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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

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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  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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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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>electronics). I tried a bunch of brands, and seem to be converging towards  
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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](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

D.P. wrote:

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Subject: Re: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Tue, 22 Jan 2008 20:45:47 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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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,

Ted  
with the

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

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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...

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...

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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.

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[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

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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.  
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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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---

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

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

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Kool, Alex. I'm currently using a Vox Tonelab into a Mesa Boogie Satellite which is a combo style 1x12 amp designed to be a stereo add on to a regular combo (it has no real preamp). I play either a custom Strat style guitar or an Ibanez Artist 335 style, depending on the gig. I'm overall pretty happy with the Tonelab and Mesa tone and feel, but I am looking for more sounds and options, and versatility like having a decent bass sound or an acoustic sound, plus better f/x would be way cool.

The thing I dig about my current rig is it feels very responsive and is very playable, if you know what i mean. Does the VG99 feel like a real amp setup, presuming you run it through a good tube power section lie a 2020? By the way, I rarely play heavy rock any more. I usually play funk, R&B, fusion or jazz.

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

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

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bill here is a link to their video demo's for the VG99  
it should give you a rough idea of what this is capable of.  
as far as feeling the same as a real tube amp, uh naah, but I haven't tried  
this through a tube amp yet so I don't know for sure.  
I don't get the same feeling as playing through my lp-9 through my mesa  
roadking, or one of my marshalls.  
the tradeoff is extreme versatility .and its not a one trick pony your  
locked in to as with with one amp one guitar at the gig or session .  
you have a wide range of different sounds with the VG99,an amp, and your  
favorite guitar.add a floor board controller if you need to control the  
effects or whatever. I change patches right from my DC-1/13  
the VG99 has a built in light beam controller and a ribbon controller so if  
you set it on a stand right in front of you you have that option. unless  
you rather dance on the floor controller...  
anyway check out the videos.  
I think the amp models are better than on the Vetta 2, and there are allot  
more slots(400)  
the only thing on the vetta I like better is the roger mayer Octavia effect.  
is it better than a pod? I think so  
more variation than on a variax? allot more  
better than VG88 or VG8? double the processors.  
It's not modeling nirvana yet, but 2 steps closer than last year.

[http://www.rolandus.com/products/productdetails.aspx?ObjectID=849&skip=true&page=video&file=vg-99\\_demo\\_video\\_pt1.flv](http://www.rolandus.com/products/productdetails.aspx?ObjectID=849&skip=true&page=video&file=vg-99_demo_video_pt1.flv)  
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2008 23:26:06 GMT  
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Gotcha

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 12:04:41 GMT  
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 12:59:46 GMT

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Alex, one more question (thanks for your data): can I route my regular guitar pickup signal through the unit too?

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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 13:46:04 GMT  
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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 18:40:20 GMT  
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If anyone in Colorado with a VG99 wants to do a comparison test between the Variaxen and the VG99, hit me up!

My guess is that for acoustic sounds, those on the Variax \_Acoustic 700\_ will be the best because the entire instrument is designed for that.

If the VG99 is in the same league as the \_electric guitar Variax\_ for acoustic models, that would be a big step forward and well worth using. I didn't think the VG88 got there.

It's great to see progress with this stuff.

Cheers,  
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[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

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>>>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>>>> 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 [AlexPlasko](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 18:51:11 GMT

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---

I'm in Connecticut but id love to hear an A/B anyway

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:479b8210@linux...

>

> If anyone in Colorado with a VG99 wants to do a comparison test between  
> the Variaxen and the VG99, hit me up!

>

> My guess is that for acoustic sounds, those on the Variax \_Acoustic 700\_  
> will be the best because the entire instrument is designed for that.

>

> If the VG99 is in the same league as the \_electric guitar Variax\_ for  
> acoustic models, that would be a big step forward and well worth using. I  
> didn't think the VG88 got there.

>

> It's great to see progress with this stuff.

>

> Cheers,

> -Jamie

> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

>

>

>

> alex plasko wrote:

>> yes and mix it with a virtual guitar as well!

>> the demos don't do the acoustic guitars justice. I don't know what they

>> did when they recorded those demos but the acoustics sound better than

>> that.

>> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message

>> news:479b3227\$1@linux...

>>> Alex, one more question (thanks for your data): can I route my regular

>>> guitar pickup signal through the unit too?

>>>

>>> Bill L wrote:

>>>> Very nice demo! Great players, too. Just having those bass sounds would

>>>> be valuable for me in a trio format, switching off playing bass with

>>>> the keyboard player. I was not impressed with the acoustic guitar

>>>> sounds but i liked the sitar! And that beam thingy looks like fun too.

>>>>

>>>> I'm gonna have to get one and try it out.

