has a one-piece mahogany body and gorgeous, hand-carved Pau Ferro neck with an oil finish; prepare to swoon, folks – it’s downright seductive, and topped with a 22-fret rosewood fingerboard with a 12" radius and 25.5" neck scale. Other details include Hipshot locking tuners, Lollar P-90 single-coil pickups, black-finished master Volume and Tone controls, a snazzy six-saddle bridge, and three-way pickup selector.

able for a long gig, especially with the Slipstream’s curvaceous edges and rear contour cut. There’s also a “Jackbite” body cut in the rear, which shelters the cable end and provides a nice design nuance.

Plugged in, the Slipstream exhibits many personalities despite its simple layout. With dual P-90s, you might expect your basic Les Paul Junior attack. Sure, you can play all the driving rock-and-roll you want, but the M-Tone has a great jam-band dimension, ripe for any Jerry Garcia-isms you care to roll its way. Ladle on some tremolo and reverb, and take the Slipstream for a surfy ride along the beach, or delve into whatever blues, country, or funk ideas you have in mind. The Slipstream sounds terrific with washes of chorus,



M-TONE SLIPSTREAM

Price: \$2,600

Info: m-tone.com

– the type that, instead of merely being a replica of a famous body shape, can be held and admired for its details. Matt Proctor’s M-Tone Slipstream is a good example.

shape than anything immediately familiar. Same with the headstock; it’s six-on-a-side design says “Fender,” but the shape is more a stockinged foot than a Tele, and its logo is set in relief. It’s complex, but attractive.

Proctor throws in other interesting features, such as a lack of plastic; the pickguard and control plate are 16-gauge steel, surfaced to match the finish of each guitar. Final appointments include a pleasantly quirky array of aluminum fingerboard dots (“strategically placed,” Matt notes), and a 1957 Sputnik badge sunk into the top horn. Nicely done, comrade! The whole kit-and-kaboodle comes in a manageable 7.6 pounds, comfort-

reverb, and echo, creating a retro shimmer perfect for post-bop improvisation. Personality-wise, the sky’s the limit and, with the guitar’s supple neck, getting there is a joy.

The M-Tone Slipstream is what we want to see in a custom guitar – true uniqueness and superlative craftsmanship in a compelling package. This guitar is gorgeous, plays great, and sounds wicked. – **Pete Prown VG**