
Subject: Stonebridge guitars?

Posted by [guitar.ottawa](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 14:39:59 GMT

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Note: is this an appropriate post for this section of the forum? I honestly don't even know what the "general" area is (I only get IDEA.EMUEnsoniqPARIS, whatever that is)... apologies if I should have posted to a different area...

I went out last week to try a Larrivee acoustic at the local shop. The salesguy asked me a few questions about what I was looking for, pointed out a nice Larrivee LV-09E, but also invited me to try this Stonebridge 23CR.

I didn't know much about Stonebridge, but he told me a bit about them, and a later search on the web revealed a few things. Made in the Czech Republic (well known for luthiers making other stringed instruments like violins and cellos, but a relatively new comer to the world of acoustic guitars). The 23CR is solid rosewood back/sides, a very nice cedar top, ebony fingerboard, tusq saddle and nut. No electronics at all, so you have to account for the addition of <whatever> if you're going to compare it with the Larrive LV-09E.

First chord I strummed was stunning on the Stonebridge. Chimes like a piano. Just unbelievable. In comparison, the Larrivee sounded muffled (note that the Larrivee has a spruce top, which takes a bit longer to open up than the Stonebridge's cedar top, if I recall?).

Since I know little about acoustic guitars, and also since I don't have such good ears, I wanted to ask around and see what others know about Stonebridge. I'm sure its resale value would be a lot less than a Larrivee or a Taylor (can hardly find any on eBay or Craigslist). But "investment value" aside, and just for the sake of its quality and sound, any opinions out there?

I did find a few flaws with it: (1) When bending strings, the Stonebridge goes out of tune (whereas the Larrivee staid perfectly in tune). Is there a nut-tweaking approach to solving this? (2) No electronics at all, though many here would consider this an advantage, i.e. get the guitar you want, then add the electronics you want; (3) Very strong mids, which might be considered an advantage, I'm just not sure... sometimes it sounded a little nasal, but I wasn't playing my best, was in the middle of a showroom, and didn't spend much time.

Anyhow, if any of you out there have played a Stonebridge, I'd like to hear your opinions.

For the record, the 23CR's cost is \$1900, while the Larrivee LV-09E was \$2500. Once you add the electronics into the Stonebridge, you're about at the same cost (or close enough) to a sure-valued Larrivee.

Any input much appreciated...
Dan
