
Subject: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [ottawarocks](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 14:13:09 GMT
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I'm usually an electric player, but I need to buy a decent acoustic (with electronics). I tried a bunch of brands, and seem to be converging towards a Taylor (something along the 714CE or 814CE).

Before I commit to an actual purchase, I wanted to ask around for any potential advice. As much as I'd love to buy from a luthier, I don't think I'll get much traction with my planned budget (as a reference, the 714CE would cost around \$2800). I don't know many luthiers, and the ones I do know have a worldwide reputation (and are therefore not making guitars for \$2800 - more like \$5k and up).

While reading Taylor reviews, I've seen several references to the Martin OMC-Aura, so I went to try it out. I found it to be incredibly ugly, but quite playable, although the action is typical Martin (i.e. high action, a guitar that you have to dig in hard). Since I play mostly electric, the nice low action of Taylors is appealing to me.

Anyone out there able to make some suggestions? General or specific, good or bad, I'm quite open to any ideas.

Thanks,
Dan

Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 16:24:20 GMT
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Personally, I love Taylors, but I'm far from an expert in this area. They do have the much touted Neve pickup system, which has been well reviewed.

You might also look at the Taylor model that is a hybrid acoustic/electric. If you are using it live, then this might be a good choice. Very playable and sounds pretty decent in both acoustic and electric modes, although it will never replace your Strat or Les Paul.

D.P. wrote:

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Subject: Re: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 16:51:18 GMT
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A key factor is what kind of music you want to play on the "acoustic electric" If you play Bluegrass, it's different than if you play Jazz.. You can make a "AE" out of any acoustic guitar...there are many good sounding systems out there to install (Baggs, Fishman etc)...Taylors are good...but they don't hold up well if you travel much..(I've had 3 of them, sold them all) Check out some of the top of the line Takamines, Seagull, Collings...The Taylor hybrid is cool...but the good ones are very expensive..the lower ones suck (imho)

"D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote in message news:4795fd73@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 17:56:07 GMT
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A Collings 12 fret to the neck 00-18 and a mic ;-)

I'd try out a Breedlove before settling on the Taylor for sure. Very nice, modern guitar, not a Martin/Gibson copy. They make some in the price range you're talking about.

TCB

"D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Mark McDermott](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 18:29:43 GMT
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DP,

The Taylors you mention are both fine guitars. I own a 410ce and a 356ce
12-string and absolutely love them.

I think you'll find that once you get to the 400-series that there isn't
a tremendous difference in overall sound, but more subtle differences due
to the tone woods.

However, 400-series up will get you the "Taylor" sound. Really useful, especially
if you're planning on playing acoustic leads.

My duo partner plays a very high-end Guild, which has a much more rounded
and mellow sound as compared to the Taylor. The two instruments sound great
together.

BTW, I went to the store with cash in hand to buy my first Martin and I left
with my first Taylor!

Hope this helps.

Mark

"D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 18:43:34 GMT
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For live acoustic guitar gigs I currently use a Line 6 Variax 700
Acoustic modeling guitar. This is the one that looks like an acoustic
guitar, not the PRS-ish looking electric 700 version, although I have
one of those too.

The acoustic 700 VAX sounds quite good through the PA. It doesn't feed
back. Even when using the built-in compressor which is really nice to
use on fingerpicked songs.

Acoustically it's fairly quiet, good for late night practicing without
waking anyone. But without plugging it in, it's not a booming
sing-around-the-campfire acoustic guitar.

It has multiple guitar models to choose from including several that are bread and butter, plus a few non-guitar models like banjo, sitar and mandella.

It also can do alternate tunings on the fly (via DSP so not quite as great as tuning them yourself, but for live it's fine and - important for shows - instant). It can also imitate a 12 string (again via DSP).

It looks good, with nice grain on the top. It's has a shallow body. It plays well. The upper strings have 24 frets, very rare for an acoustic.

