

Vintage 30th Anniversary V100

Can you believe that Vintage Guitars are now 30 years old? Masterminded by one of guitar gear's true MVPs, Trev Wilkinson and British distribution juggernaut JHS, the upstart guitar company were "disrupting" the industry before we were calling people "disruptors". There are now 30-year-old Vintage guitars, which would make them "vintage Vintage Guitar guitars". Nick Jennison tells us more as he reviews Vintage's 30th Anniversary V100.

WHILE the list of players associated with iconic single-cut guitars reads like a who's who of rock royalty, it's easy to see why the Les Paul-style silhouette never really falls out of favour. There's an unmistakable allure to a guitar that blends luxury and muscle—something the Vintage V100 30th Anniversary captures with impressive poise. Vintage Guitars has been challenging the status quo for three decades

now. That's no small feat, especially in a world where established names and vintage pedigree often overshadow anything "affordable."

Of course, if you're familiar with the Vintage story, the V100 Lemon Drop will need no introduction—a budget-friendly nod to the legendary "Greeny" that did more than just disrupt, it genuinely earned the respect of players who'd never previously looked ➔

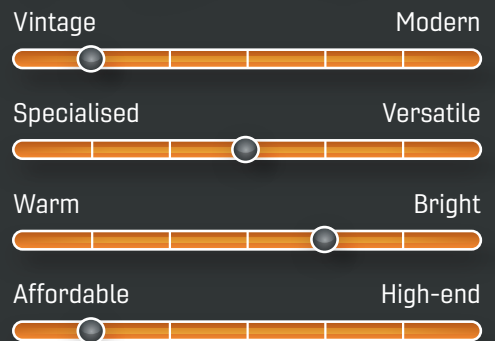


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The Breakdown



For fans of

- » "Custom" singlecuts
- » Fantastic PAF tones on a budget
- » Bold finishes...

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outside of Michigan for their burst fix. Now, Vintage is marking thirty years with the V100 30th Anniversary, and the result is a guitar that looks, feels, and—crucially—sounds every bit the part.


What sets the 30th Anniversary model apart is its dedication to “the real thing.” We’re talking about a two-piece mahogany body, a full carved maple cap topped with a flame veneer, and a set-in mahogany neck. The fretboard is honest-to-goodness rosewood—no composites, no synthetic shortcuts. Even at this price

point, those choices matter, because while you can always upgrade pickups or pots, you can’t change the fundamental character of the wood.

Specs-wise, it’s everything you’d expect from a classic LP-style singlecut: 24.75” scale, 22 frets, and a 12” radius that’s inviting whether you’re riding out big blues bends or attacking crunchy riffs. The offset heel, often reserved for pricier instruments, gives surprisingly good access to the upper frets—something that giggling players will notice straight away.



The hardware package is all Wilkinson and all gold—plenty of bling but more importantly, plenty of stability. CTS pots and a GraphTech NuBone nut round out a spec sheet that’s more reminiscent of boutique builds than budget fare. The real stars, though, are the Wilkinson Platinum Series humbuckers. These PAF-inspired pickups are the heart of the V100’s tone: think classic midrange snarl with just enough bite in the bridge and that beautiful “glint” in the middle position. Both neck and bridge positions are loaded with fat, punchy response but never get lost or muddy, retaining the sort of character you want in a great singlecut.

What about playability? The V100 30th Anniversary offers what many would call an “old-school” feel. The neck is substantial but never 



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cumbersome, and the low fret profile is perfect for expressive vibrato and sustained bends. It's not built for the modern shred crowd, but for players who want to dig in—be it gritty classic rock, blues, or melodic hard rock—it offers everything you need.

And then there's the value. In an era where genuine singlecuts with comparable features can easily command prices north of £3,000, the V100 30th Anniversary delivers its premium looks, authentic feel, and impressive hardware for less than a fifth of that cost. There's no sense here that you're paying for flash over substance; it's a workhorse that's ready for the stage right out of the box.

The Vintage V100 30th Anniversary is more than just a commemorative release. It's a reminder that you don't have to mortgage your future to own an instrument with soul, character, and staying power. For players chasing classic tones and timeless style—without the boutique price tag—this guitar stands as one of the most compelling options in today's market. If someone handed you the V100 30th Anniversary and told you it cost three times as much, you'd believe it, right up until you saw the price tag.

