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Subject: OT: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 06:07:19 GMT

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Wondering if these make the cool giggin' guitar they appear to be (looking at starting a 2 man ac gtr act).

Anyone got one/use one/played one/heard one?

Mucho Gracias

AA

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Subject: Re: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?

Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 17:32:43 GMT

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Aaron,

You can contact my keyboard/guitar player (doug at mindsearstudio dot com) and he'll be glad to answer any questions. He plays one with our band Standing Hampton (www.standinghampton.com). We play 60 plus gigs a year and as far as I know, he's had no problems. As with all modeling systems, it won't convert the die hard tone junkies, but for versatility, and rig simplification, it's killer. I personally think it does a decent job of emulating different guitars.

Tony

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not\_here.dude> wrote in message  
news:4578fe97@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 18:12:16 GMT

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The Variax 700 acoustic (not to be confused with the 700 electric, Line 6 has a confusing model numbering system) has been great for solo gigs. Sounds very good through the PA, better than the Ovation I previously used for that. I've gotten good use out of the alternate tuning features and multiple guitar models. Appreciate the on-board compressor. It's the only Line 6 guitar with 24 frets, which it has for the upper strings. No feedback problems. Can't tap on the body of the guitar for percussion but otherwise a gem.

Haven't played the 300 acoustic (not to be confused with the 300 electric) but if it sounds anything like the 700 acoustic it's worth checking out. No alt tuning and just a single (but variable) guitar model, it would probably do fine for straight acoustic guitar stuff. Has reverb and a tuner which are not available on the 700. They also have a nylon string version of the 300 acoustic.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

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Subject: Re: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?  
Posted by [ottawarocks](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 18:24:48 GMT

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"Aaron Allen" <[know-spam@not\\_here.dude](mailto:know-spam@not_here.dude)> wrote in message  
news:4578fe97@linux...

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I don't own one, nor have I spent any significant time playing one, so my opinion doesn't count ;-)

However, my first impressions of all Variax (electric) guitars I put my hands on was that they felt cheap. I'd be willing to pay big bucks for the Variax guts in a decent guitar, though.

For the record, I use their flagship modelling amp (Vetta II) and am constantly amazed at all it can do. All I'm missing now is a Variax-like input into it... but I just know that no matter how flexible the Variax might be, if it feels like junk compared to my main axe, it won't get played and will just gather dust.

Dan

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Subject: Re: OT: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 18:29:51 GMT  
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Ah, I thought Aaron was asking about the electric. My bad.

Tony

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:4579a864\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 08 Dec 2006 18:48:56 GMT  
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I know what you mean with the electrics, I've played the 300 and 700 electrics and they are not top-end instruments. Workable and decent sounding, though, and amazingly flexible.

I went with the 700 electric for a better build, feel and look, but I'll bet the 600 is OK for a more stratish setup. The 300s (electrics) I've played have varied widely in fit and finish, some much better than others.

The 700 Acoustics I've played have had good feel, best of the bunch, and the few I tried were pretty consistent. My first one had an immediate electronic problem, the replacement has been dependable. You should try that model. Haven't played the 300 Acoustics but if they're made in the same place as the 700 acoustic they may be fine.

For the electrics, some people have been transplanting the guts, especially the 300 electric's guts, into better guitars. That's tempting.

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D.P. wrote:  
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Subject: Re: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?  
Posted by [Bill Lorentzen](#) on Sat, 09 Dec 2006 11:53:36 GMT  
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I haven't spent much time with the electrics either but my first impressions were, 1) cheap gtr and, 2) sort of a disconnect with the sound. It did not feel immediate and inspiring to me.

I'm interested to hear about the acoustic nylon, if it plays well and sounds good. I've been trying to get a real nylon sound live for a long time and while pickups are better than nothing, they don't ever sound like the real thing.

Bill L

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:4579b0fd@linux...

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Subject: Re: Anyone here using a Variax 300 steel string?

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 09 Dec 2006 18:17:57 GMT

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Yeah, the nylon 300 acoustic is intriguing. The 700 acoustic (steel string) has a nylon emulation that's semi-usable. But a version that's actually strung with nylon should be better for that.

As far as immediacy goes, I can tell you that the sound on my 700 electric is immediate and inspiring. I am feeling no disconnect with the sound.

For example it holds up well in comparison to my PRS. The playability of the PRS is better but the 700 electric is certainly playable. The PRS is more tonally flexible than a lot of other electrics, but the 700 electric is even more tonally flexible: It has decent models of a vast range of electrics, plus acoustic sounds, along with alternate tunings and customizable sounds via WorkBench software, very cool.

For example I can put a jazzy mellow neck humbucking sound next to twangy middle/bridge single coil sound (no hum), next to an acoustic sound, next to a screaming bridge humbucking sound, next to a single coil neck sound, in any order, all on one 5 way pickup switch bank.

I can change tunings: go to drop D, an open tuning, a usable octave down bass or drop an acoustic guitar down a half step, at the flick of the switch. Keep in mind that the farther you tune a string electronically, the more you can hear that transposition is electronically done, but it's still a very useful and usable trick.

The biggest problem with my 700 electric is the whammy bar: it wobbles in its socket and there are some setup issues with keeping in tune after whammy use...I need to get that looked at. Also, the neck is only 22 frets and I like to have 24 like on the PRS.

Both do great at gigs. What I take to the gig depends on what's needed.

As far as the acoustic 700, it's great for solo acoustic gigs and non-stereo recording. I thought about selling it when I got the electric 700 but they are both keepers. If I were buying one now I'd also check out the acoustic 300 and then decide.

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