It's more affordable than a high-end acoustic, and therefore less of a risk at gigs. It sounds as good or better through a PA than any other acoustic guitar I've heard.

The only acoustic guitar thing it doesn't do well is body slaps, which is probably why it never feeds back.

The output is mono. I do use it for recording direct sometimes. It sits nicely in the track and is good for L/R panned part doubling using different models.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

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Subject: Re: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 20:45:47 GMT
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you might want to check out the Roland VG99. killer acoustic models.
"D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote in message news:4795fd73@linux...
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 02:46:30 GMT
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HiDan-

The Taylor 714 is a very nice guitar. Taylors are actually pretty good for
amping and recording, they're well balanced. I had a 612 C- 3 part back,

all maple,
and it was a great guitar, very even, but too bright and not enough bottom
end for the acoustic stuff I do. I switched to a Lowden 010, that has a fabulous
low end, and enough balance throughout. A very big sounding guitar. I run
it through the Baggs M1 Active and a para DI. People usually comment on the
big, but beautiful tone.

Having said that, I switch a fair bit back and forth between electric and
acoustic
and the neck is a bit wide for me to make the switch as smoothly as I would
like.
So, while I love its tone, I'm planning on moving to a guitar with a neck
closer
to that of the Strat, PRS, Tele etc that I also play.

I echo Thad's recommendation of a Collings, these are fantastic guitars.
I also am
loving Santa Cruz which have a couple of models in that price range - the

Pre War issues - OM/PW, D/PW. I likely will end up with the D/PW which is
as
big as I need, but also sweet and clear enough for fingerstyle.

Here is a helpful link to a comparison of guitars in the \$2K - \$3K range.

<http://www.acousticguitar.com/issues/ag107/feature107.html>

I think you're in Ottawa, (from your email addy) so check to make sure the
prices have come down with the recent growth of the CDN \$.

Hope this is helpful,

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with the

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [jim drago](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 04:32:05 GMT
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How about the ovation VXT seems like a nice guitar.
<http://www.thevxt.com/>

"Ted Gerber" <tedgerber@rogers.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [ottawarocks](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 13:49:58 GMT
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Once again, thanks to all for the contributions...

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But I read some comments on the Variax that make me nervous - I cannot find a Variax locally, and may have to (gulp!) mail-order one. The comment in question comes up frequently in various review databases, and goes along these lines: apparently, the Variax 700 has a significant deficiency in the sustain area (enough to be considered an unacceptable compromise by several reviewers).

So Jamie (and anyone else who "believes" in the Variax): did you find such a flaw in the Variax's sustain? How usable is it really? And (as an add-on bonus question) how convincing and artifact-free are the altered tunings?

Would you trust it enough to buy one via mail order?

Thanks to all again,
Dan

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:47963ccf\$1@linux...

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> www.JamieKrutz.com
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 19:14:21 GMT
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I dunno about Variaxen as a belief system, they're merely clever guitars. :^)

1) Sustain issues: I have no issues with sustain. In fact, the built-in compressor lets you increase the apparent sustain without fear of feedback.

Note that I'm speaking of the _Acoustic 700_. The one that looks like an acoustic guitar. That's the one I'm recommending for your described use.

1A) Comparing to the _Electric 700_: Meanwhile the _Electric 700_ (which I also have) DOES have some sustain issues when you select the Strat body as part of an emulation, because the Strat they modeled (a 56 or 57?) had less sustain than the Les Paul they modeled. And people noticed this and complained.

The workaround for the _Electric 700_ Strat is to change the body selection to one of the other electric body choices. It will still sound like a Strat because of the pickup emulation setup, but it will have longer sustain. Works great.

You'll need to have the add-on Workbench software to do this, which also works great for designing your own hybrid emulations. I set one up to sound similar to my PRS, for example, on all five pickup selector positions. Cool stuff.

I think it's hugely confusing that Line 6 gave the number "700" to two very different guitars. It's possible you were reading reviews for the wrong 700.

