



TEYE CLEOPATRA

SPECIFICATIONS

CLEOPATRA

CONTACT	teye.com
PRICE	\$4,950 street
NUT WIDTH	1.75"
NECK	Mahogany
FRETBOARD	25.5"-scale bound ebony with Teye inlay
FRETS	24 medium jumbo
TUNERS	Grover Super Rotomatic Imperials
BODY	Mahogany with maple cap
BRIDGE	Teye SuperSustain with Teye SuperSustain tailpiece
PICKUPS	Two custom-wound Jason Lollar humbuckers
CONTROLS	Two Volume, MasterTone, Master MOJO, 5-way switch
FACTORY STRINGS	D'Addario, .010-.046
EXTRAS	Acid/laser etched aluminum plates with Teye's A-series styled artwork
WEIGHT	8.1 lbs
BUILT	USA
KUDOS	Gorgeous cosmetics. Deep, rich tones. Astounding flexibility.
CONCERNS	None.

I'VE BEEN A FAN OF TEYE GUITARS since I reviewed their beautiful Coyote model in the November 2014 issue. The Cleopatra is every bit as gorgeous, with its acid/laser-etched aluminum top plate, sumptuous inlays, wonderfully figured mahogany back and neck, and cool graphics. It's simply one of the most eye-catching guitars you'll ever come across. Some observers found the blending of materials and colors to be a little over the top, but I think they're brilliantly over the top. The only potential bummer about the cosmetics is that the pretty tailpiece and the saw-blade-style wheels on the bridge are super sharp, and could absolutely draw blood, although I made it through an entire rehearsal with no injuries whatsoever.

Cleopatra plays and feels great, even with a fairly high action. I encountered a few buzzes in the upper regions, but nothing that bummed me out or came through an amp. The neck is beefy and substantial, and not only provides great support for my big-but-fragile hands, but also contributes to Cleo's resonant, sustaining tones.

The funniest thing about these Teye guitars—and the Cleo in particular—is that they sound so good, you don't care *what* they look like. The two custom-wound Lollar humbuckers are perfectly voiced, with a combination of stout output and dynamic detail that is uncommon and supremely musical. If all you got was the standard 3-position

Les Paul-style switching options, this would still be an amazing guitar. But you get tons more with a 5-position switch, two excellent Volume controls, a boldly voiced and very usable Tone control, and the secret weapon: Teye's Mojo knob—a low-end roll-off that radically broadens the scope of every pickup selection. By subtly manipulating these controls, I could get huge rock raunch, squeaky-clean funk tones, spanky SRV neck-pickup flavors, and many, many more sounds—all without ever touching my distorted amp or switching channels. The Mojo knob alone can really transform the tones, but in tandem with the Volume knobs it's truly incredible. The 5-way switch also features a cool, out-of-phase two-pickup tone in position 4, and that gives rise to some awesome Jimmy Page sounds. It's just an astounding array of tones that can cover every style I can think of.

Here's how I know how great this guitar is: I've never wanted a guitar that looks like this. I've never been into the whole Zemaitis thing, or fancy inlay, or any of that. As soon as I plugged Cleopatra in, however, I started obsessing about how I could afford to make this guitar part of my life. (Thankfully for my bank account, this instrument was already sold.) Teye is doing things with cosmetics and tones that you won't really find anywhere else. You really do owe it to yourself to check out one of these fascinating guitars.

—MATT BLACKETT