



Vintage Guitar[®] Gear Reviews

magazine

Bring On the Cool

The Tremcaster Dual Ninety

Luthier John Mosconi's latest creation, the Tremcaster Dual Ninety, continues to reflect his repairman-turned-builder attention to detail in an instrument that is easier on the wallet than your typical boutique axe.

Drawing its moniker from its pickups, the Dual Ninety is a straightforward rocker of a guitar. Its dual-cutaway basswood

body uses Tremcaster's unique body design, which is extremely well-balanced and lightweight. The cutaway allows fluid access to the upper register.

Tremcaster's "Classic" neck shape is a comfortable mash-up between a rounded '50s-style and a thinner '60s neck. It leans to the beefier side, but retains playability fans of the thin necks will appreciate. The

neck is made of maple and capped with a rosewood fingerboard. Frets are medium-jumbo, and the neck is finished with traditional dot inlays and a bone nut. Its spoke-wheel truss nut makes for quick, easy neck adjustments.

At the belly of this rocker is a matched set of Lindy Fralin P-90s, which translate well, aesthetically, in the Tremcaster. Controls are straightforward – single Volume and Tone and a standard three-way selects pickups. Components include CTS pots and Switchcraft jacks, a chrome-plated brass bridge by Schaller, and vintage-style Gotoh tuners.

The first thing that grabs you with

it can jangle for a week, with sustain more like a set-neck.

The Dual Ninety's playability makes it an instant winner. Extremely comfortable to play, its neck is just chunky enough, in cool contrast to its ultralight body and its access to upper-register notes. Plugged into a variety of amps, the guitar proffered classic tone minus one thing – the excessive noise common to P-90s. Here, it's minimized by shielding and quality components. Though *not* noise free, they are noticeably quieter than most.

Sonically, the Dual Ninety is a rocker at heart. From subtle jangle perfect for surf styles to bluesier styles, it has a wonderful warmth with a healthy bite. Add overdrive, though, and the guitar shows its true colors. This thing can "garage up" in a second, with cool breakup; the more overdrive you add, the better, as you find yourself pulling every Pete Townshend lick you know!



TREMCASTER DUAL NINETY

Price: \$1,199

Contact:

tremcaster.com.

the Dual Ninety is its cool looks; the vintage-style lacquer finish looks killer and screams retro. Also impressive is the guitar's weight and its abundance of inherent resonance;

In all, the Dual Ninety is a cool and relatively versatile guitar. Metal guys may not find much use for it, but others will find it hard to put down. – **Sean O'Bryan Smith VG**