BTW, the Electric 700 also does a couple of acoustic sounds. Pretty well, too, but not as well as the Acoustic 700. Probably because the Acoustic 700 has heavier strings a different physical body, different programming and that handy compressor control. But I have used the Electric 700 on an acoustic gig and people told me they didn't have a problem with the acoustic sound out front.

However I prefer the Acoustic 700 for those gigs because it looks and feels more like an acoustic, I can lay into the heavier strings more, and I like the control the built-in compressor gives me. It also has a better build quality and more frets.

But the Electric makes a good backup for the Acoustic, especially for shows where I'm going to switch to the Electric for jazz/rock stuff, so both guitars come along for the ride anyway.

2) Altered tunings: Not perfect. The farther you transpose away from the original string's note, the less perfect it is. It's OK for transposing down a half or whole step, which is great for getting a song into a more comfortable key to sing. It's great for instantly getting to DADGAD or other alternate tunings for those huge sounding chords, or some open tuning slide work. It's usable for 12 string emulations where the high string sounds are still doubled by the original string frequency.

To make it into a bass, it sounds passable an octave down on the bottom three strings (especially using the nylon emulation), but not so good an octave down on the top three strings. You can drop any string individually so it's easy to set up a patch with a couple of bass strings and the rest as normal guitar tuning.

It would sound a little weird if you used the DSP to tune it up an octave and play only the detuned sounds alone.

Bottom line, it's good enough for a lot of stuff, and it's instant. None of the other guitars you mentioned offer it, so it's just icing on the cake. I regularly do live multitracking with a normal guitar tuning, a DADGAD tuning, a drop D tuning, a bass tuning and then throw a sitar

part on top, all without stopping to physically tune or switch instruments.

3) Mail order: If I had the option to send it back in case it had neck problems or something, I'd consider buying mail order. But I prefer to buy guitars from a store where I can play them (having said that, I've purchased four guitars mail order/ebay and it's worked out OK except for the Variax _Electric 700_, which has a loose whammy bar).

If you're really picky about neck radius and such, you'd want to play _any_ guitar before you buy it. BTW, the Variax plays better than my Ovation.

I played several _Acoustic 700_ guitars before buying mine, both played well, sounded the same. However the one I took home developed a problem on one string. The store (GC) exchanged it without question. The second one has worked fine for several years. Except last week it cut out in rehearsal. But unplugging the cable (which also carries power) and plugging it back in fixed it.

The only chronic problem I've heard of on the _Acoustic 700_ is that some were finished before the bridge was glued, causing the bridge to rise up over time. I believe Line 6 fixes that for free if you get one of those (or any luthier could probably reglue it). But that was several years ago, probably not even a problem any more.

Finally, just to muddy the waters, Line 6 makes two other acoustic models that are less expensive but lack some of the features of the _Acoustic 700_ (no alternate tunings, I think). One is nylon strung, the other steel. I have not played them. If you prefer the sound of nylon strings, check that one out.

Hope that helps.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

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> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:47963ccf\$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [ottawarocks](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 19:50:02 GMT
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Wow, thanks. That is all I wanted to hear (and then some).

