

Vintage Joe Doe JDV24 'Hot Rod' Cali-Sunset Burst

Nick Jennison explores the fiery charm of the Vintage JDV24 Joe Doe 'Hot Rod' in Cali-Sunset Burst, a guitar that combines audacious design with exceptional playability. From eye-catching finish to the custom-engineered pickups, the Joe Doe 'Hot Rod' promises to be a thrilling addition to any guitarist's arsenal.

I'VE said it numerous times in the past, but I love Joe Doe Guitars. In an industry that can take itself far too seriously at times, Ben Court's designs are unapologetically fun, humorous and charming. In case you're unfamiliar with this brand, Joe Doe guitars make "signature" instruments for fictional characters - a cast including a gas station attendant with perfect musical

recall, a US Navy boiler technician with an impressive collection of nautical tattoos, and a prison warden who outlawed inmates from playing above the 12th fret.

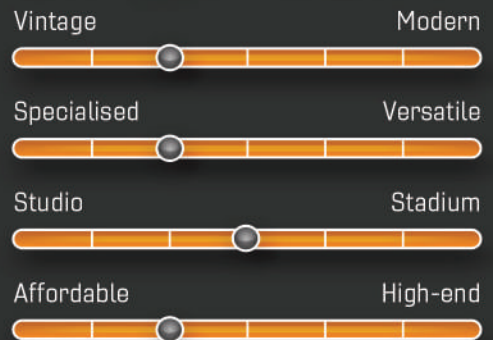
The subject of today's review is the Hot Rod - the guitar of an imaginary pair of hell-raising twins, Bernie and Ernie Angelo. It's resplendent in a candy sparkle sunburst finish





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The Breakdown



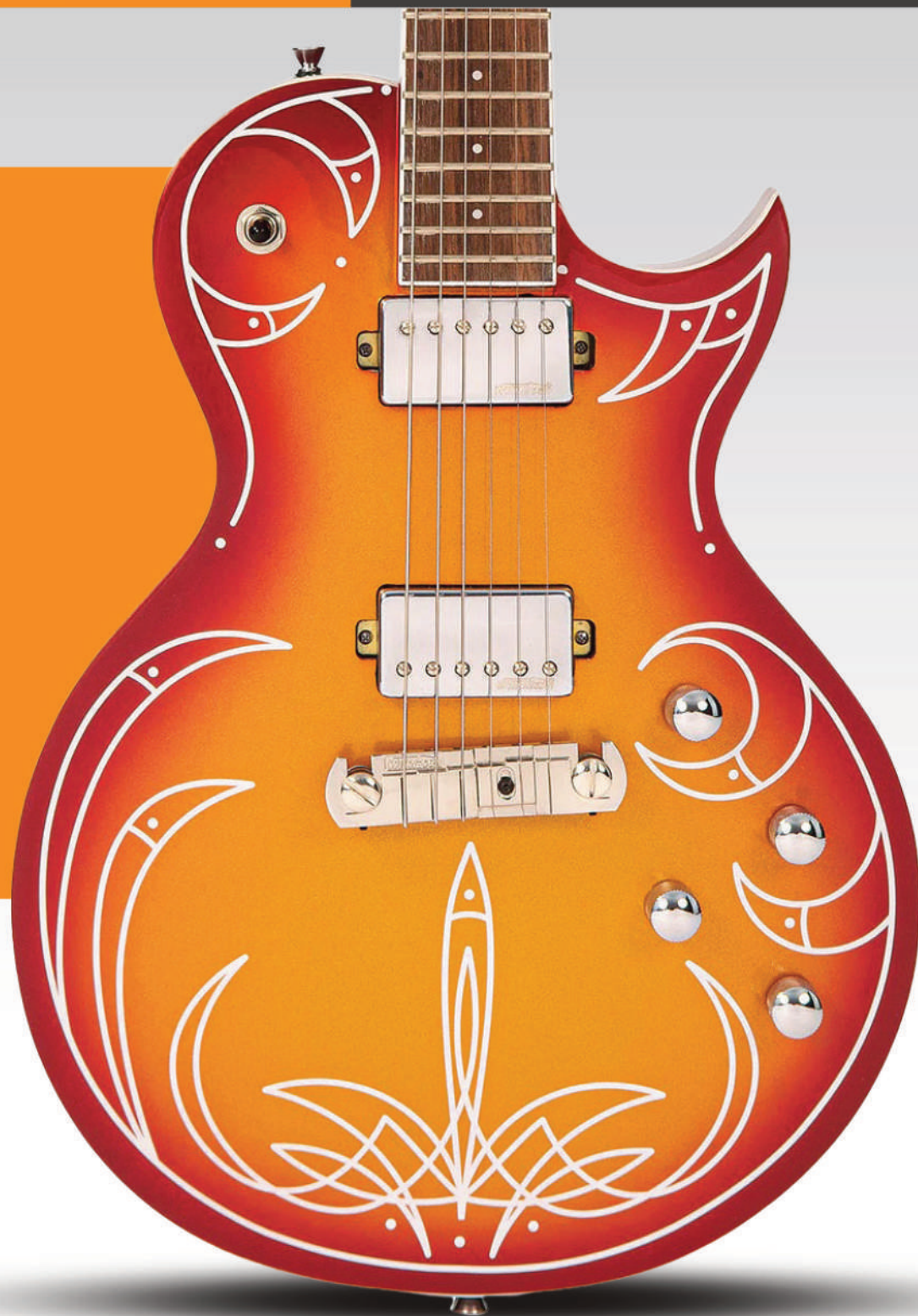
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The Hot Rod is another home run from Joe Doe

and decked out in pinstripes with stickers all up the back of the neck, all of which look and feel like a previous owner has applied them but are under the clearcoat, so they'll stay put. It's a very cool look that screams "trucker metal" as much as it does "rockabilly".

Of course, all of this is for nought unless the guitar itself is good. Made collaboration with Vintage guitars, Joe Doe guitars exhibit the same excellent build quality and attention to detail that we love about the other guitars in the Vintage range, and this model is no exception. At its core, it's a Vintage V100 single with a mahogany/maple construction, 24.75" scale and a pair of Joe Doe "Burnout" humbuckers. The only real deviation from the classic "LP" recipe is the one-piece wraparound bridge, which comes with a movable G and B string saddle for easy intonation adjustments regardless of string gauge. From the factory, it comes set up with a comfy "medium-low" action that's in the sweet spot for most playing styles, but the fretwork is good enough to get said action super low if that's your thing.

Sonically, the Hot Rod is very much a classic humbucker guitar with a solid low end and a pronounced, slightly honky midrange. Interestingly, though, there isn't a ton of output (this is not a bad thing), and I think this is in part due to the direct mount humbuckers and how far the bridge pickup, in particular, is away from the strings. It'd be easy to adjust this with a spacer underneath the pickup, but the "stock" sound is more airy and slightly softer in the transient than similar guitars, which is excellent for more traditional styles like blues, surf, rockabilly and even classic rock. Metalheads might want a bit more "beef", but a pickup height adjustment will take care of that.

The Hot Rod is another home run from Joe Doe - a guitar that is as functional as it is fun. It looks great and has a great story to go with it, but it is also a rock-solid and reliable working instrument. If you're into the aesthetic and want a great humbucker guitar that won't break the bank, this might be the one for you.

