

Vintage VSA500GHB with Bigsby

Sam Bell rocks out in style with the Vintage VSA500GHB. Featuring a classic semi-hollow body design and outfitted with a smooth Bigsby vibrato, this guitar is built for those who crave vintage aesthetics with modern playability. Its twin humbucking pickups deliver a rich, resonant tone, while the addition of the Bigsby tailpiece offers extra flair for those expressive bends and dives.

IN this review, I'm going to take a look at a classic-tinged offering from Vintage Guitars: the VSA500. This has been a staple of Vintage's range of great instruments. The re-issue brings back this classic choice in a lovely Gun Hill Blue finish with cream binding. This guitar promises to bring us the acoustic properties of archtop guitars but at a louder volume with reduced

feedback, making it a very popular choice with rock and blues players.

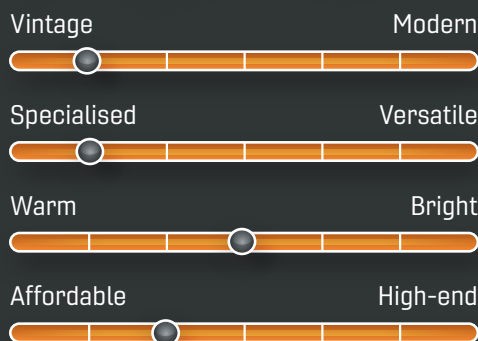
The guitar features a chrome Bigsby B70 vibrato tailpiece, allowing us to get some nice watery vibrato on chords and single notes, giving us Tarantino/Surf Rock vibes. This is combined with a Wilkinson T.O.M. bridge, creating the back end of the [▶](#)





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The Breakdown



For fans of

- » Semi-hollow tone lovers
- » Timeless design
- » Modern playability

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jhs.co.uk/collections/vintage



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instrument. For the pickups, we're treated to a pair of Wilkinson Vintage-voiced WOCHB double-coil pickups, giving us a thick, warm, and punchy sound that complements the guitar's semi-hollow properties. The tuners are made by Grover, featuring a classic jade-colored tulip design that aids tuning stability with the Bigsby.

The body and top are made from maple, with a double cutaway design and an offset heel so you can reach up to the 22nd fret

without too much hassle. The neck is made from one piece of mahogany with a soft C profile on a 12" radius fingerboard, making this guitar very easy to play. Especially when we consider the 24.75" scale length, bending, vibrato, and legato techniques feel very natural on this guitar.

Out of the box, the guitar is well-built. Vintage makes very impressive instruments for their price ranges, always using great hardware and electronics, giving us ▶



access to classic designs. The sound is wonderful, great for lower-gain styles of playing. Crunchy blues licks and double stops are equally at home on this guitar, as are funky single-note riffs, triad riffs, and power chords. The individual volume and tone controls for each pickup, along with the 3-way switch, allow for a wide assortment of tones at your fingertips, depending on your playing style. Rolling

the tone off on a clean sound brings us into jazz box territory while using the bridge pickup with the tone all the way up gives us that BB King sting. The middle position, with both pickups engaged, gets us into funky territories, and the neck pickup offers so much warmth and clarity that chords take on their own kind of magic.



If you're looking for a 335-style guitar, the Vintage VSA500B holds its own and is well worth checking out before you splash out even more money.

The perhaps not-so-hidden elephant in the room is that this is Vintage's take on a 335 guitar. Everything about it feels very much like the real thing—just way more affordable and, dare I say, slightly better! The guitar feels very balanced, it sits nicely, and nothing is sticking out unnecessarily. It's a high-quality instrument, and the RRP is amazing at £699.

If you're looking for a 335-style guitar, the Vintage VSA500B holds its own and is well worth checking out before you splash out even more money. I'd say this about most of Vintage's range of instruments: if you're looking for it, they probably have it in terms of classic guitar designs, with modern quality and affordability.