Thanks again,
Dan

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:4798e701@linux...
>

> I dunno about Variaxen as a belief system, they're merely clever guitars.
> :^)
>
> 1) Sustain issues: I have no issues with sustain. In fact, the built-in
> compressor lets you increase the apparent sustain without fear of
> feedback.
>
> Note that I'm speaking of the _Acoustic 700_. The one that looks like an
> acoustic guitar. That's the one I'm recommending for your described use.
>
>
> 1A) Comparing to the _Electric 700_: Meanwhile the _Electric 700_ (which I
> also have) DOES have some sustain issues when you select the Strat body as
> part of an emulation, because the Strat they modeled (a 56 or 57?) had
> less sustain than the Les Paul they modeled. And people noticed this and
> complained.
>
> The workaround for the _Electric 700_ Strat is to change the body
> selection to one of the other electric body choices. It will still sound
> like a Strat because of the pickup emulation setup, but it will have
> longer sustain. Works great.
>
> You'll need to have the add-on Workbench software to do this, which also
> works great for designing your own hybrid emulations. I set one up to
> sound similar to my PRS, for example, on all five pickup selector
> positions. Cool stuff.
>
> I think it's hugely confusing that Line 6 gave the number "700" to two
> very different guitars. It's possible you were reading reviews for the
> wrong 700.
>
> BTW, the _Electric 700_ also does a couple of acoustic sounds. Pretty
> well, too, but not as well as the _Acoustic 700_. Probably because the
> _Acoustic 700_ has heavier strings a different physical body, different
> programming and that handy compressor control. But I have used the
> _Electric 700_ on an acoustic gig and people told me they didn't have a
> problem with the acoustic sound out front.
>
> However I prefer the _Acoustic 700_ for those gigs because it looks and
> feels more like an acoustic, I can lay into the heavier strings more, and
> I like the control the built-in compressor gives me. It also has a better
> build quality and more frets.
>
> But the Electric makes a good backup for the Acoustic, especially for
> shows where I'm going to switch to the Electric for jazz/rock stuff, so
> both guitars come along for the ride anyway.
>
>

> 2) Altered tunings: Not perfect. The farther you transpose away from the
> original string's note, the less perfect it is. It's OK for transposing
> down a half or whole step, which is great for getting a song into a more
> comfortable key to sing. It's great for instantly getting to DADGAD or
> other alternate tunings for those huge sounding chords, or some open
> tuning slide work. It's usable for 12 string emulations where the high
> string sounds are still doubled by the original string frequency.
>
> To make it into a bass, it sounds passable an octave down on the bottom
> three strings (especially using the nylon emulation), but not so good an
> octave down on the top three strings. You can drop any string individually
> so it's easy to set up a patch with a couple of bass strings and the rest
> as normal guitar tuning.
>
> It would sound a little weird if you used the DSP to tune it up an octave
> and play only the detuned sounds alone.
>
> Bottom line, it's good enough for a lot of stuff, and it's instant. None
> of the other guitars you mentioned offer it, so it's just icing on the
> cake. I regularly do live multitracking with a normal guitar tuning, a
> DADGAD tuning, a drop D tuning, a bass tuning and then throw a sitar part
> on top, all without stopping to physically tune or switch instruments.
>
>
> 3) Mail order: If I had the option to send it back in case it had neck
> problems or something, I'd consider buying mail order. But I prefer to buy
> guitars from a store where I can play them (having said that, I've
> purchased four guitars mail order/ebay and it's worked out OK except for
> the Variax _Electric 700_, which has a loose whammy bar).
>
> If you're really picky about neck radius and such, you'd want to play
> _any_ guitar before you buy it. BTW, the Variax plays better than my
> Ovation.
>
> I played several _Acoustic 700_ guitars before buying mine, both played
> well, sounded the same. However the one I took home developed a problem on
> one string. The store (GC) exchanged it without question. The second one
> has worked fine for several years. Except last week it cut out in
> rehearsal. But unplugging the cable (which also carries power) and
> plugging it back in fixed it.
>
>
> The only chronic problem I've heard of on the _Acoustic 700_ is that some
> were finished before the bridge was glued, causing the bridge to rise up
> over time. I believe Line 6 fixes that for free if you get one of those
> (or any luthier could probably reglue it). But that was several years ago,
> probably not even a problem any more.
>

>
> Finally, just to muddy the waters, Line 6 makes two other acoustic models
> that are less expensive but lack some of the features of the _Acoustic
> 700_ (no alternate tunings, I think). One is nylon strung, the other
> steel. I have not played them. If you prefer the sound of nylon strings,
> check that one out.
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> Hope that helps.
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 00:09:01 GMT

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"D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote in message news:47989b01@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 16:42:49 GMT
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alex plasko wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 18:25:38 GMT
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bill, I should have been more specific. I should have said that I'm not crazy

about the Les Paul models. It may be more the way the patch is written than the actual model

The patches using the standard humbuckers and P90's just don't sound right to me. Again I'm saying the factory patches, not the potential of the VG99.

