

proaudio **M**usicGear **APRIL 2025**
GUITARS, KEYBOARDS, AND AMPLIFIERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH

PRIME CIRCLE

Their Journey, Future Plans, and Advice for Aspiring Artists

ULTIMATE BEGINNER GUITARS

- PLUS**
- Portable Amps
 - Pedal Boards
 - Audio Interfaces

JOE PERRY

**The Legendary Guitarist
Behind Aerosmith's
Iconic Sound**

nord[®]

PIANO 6
STATE OF THE ART



PRIME CIRCLE

THE WORLD WE KNOW



WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on South African rock legends Prime Circle, delve into the legacy and creative fire of Joe Perry, and sit down for an exclusive chat with Anton Botha, whose unique approach to music and gear continues to turn heads.

We also dive into the world of iconic tone with a stunning showcase of Gibson and Epiphone guitars, including models that are reshaping the stage and studio. For keyboard lovers, the arrival of the Nord Piano 6 brings unmatched expression and performance – a must-see for any serious musician.

Whether you're just starting out or fine-tuning your rig, we've got something for everyone: beginner guitars, portable amplifiers, pedalboards, and gear reviews that'll help you get the most from your setup.

So plug in, tune up, and get ready for a journey through sound – this month's issue is all about finding your voice and turning it up loud.

Happy reading and keep the music alive!

HAPPY READING!
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MusicGear

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Product Library

This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

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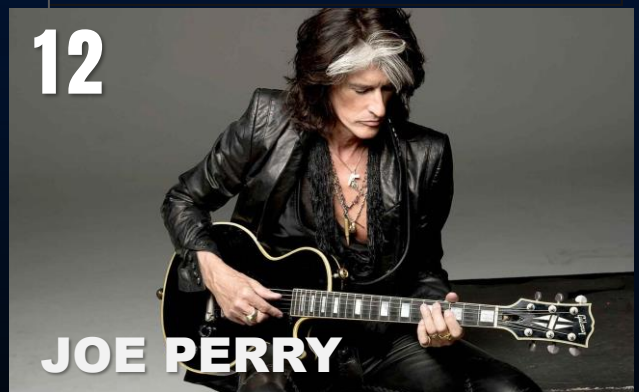
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PRIMECIRCLE

Their Journey, Future Plans, and Advice for Aspiring Artists



PRIME CIRCLE

AN INTERVIEW THE WORLD WE KNOW WITH PRIME CIRCLE

Prime Circle has been a cornerstone of the South African rock scene for over two decades. What inspired the band's formation, and how has your journey evolved since *Hello Crazy World*?



Marco Gomes: It started with a simple goal—being a unit, a circle of friends, musicians, and brothers. That's what kept us going. We formed in Witbank in 2000, and the past 24 years have been a wild ride.

Our brand-new album, *The World We Know*, captures everything we've learned and where we're headed. Songs like *Calling on Angels* speak to real issues, making sure we stay relatable.



The World We Know - Making Of



Standing Over Me



What We Got

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced early on, and how did you overcome them?



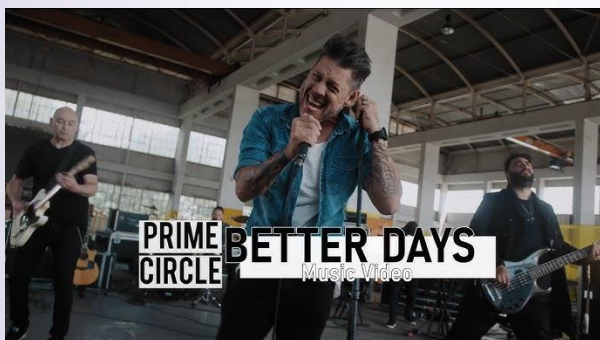
Finding our sound was key—moving beyond comparisons to overseas bands. There was scepticism when bringing in a new lead vocalist, but even our biggest critics now love the new album and Gavin Edwards. We kept writing, touring, and believing in what we do. Playing new songs live is always nerve-wracking, but that's part of the thrill. We are so blessed and do not take for granted that we are still performing to sold-out venues despite the big change in our line-up.

Are there any songs or albums that hold a special place in your hearts?