>>>>

>>>> alex plasko wrote:

>>>>> bill here is a link to their video demo's for the VG99

>>>>> it should give you a rough idea of what this is capable of.

>>>>> as far as feeling the same as a real tube amp, uh naah, but I haven't

>>>>> tried this through a tube amp yet so I don't know for sure.

>>>>> I don't get the same feeling as playing through my lp-9 through my

>>>> mesa roadking, or one of my marshalls.  
>>>> the tradeoff is extreme versatility .and its not a one trick pony your  
>>>> locked in to as with with one amp one guitar at the gig or session .  
>>>> you have a wide range of different sounds with the VG99,an amp, and  
>>>> your favorite guitar.add a floor board controller if you need to  
>>>> control the effects or whatever. I change patches right from my  
>>>> DC-1/13  
>>>> the VG99 has a built in light beam controller and a ribbon controller  
>>>> so if you set it on a stand right in front of you you have that  
>>>> option. unless you rather dance on the floor controller...  
>>>> anyway check out the videos.  
>>>> I think the amp models are better than on the Vetta 2, and there are  
>>>> allot more slots(400)  
>>>> the only thing on the vetta I like better is the roger mayer Octavia  
>>>> effect.  
>>>> is it better than a pod? I think so  
>>>> more variation than on a variax? allot more  
>>>> better than VG88 or VG8? double the processors.  
>>>> It's not modeling nirvana yet, but 2 steps closer than last year.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> [http://www.rolandus.com/products/productdetails.aspx?ObjectID=849&skip=true&page=video&file=vg-99\\_demo\\_video\\_pt1.flv](http://www.rolandus.com/products/productdetails.aspx?ObjectID=849&skip=true&page=video&file=vg-99_demo_video_pt1.flv)  
>>>> "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message  
>>>> news:479a4e65@linux...  
>>>>> Kool, Alex. I'm currently using a Vox Tonelab into a Mesa Boogie  
>>>>> Satellite which is a combo style 1x12 amp designed to be a stereo add  
>>>>> on to a regular combo (it has no real preamp). I play either a custom  
>>>>> Strat style guitar or an Ibanez Artist 335 style, depending on the  
>>>>> gig. I'm overall pretty happy with the Tonelab and Mesa tone and  
>>>>> feel, but I am looking for more sounds and options, and versatility  
>>>>> like having a decent bass sound or an acoustic sound, plus better f/x  
>>>>> would be way cool.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> The thing I dig about my current rig is it feels very responsive and  
>>>>> is very playable, if you know what i mean. Does the VG99 feel like a  
>>>>> real amp setup, presuming you run it through a good tube power  
>>>>> section like a 2020? By the way, I rarely play heavy rock any more. I  
>>>>> usually play funk, R&B, fusion or jazz.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> alex plasko wrote:  
>>>>>> 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 im 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 danelectro56 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 your going to have to get one to dig in on the capability of  
>>>>>> this thing cause a store demo wont give you the picture, unless you  
>>>>>> spend a day with the manual.  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> I"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message  
>>>>>> news:479a14f7@linux...  
>>>>>> Alex, I'm interested in something you wrote, "I'm not  
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>>>>>>>>>> Thanks,  
>>>>>>>>>> Dan

>>>>>

>>

---

Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar  
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Sat, 26 Jan 2008 19:19:13 GMT

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

>imaginablealot more flexibility in designing your own models etc.

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>>

>>

>

>

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

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

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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!

mmmmmmmmmmmmmm

Jamie K <[Meta@Dimensional.com](mailto: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  
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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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>going to fork out another \$1000 or more on an amp, the expression system  
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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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Subject: Re: OT: Choosing a decent acoustic-electric guitar

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

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---

Hey Ed, Ovations actually CAN travel through interplanetary space. I know this because of the Boston album cover where their secret was first revealed.

However, once you get to Mars, the acoustics are very strange due to the thin atmosphere. So these days I only fly my Ovation as far as the corner store.

While my Ovation sounds decent enough, my acoustic Variax sounds better and is more aurally flexible. However the Variax doesn't do space flight, so the Ovation comes out ahead overall. :^)

Cheers,

-Jamie

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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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---

lol. That was good! Honestly though... I have heard and played some very expensive Martins, Gibsons, and what-nots... but give me a group of musicians... all of them blind fold... setup a open-mic and play the acoustic... I'll betcha by far most would pick the Ovation for quality, tone and acoustical sound. But I am sure the fiberglass couldn't handle the space debris... 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.

Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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>> 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.

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>> 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...

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>> 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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>> "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.

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>>> 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!

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>>> 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

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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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---

Ed,

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

Chuck

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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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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

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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:  
>> 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  
>>  
>>  
>

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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](mailto:tony@standinghampton.com)> wrote:

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