Part of it may also be the amp models they used for those patches.

This thing is endlessly tweakable.

2 separate, simultaneous guitar models, 2 separate simultaneous amp/effects chains, filters, EQ, flexible routing, sheesh.....

and then buss EQ/effects after that.

you want a Rick 360 and a Danelectro 56 through a Marshall stack and a Solano SLO100 at the same time? no problem.

you want altered tuning? the impossible is possible with this thing.

sticking a pickup at the 12th fret? what?

sorry for being unclear about the electric models.

The VG99 has some serious processing power (double the previous)

It fills so many needs I think everyone should get one.

A VG99 through a stereo tube amp like a Mesa 20/20 would be very convenient for gigs.

Anyway, you're going to have to get one to dig in on the capability of this thing, cause a store demo won't give you the picture, unless you spend a day with the manual.

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:479a14f7@linux...

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 20:10:16 GMT

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The earlier VG8 and VG88 were not as good as the Variax at guitar modeling when I tried them. Particularly the acoustic and strat models. I haven't auditioned the VG99 yet but I've been monitoring a discussion group which covers all of the Rolands, including the VG99:

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/vg-8/messages>

From comments on that group, all is not roses with the VG99. But it does offer some advantages:

- 1) Play a guitar you already like.
- 2) It also does amp modeling, (if you like Roland's models)

Disadvantages:

- 1) Another \$1000+
- 2) Another box to haul to gigs
- 3) For me, I'd need the additional footswitch unit
- 4) Requires adding a special pickup system

If the VG99 can do long jump alt tunings with absolutely no artifacts, that's pretty huge. I'll have to hear it to believe it.

From what I've heard, on the MIDI side the tracking is no better than the my GR-33, which isn't that great, but I'm glad they included MIDI out capability anyway (something Line 6 ought to consider).

It's always nice to have another choice.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKruz.com

Bill L wrote:

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> crazy about the electric guitar models..." Really? I would have expected
> the electric guitars to be best. What's wrong with them?

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Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 20:47:52 GMT

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Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 23:16:41 GMT

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Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 23:26:06 GMT
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Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 12:04:41 GMT
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Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 12:59:46 GMT

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Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 13:46:04 GMT
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Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 18:40:20 GMT
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Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 18:51:11 GMT

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>>>>>>>> It's more affordable than a high-end acoustic, and therefore

Hey I know I'm late to this party.. But, I would recommend the following:

- For Live playing:Godin A6
- Or add a Fass Tremolo to your electric

"alex plasko" <alex.plasko@snet.net> wrote:

>if you get a Roland VG99 you wont have the issues that the variax has. I use

>mine with a Brian Moore DC-1/13 and there are no artifacts ,any tuning

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Posted by [Brendan](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 05:06:08 GMT

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [Nei](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 05:45:02 GMT

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I think someone mentioned a Takamine as a possible option much earlier in this thread... I have a Takamine 12-string acoustic with a piezo p'up with built-in volume, bass, & treble controls, from the early 80's (IIRC, i got it in '81 or '82), and it still plays great, sounds nice either mic'ed or using the pickup - I haven't played any of their newer guitars, but if they still make 'em in the same level of quality, I think that brand would definitely be worth checking out.

Neil

"Brendan" <bmcgreev007@hotmail.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 13:47:36 GMT

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GULP OMC Aura, by Martin? \$2750.00!!!! You people must be rich or something.
If I were to spend that kind of dough for an acoustic, I'd expect it to
fly me to Mars, land so I can discover, and fly me back! Otherwise, I'll
stick with my EJ-160 or Ovation.

