## Rapier 44

Nick Jennison steps into retro cool with the Rapier 44—a guitar that pays homage to the British rock 'n' roll era. Sporting its distinctive offset body, the Rapier 44 boasts three single-coil pickups, offering a versatile range of tones from mellow blues to searing rock. With its modern enhancements, like the improved tremolo system, this guitar merges vintage charm with contemporary performance.

Rapier 44 is a guitar that immediately stands out. With its retro 60s-inspired look and an impressive range of tones, it's the kind of instrument that's as much fun to play as it is to admire. But don't let the vintage styling fool you—this guitar is packed with modern features that make it incredibly versatile.

Let's start with the build. The Canadian Rock Maple neck has a medium C profile that's thick enough to feel substantial but slim enough to let you move easily. It's paired with a rosewood fretboard featuring 23 frets (including a zero fret), which helps keep your open and fretted notes consistent in tone. The Wilkinson EZ-Lock tuners ensure everything stays perfectly •









in tune, and the overall build quality feels solid and reliable.

Where the Rapier 44 really shines is in its tone. Designed by Alan Entwistle, the dual-blade EWR 64 pickups are minihumbuckers that deliver a rich, punchy sound with a lot of clarity. You can cover everything from bright, clean tones to warm, gritty lows. What really sets this guitar apart is its pickup configuration you've got a three-way toggle switch to select your basic pickup combinations, but there are also two rocker switches to blend the extra pickups. This gives you a huge range of tones to play with. Whether you're looking for something sharp and focused or a fuller, layered sound, the Rapier 44 has you covered.

The high-low tremolo system adds to the vintage feel, offering subtle vibrato without

the complexity of a floating tremolo. It's great for that old-school shimmer, and the roller bridge keeps the tuning stable even with frequent tremolo use.

In terms of sound, this guitar does it all. Clean tones are bright and chimey, perfect for funk or surf. Add a little gain, and you get rich, punchy rock tones. The mini-humbuckers are articulate enough to handle everything from delicate picking to aggressive riffs, making it a perfect fit for players who want a wide tonal palette in one instrument.

Perhaps most surprising is the price. The Rapier 44 offers a ton of features without breaking the bank. It's well-built, easy to play, and has a wide range of sounds you can get out of it, which makes it worth every penny. Unlike some vintagestyled guitars that are all about looks but lack playability, this one feels smooth and modern in your hands, with flawless fretwork and comfortable action.

In short, the Rapier 44 is a guitar that combines vintage looks with modern versatility. Whether you're into clean tones, high-gain rock, or experimenting with a wide range of sounds, this guitar delivers in spades. Plus, it's affordable, making it a great choice for anyone looking to expand their tonal options without compromising on quality.

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