

Evening Standard

Best travel guitars for playing and learning on the go

Hey Joe, where you going with that handily-sized travel guitar in your hands?



Vintage Mahogany Series

By James Grimshaw

For a great many people, playing an instrument is the purest form of ‘happy place’.

Committing time and energy to the development of a craft, the generation of a new creative thought, or the performance of a lifetime is a profound pleasure - whether you’re doing so alone in your bedroom, out on the street, or up in front of thousands.

If you’re a guitarist – newcomer or old hand – who has experienced some form of the above, then you’ll know all too well the pains of attempting to bring that ‘happy place’ on the road with you.

Vintage Mahogany Series 'Travel' Electro Acoustic



Best: overall

The Vintage brand is one of the best regarded when it comes to low- and mid-budget instruments. The range of acoustic and electric instruments has fostered many a beginner's early practice, while being dependable enough for gigging musicians and session professionals. Their acoustic guitars, designed in the UK, are impeccable examples of value for money – and the Mahogany Series 'Travel' is no different.

The Mahogany Series is as it sounds – a series of acoustic instruments with beautifully-finished mahogany construction. Mahogany is a fantastic tonewood, bringing real depth in the lower end of the frequency spectrum and a bell-like resonance to the high-end. This is extremely welcome in the Mahogany Series' 'Travel' entry, diminutively sized as it is with a 22.6" scale length. Vintage guitars always find a way to surprise this reviewer,

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It also boasts the same on-board pre-amp and tuner that its larger siblings do, making it extremely versatile – and levelling the playing field where live performance through an amplifier or PA system is concerned. Indeed, the shorter scale length does the 'Travel' a huge favour here, with looser strings granting a much deeper warmth to plugged-in play.

This guitar is already a fantastic all-rounder, but to do it at below £150 is astonishing.