That said... it is very hard getting a great sound from any acoustic directly

into a mixer or preamp. So many different acoustics I tried. So many different settings and arrangements... it always sounds like a junkie electric to me...

It's nice to have the built in pickup/preamps for quick open mics, or what-nots... but I don't look for that anymore. I stick with mic'n the acoustic (like we use to do -- old school) and control the sound from the preamp/mixer.

Having said that! I recently acquired America's latest DVD... it was a concert in Australia, I think. WoW! they sound almost as good as back in the 70's!

Anyway, I was at the edge of my rocker (yeah, I am that old.. lol.) with the remote. They are STILL playing Ovations! To me, there is nothing better. Just my 2 cents...

~ Ed

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Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 18:14:05 GMT

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 19:34:38 GMT

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And just as important... you can find a nice one used under a grand... no, not the grand piano... that is a grand in one thousand.

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2008 22:46:10 GMT
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>>> "Brendan" <bmcgreev007@hotmail.com> wrote:
>>>> I had the Taylor 414ce Ltd, which I loved however unless you're
>>>> going to fork out another \$1000 or more on an amp, the expression system
>>>> pick-up won't come into it's own. Through a standard P.A, I found the
>ES
>>>> very hard to control the bass. When stumming the bass made a huge boom,
>>> cutting
>>>> over other instruments and when picking the bass notes would ring into
>feedback
>>>> at the drop of a hat.
>>>>
>>>> I've been plying for many years and have had similar problems with
cheaper
>>>> systems but considering the hype Taylor gives it's ES I wasn't expecting
>>>> it. Plus the fact that the ES is more advanced makes it harder to get
>that
>>>> amplified sound you want.
>>>>
>>>> Put it through a Genz Benz or the new Fender acoustatronic Head and
Cab
>>> and
>>>> then you're feeling the love!
>>>>
>>>> Anyhoo, I got the OMC Aura and through the Amp, it's all that
>>>> and a bag of potato chips, plus through the standard PA with
>>>> the band, it sounds really amazing too!

>>>>
>>>> The look is an aquired taste I must say as it's an odd shape if
>>>> you're used to the Dreadnought or even the G/Auditorium and
>>>> there's a lot of bling on it but I love it!
>>>>
>>>> mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:
>>>>> The earlier VG8 and VG88 were not as good as the Variax at guitar
>>>>> modeling when I tried them. Particularly the acoustic and strat models.
>>>>> I haven't auditioned the VG99 yet but I've been monitoring a discussion
>>>>> group which covers all of the Rolands, including the VG99:
>>>>>
>>>>> <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/vg-8/messages>
>>>>>
>>>>> From comments on that group, all is not roses with the VG99. But it
>
>>>>> does offer some advantages:
>>>>>
>>>>> 1) Play a guitar you already like.
>>>>> 2) It also does amp modeling, (if you like Roland's models)
>>>>>
>>>>> Disadvantages:
>>>>>
>>>>> 1) Another \$1000+
>>>>> 2) Another box to haul to gigs
>>>>> 3) For me, I'd need the additional footswitch unit
>>>>> 4) Requires adding a special pickup system
>>>>>
>>>>> If the VG99 can do long jump alt tunings with absolutely no artifacts,
>>>
>>>>> that's pretty huge. I'll have to hear it to believe it.
>>>>>
>>>>> From what I've heard, on the MIDI side the tracking is no better than
>>>
>>>>> the my GR-33, which isn't that great, but I'm glad they included MIDI
>
>>>>> out capability anyway (something Line 6 ought to consider).
>>>>>
>>>>> It's always nice to have another choice.
>>>>>
>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>> -Jamie
>>>>> www.JamieKruz.com
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>

