

Guitar Review
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September 1, 2005

Tradition SP1

www.traditionguitars.com

What's in a name? The "Strat" is truly an American tradition in the world of guitars. What used to identify a specific guitar now brings to mind a body-style that has been used by virtually every electric guitar maker. Though the body may appear "strat-like," I would venture to say that the Tradition SP1 is an all-original. The guitars and electronics are designed to spec by Tradition and built and assembled in Korea. Street price for the SP1 is \$999.00 and is a fantastic value for the price! I've had the opportunity to get to know the folks at Tradition through visiting at the NAMM shows and I'm equally pleased with the people behind the guitars as I am with the guitars themselves. Personally, I own a Tradition Jerry Reid Pro model and just this week I received my SP1. I can't wait to use this guitar Sunday in worship!

In a brief overview, you'll find a solid basswood body with a beautiful 3/16" flamed maple top, an Indian rosewood fretboard on a maple neck, and a roller nut (Tradition has just switched to "roller saddles" as well). Grover tuners, a string-through body, a bolt-on neck, a Wilkinson style floating tremolo, and a pearloid pickguard finish it out.

For the "tone-freaks" out there, the SP1 has 3 high-output "hot-rail" (stacked humbucker) pickups. Each of them are coil tapped with a micro-switch control. That means each pickup can be single OR double coil and to top it off, you can mix and match them with the 5-way selector! That makes for a total of fourteen (14) different settings and adjusting the tone control just adds to the excitement!

As far as playability, I find the SP1 to have extremely low action making for a very soft feel and fast movement up the neck. Speaking of the neck, it's adorned with large "T" fret markers made of abalone. I like to think they look like Longhorns (Go Texas!). Color choices make the final decision on which one to buy quite difficult.

Find out more about Tradition and stores that carry them at www.traditionguitars.com.