

Fret-King FKV1 Eclat Standard

Since 1993, Fret-King California has been listening to guitarists of all stripes—from the renowned and famous, to the ‘journeymen’ players, to the local heroes, as well as to the critics, the press, their peers and competitors. With all that in mind, the brand’s latest new release will be its best yet, packed with useable features, superb playability, and expanded tonal signature edge. **Nick Jennison** reviews the 2022 Fret-King FKV1 Eclat Standard.

AS a working player, Fret-King guitars have always appealed to me. While their designs are visually reminiscent of classic guitars from the mid-20th century, they’re anything but straight copies. Every aspect of every Fret-King guitar has been examined critically through the lens of the working professional player, with a view to making a more versatile, more playable, more reliable instrument. Combine that with my well-documented love of P90s and you have a guitar that’s right up my street - the Fret-King FKV1 Eclat Standard.

At first glance, this guitar looks like your typical two-pickup LP Junior (ok, LP Special) - a singlecut slab of mahogany with a flat top, a stop tailpiece and a pair of P90s. »



Fret-King FKV1 Eclat Standard

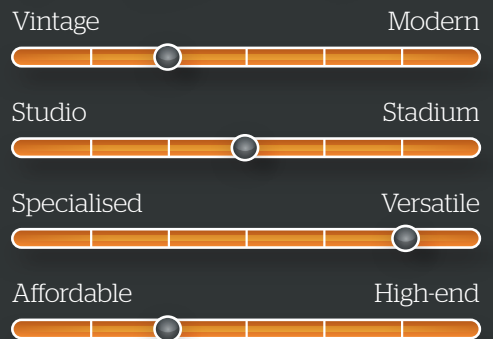
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Fret-King FKV1 Eclat Standard

MSRP: (UK) £779 / (US) \$TBC

The Breakdown



For fans of

Working man aesthetics

Working pro features

Guitars that 'just work'

For more information, please visit:

[jhs.co.uk/collections/
fret-king-guitars](https://jhs.co.uk/collections/fret-king-guitars)



“Fret King has **knocked it out of the park** yet again with the Eclat Standard...”

As you'd expect from Fret-King though, there's way more under the hood. The cutaway is deeper and sharper, offering better upper fret access, and the mahogany neck features a substantial heel and a deep neck tenon for a more solid connection between neck and body. The top is flat, but the back has a ribcage contour that not only improves comfort, but also stability both on a strap and on your lap.

You'd be forgiven for thinking two P90s might offer a limited tonal palate, but the Eclat Standard has a very cool trick up its sleeve in this regard - a Varicoil knob. This control allows you to take the Soapstack P90s and progressively roll in the “stack” part of the coil. Wind the Varicoil up full, and the tone becomes super fat and vocal, with tons of power and midrange for soaring leads and laying down big slabs of riff. Beyond that, you have a three-way toggle, and master volume and tone controls, which might have you lamenting that you can't do the “killswitch” trick that LP players are so fond of... except you can, because the volume control doubles as a latching push-push killswitch! With the Varicoil rolled all the way out, you have all the true single coil sparkle and glassiness you could ever desire, but with the added low-end grunt you'd expect from a great P90.

Playability is predictably excellent, with a comfortably low action and a satin-finished, medium C profile neck. Further

functional upgrades come courtesy of a set of Wilkinson non-locking tuners, a Graph Tech self-lubricating nut and a Wilkinson aluminium adjustable wrap-around bridge, complete with an adjustable saddle for the 2nd and 3rd strings to accommodate a wide variety of string gauges.

Fret King has knocked it out of the park yet again with the Eclat Standard. It has everything we love about slab-bodied P90 guitars, but with massive improvements in versatility, playability and reliability. The build quality and feature set are just incredible for the price, and it wouldn't look or sound out of place in just about any musical setting.

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