>>>>> Bill L wrote:
>>>>> Alex, I'm interested in something you wrote, "I'm not
>>>>> crazy about the electric guitar models..." Really? I would have expected
>>>>> the electric guitars to be best. What's wrong with them?
>>>>>
>>>>> alex plasko wrote:
>>>>> if you get a Roland VG99 you wont have the issues that the variax
>has.
>>>>> I use mine with a Brian Moore DC-1/13 and there are no artifacts
,any
>>>>> tuning imaginablealot more flexibility in designing your own models
>>> etc.
>>>>> you can install a GK-2 pickup on any guitar if you don't have or
want
>>>>> one with one built in.
>>>>> there is absolutely NO delay as with a midi guitar setup.
>>>>> there is also a midi out if you would like to drive a synth
>>>>> from the VG99.
>>>>> there are allot of models built in and infinite ways to vary
>>>>> those.I'm not crazy about the electric guitar models but the acoustic
>>>>> models kick ass.
>>>>> way too much for me to write about now.
>>>>> and it can be had for around \$1000
>>>>> the martin D-28 model is my favorite so far.
>>>>>
>>>>> "D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote in message news:47989b01@linux...
>>>>>> Once again, thanks to all for the contributions...
>>>>>>
>>>>>> All this dialog has given me a wicked idea: instead of shelling
out
>>>>>>> almost \$3K on a Taylor, I could get for roughly the same amount
both
>>>>>>> a decent Breedlove chosen mainly for its acoustic properties, *and*
>>>>> a
>>>>>>> Variax 700 for live playing where a "reasonable" substitute is good
>>>>>>> enough.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> But I read some comments on the Variax that make me nervous - I

>>>>>>> cannot find a Variax locally, and may have to (gulp!) mail-order
>one.
>>>>>>> The comment in question comes up frequently in various review
>>>>>>> databases, and goes along these lines: apparently, the Variax 700
>has
>>>>>>> a significant deficiency in the sustain area (enough to be considered
>>>>>>> an unacceptable compromise by several reviewers).
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> So Jamie (and anyone else who "believes" in the Variax): did you

>find
>>>>>> such a flaw in the Variax's sustain? How usable is it really? And
>(as
>>>>>> an add-on bonus question) how convincing and artifact-free are the
>>>
>>>>>> altered tunings? Would you trust it enough to buy one via mail order?
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Thanks to all again,
>>>>>> Dan
>>>>>>
>>>>>> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message
>>>>>> news:47963ccf\$1@linux...
>>>>>> For live acoustic guitar gigs I currently use a Line 6 Variax 700
>>>
>>>>>> Acoustic modeling guitar. This is the one that looks like an
>>>>>> acoustic guitar, not the PRS-ish looking electric 700 version,

>>>>>> although I have one of those too.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> The acoustic 700 VAX sounds quite good through the PA. It doesn't
>>>
>>>>>> feed back. Even when using the built-in compressor which is really
>>>>>> nice to use on fingerpicked songs.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Acoustically it's fairly quiet, good for late night practicing

>>>>>> without waking anyone. But without plugging it in, it's not a
>>>>>> booming sing-around-the-campfire acoustic guitar.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> It has multiple guitar models to choose from including several
that
>>>>>> are bread and butter, plus a few non-guitar models like banjo,
sitar
>>>>>> and mandella.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> It also can do alternate tunings on the fly (via DSP so not quite
>> as
>>>>>> great as tuning them yourself, but for live it's fine and -
>>>>>> important for shows - instant). It can also imitate a 12 string
>
>>>>>> (again via DSP).
>>>>>>
>>>>>> It looks good, with nice grain on the top. It's has a shallow body.
>>>>>> It plays well. The upper strings have 24 frets, very rare for an
>
>>>>>> acoustic.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> It's more affordable than a high-end acoustic, and therefore less

>>> of
>>>>>>> a risk at gigs. It sounds as good or better through a PA than any
>>>
>>>>>>> other acoustic guitar I've heard.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The only acoustic guitar thing it doesn't do well is body slaps,
>
>>>>>>> which is probably why it never feeds back.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The output is mono. I do use it for recording direct sometimes.
>It
>>>>>>> sits nicely in the track and is good for L/R panned part doubling
>>>
>>>>>>> using different models.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>>> -Jamie
>>>>>>> www.JamieKruz.com
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> D.P. wrote:
>>>>>>> I'm usually an electric player, but I need to buy a decent acoustic
>>>>>>> (with electronics). I tried a bunch of brands, and seem to be