Marco Gomes:

Opening for +Live+ during their *Birds of Prey* tour was a game-changer, and performing *Hello* at that show was a defining moment. *Better Days* marked a new chapter with Gavin, making it a standout for us at this stage of the band.



How has the South African music industry shaped your career, and where do you see the local rock scene heading?



Gavin Edwards:

South Africa has incredible talent. Playing live is crucial—you have to be road-tested to stand out. The 2000s saw an amazing scene with bands like Squeal, Just Jinger, and Springbok Nude Girls. Rock may have taken a backseat, but it's making a comeback. With major acts touring again, you can feel the hunger for great rock music.

How have your relationships as band members evolved, and what fuels your creative energy?



Songwriting is collaborative—everyone brings something to the table. The chemistry in the new line-up was so strong that what started as an EP turned into a full album. It's all about serving the song, not egos. You can have the perfect setting, but if the energy isn't right, the music won't happen. It's about the hunger and the headspace, and we are all friends.

You've played internationally and gained global recognition. What's next for Prime Circle?



Gavin Edwards: We're focused on promoting *The World We Know*, with *Calling on Angels* as the next single—it's deeply personal, touching on struggles with addiction, anxiety, and finding strength. It's a song that is very, very close to us. It goes into that place of despair where you feel all alone, and you have nowhere to run, no way to go. I—just in that time—realised that you can call on your angels for protection and to help you through; you can call on God. I was on my knees, praying, saying, "Please God, just take this alcohol addiction away from me." And that was the beginning of my sobriety.

And then we've got Dale, who has a journey of sobriety now, which is amazing. And I just know there are countless people out there suffering from all different things, all different addictions. You know, there's anxiety, there's depression—there's just so much. And we think we're alone. It feels like you're alone, but you're not. You know, you never are alone. If you ever feel like you are, you can always call out—call out to your angels, call out to God, call out to friends, call out to family.

We have just returned from a super successful tour in Germany, we played Portugal too, and will be doing more South African shows, and we have plans to break into the U.S. market. We're going in full throttle.

How has the rise of digital platforms changed your approach to reaching your audience?



Gavin: The downside? The personal connection is missing. I miss opening a lyric

booklet, feeling the journey of an album. Streaming makes everything instant, but it's less immersive.



Marco: The upside? Our music is available worldwide at the push of a button. In the old

days, distributing albums was a logistical nightmare. Digital accessibility is great, but it also means more competition. Artists need to work harder to stand out.

What advice would you give to up-and-coming bands?



Practice. The more you rehearse, the more prepared you'll be for your big

moments. I've learned first-hand how important it is to be ready when opportunities arise. Writing together is also key—check your egos at the door and focus on what's best for the song. And stay sober.

The industry is full of distractions, but discipline, health, and a sharp mind will take you further than anything else.

How can young musicians stay authentic while navigating commercial pressures?



There's always a balance between authenticity and accessibility. John

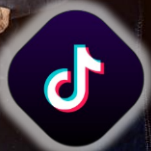
Mayer once said you have to turn information into inspiration—understand what works for radio while staying true to yourself. Think of it like baking a cake: master the basics first, then put your own spin on it. Find that sweet spot, and you'll carve out a unique space in the industry.

PRIME CIRCLE

THE WORLD WE KNOW

SA Dates:

- 20 Apr (Sun): Splashy Fen Festival
- 26 Apr (Sat): Misty Waters Music Festival
- 07 May (Wed): Barnyard – Emperors Palace
- 09 May (Fri): Barnyard Vereeniging
- 31 May (Sat): Horings en Dorings Hluhluwe Fees 2025
- 06 Jun (Fri): Railways
- 07 Jun (Sat): Lombardini Musiek Fees
- 21 Jun (Sat): Barnyard Silverstar



JOE PERRY

**THE
LEGENDARY
GUITARIST
BEHIND
AEROSMITH'S
ICONIC SOUND**

Joe Perry, the electrifying guitarist and co-founder of the legendary rock band **Aerosmith**, has been a significant force in shaping the sound of rock music for decades.

From his distinctive guitar riffs to his powerful stage presence, Perry has become one of the most influential musicians in rock history. His musical career, iconic use of Gibson guitars, and ongoing success with Aerosmith are testaments to his lasting impact on the genre.

