



VINTAGE V7HTBB £229

A seven-string that can compete with the most inexpensive guitars on the market? We had to find out more...

MORE often than not, you'll know if it's a guitar worth investing in within seconds of picking it up. With higher-end instruments that's something you simply expect, but lower down it can be more a case of trial and error. The new V7 is something that offers affordability and playability, entering the market as not only the most wallet-friendly seven-strings out there but also one of the most comfortable to get to grips with.

The incredibly lightweight Eastern Poplar body ensures it's close to what you'd expect from a standard shred double-cut in feel, and doesn't carry that daunting sense of bulk seven-strings are often guilty of. Aiding this is the

through soaring leads that ring out loud and clear. Perhaps this is down to the natural brightness of the guitar, which counteracts its increased sonic depth with a rich, celestial airiness that enhances the sustain.

It certainly looks like a metal machine, but truth be told the V7 is capable of that and much more, with convincing blues tones and a basic jazzy wool, if you roll off the tone knob all the way to the end. Perhaps where it excels, however, is usage in heavier gain territories – there's plenty of grunt to move some air, especially once you get palm-muting. From the tech-metal djent of Periphery and Tesseract to more classic nu-metal sounds made famous by Deftones and

The V7 looks metal, but it's capable of that and much more

guitar's low action factory setup, with a comfortable, slim maple neck that's fit for pretty much any task at hand: it's almost like you don't notice the extra string. For many players, that can only be a very good thing. The sleek Gloss Black finish, classic chrome hardware and string-through body gives it a quiet confidence, simple and effective as it may be.

You couldn't ask for better pickups than the Wilkinson Double Coil PHS7s, not for this kind of money, anyway. The neck position harnessing the subterranean beef of the low B to make way for sweet mids and treble. In between facilitates more Fender-like tones, again surprisingly well balanced and articulate, yet spiky enough to cut through. The bridge position feels clean even on higher gain settings, there's plenty of definition across all seven strings to play those embellished chords with no tonal clashing whatsoever, and rip

Korn, the V7 will most definitely have you covered.

The overall build quality is impressive, it holds tuning well across 24 frets and feels rigid – the kind of instrument you can trust on stage night after night. And, better still, for those inexperienced with seven-strings, there really could not be a better axe with which to familiarise yourself.

It doesn't take long to realise that Vintage could have very easily launched the V7 at a higher markup and you can only commend them in delivering an instrument that ticks all the boxes at such mind-boggling value.

Amit Sharma

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★★★★
	SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
	BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
	PLAYABILITY	★★★★
	OVERALL RATING	★★★★★

AT A GLANCE
BODY: Eastern Poplar
NECK: Maple, triple laminate
SCALE: 25.5"/648mm
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
FRETS: 24 Medium Jumbo
PICKUPS: 2x Wilkinson Double Coil PHS7
CONTROLS: Volume, tone, 3-way toggle switch
HARDWARE: Chrome
LEFT-HANDED: No
FINISH: Gloss Black
CONTACT: JHS 01132 865 381
www.jhs.co.uk

TUNERS
GUITAR COMPONENTS designed and manufactured by guitar guru Trevor Wilkinson – such as these tuners – have long offered durability and tone for a fraction of the usual price

PICKUPS
THE WILKINSON Double Coil PHS7s cover plenty of sonic ground, and strike a perfect balance between the V7's low-end chug and higher-end sparkle

CUTAWAY
THE LOWER fin cutaway gives plenty of access up to those higher frets, perfect for utilising the instrument's extended range all the way up to the 24th fret