>>>>>>> converging towards a Taylor (something along the 714CE or 814CE).
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Before I commit to an actual purchase, I wanted to ask around
for
>>>>>>> any potential advice. As much as I'd love to buy from a luthier,
>>> I
>>>>>>> don't think I'll get much traction with my planned budget (as
a
>
>>>>>>> reference, the 714CE would cost around \$2800). I don't know many
>>>
>>>>>>> luthiers, and the ones I do know have a worldwide reputation (and
>>>>>>> are therefore not making guitars for \$2800 - more like \$5k and
>up).
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> While reading Taylor reviews, I've seen several references to
the
>>>>>>> Martin OMC-Aura, so I went to try it out. I found it to be
>>>>>>> incredibly ugly, but quite playable, although the action is typical
>>>>>>> Martin (i.e. high action, a guitar that you have to dig in hard).
>>>>>>> Since I play mostly electric, the nice low action of Taylors is
>
>>>>>>> appealing to me.
>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>> Anyone out there able to make some suggestions? General or
>>>>>>>>> specific, good or bad, I'm quite open to any ideas.
>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>> Thanks,
>>>>>>>>> Dan
>>>>>>>
>>>
>

Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2008 03:16:40 GMT
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"chuck duffy" <c@c.com> wrote:

>
>Ed,
>
>you might be right, but playing a taylor is like 'butter', which might lead
>people to spend some extra \$\$\$
>
>Chuck

I'll second that.

I played a friend's Taylor nylon string and it was the first guitar I've played that made me want it badly. It truly was like butter. Sweet sounding. I didn't even plug it in. It was superb.

It has since gone from the scene (as has my friend) and it turns out I need a nice looking guitar to play a gig (a wedding- the bride to be said, "I don't want to insult your guitar, but you can find a nicer looking one, can't you..?") no new guitar, no gig. I tried tracking down the Taylor, hoping to find it, and at the same time dreading the \$1500 or so it would cost.

I checked the local guitar shop and there was a used but still pristine Ibanez with built in tuner and eq for \$150 + tax.

<SOLD!> That's the one I have in my lap at this moment.

Not a Taylor. But it will do the job. I'm getting used to it.

With some piddling around, I can get it to sound ok amped, and it's ok acoustic. The more I play it, the better I like it.

Made in China...

-steve

Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2008 05:42:49 GMT
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I second the "try a Breedlove" recommendation. I like Taylors, but when I played a comparable Breedlove, my fingers said oooh. I couldn't afford the higher dollar models, but found that one of their "overseas" \$1000 models played and sounded very nice. I'm looking at her now. ;>) I think they make some of the best looking acoustics also.

I remember playing a Rainsong graphite composite acoustic electric about 8 years ago that I also fell in love with. Might check them out too.

Tony

On 1/22/08 11:56 AM, in article 47962027\$1@linux, "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>
> A Collings 12 fret to the neck 00-18 and a mic ;-)
>
> I'd try out a Breedlove before settling on the Taylor for sure. Very nice,
> modern guitar, not a Martin/Gibson copy. They make some in the price range
> you're talking about.
>
> TCB
>
> "D.P." <ottawarocks@netscape.net> wrote:
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>> Anyone out there able to make some suggestions? General or specific, good
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>> bad, I'm quite open to any ideas.
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>> Thanks,
>> Dan
>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2008 14:06:19 GMT

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Just remember, my buddy Morgan is THE WORLDS NUMBER ONE Breedlove, Rainsong
AND Taylor dealer :-)

Chuck

Tony Benson <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:

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>Tony

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>>>
>>>
>>