Early Life and Formation of Aerosmith:

Joe Perry was born on September 10, 1950, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He showed an early interest in music and began playing guitar at the age of 10.

Drawing inspiration from a variety of musical genres, including blues, rock, and roll, and rhythm & blues, Perry quickly developed a deep love for the guitar. His early influences included greats like The Rolling Stones, The Yardbirds, and B.B. King.

As a teenager, Perry joined several local bands before meeting Steven Tyler, the future frontman of Aerosmith, in the early 1970s.





In 1970, Perry and Tyler formed Aerosmith, alongside bassist Tom Hamilton, drummer Joey Kramer, and guitarist Brad Whitford. The band's mix of blues-based rock and hard-hitting melodies struck a chord with fans, and their self-titled debut album, released in 1973, marked the beginning of their rise to superstardom.

AEROSMITH'S SUCCESS AND ICONIC SOUND

Throughout the 1970s, Aerosmith became one of the biggest rock bands in the world, with hits like "Dream On," "Sweet Emotion," and "Walk This Way." Perry's searing guitar riffs, combined with Tyler's distinctive vocals, formed the backbone of the band's sound. Perry's fiery and raw guitar playing became a signature element of the band's style, helping to define the gritty, blues-infused rock sound that propelled Aerosmith to global fame.

Aerosmith's blend of hard rock, blues, and even a touch of pop sensibility resonated with audiences and set them apart from their peers. As the band's primary guitarist, Perry played an instrumental role in crafting their timeless hits. His ability to create infectious hooks and iconic riffs, such as the opening lick in "Walk This Way," became a hallmark of his playing style.



JOE PERRY AND GIBSON GUITARS

Joe Perry's relationship with Gibson guitars is iconic. From the very beginning of his career, Perry has been closely associated with the legendary instrument manufacturer. His choice of Gibson guitars has helped to shape the sound of Aerosmith, with the brand's guitars providing the perfect combination of tone, playability, and style for his hard-hitting, bluesy approach to rock.

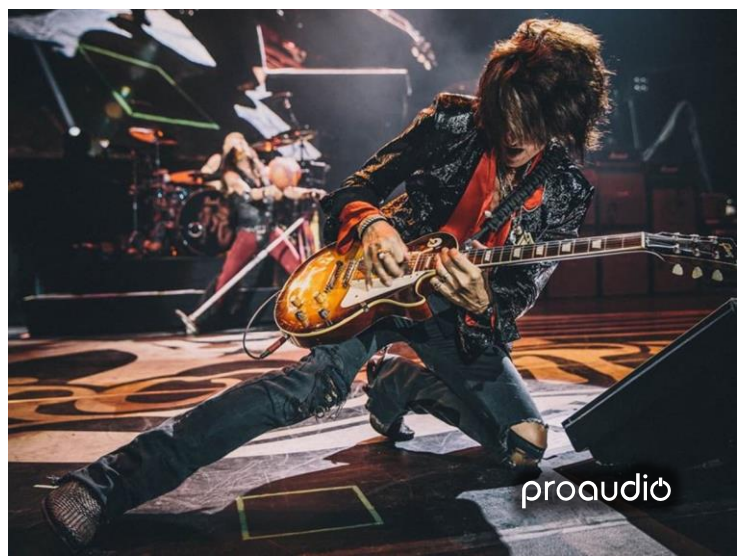
Perry's primary guitar throughout much of his career has been the Gibson Les Paul, particularly models from the 1950s and 1960s. The Les Paul's warm, thick tone and sustain perfectly complemented Perry's fiery playing style, allowing him to express both the bluesy roots of his music and the searing intensity of hard rock. His use of the Gibson Les Paul helped establish the instrument as an essential part of the sound of classic rock.

In addition to the Les Paul, Perry has also played a number of other Gibson models over the years, including the Gibson SG and Gibson Explorer. Each guitar offers unique tonal qualities, and Perry's ability to adapt his playing style to each instrument has been a testament to his skill as a guitarist.



One of the most iconic Gibson guitars associated with Perry is the “Joe Perry Boneyard” Les Paul, a custom model designed specifically for him.

This guitar, which features a unique “aged” look, has become synonymous with Perry's distinctive playing and the raw power of his performances.



PERSONAL LIFE AND SOLO CAREER

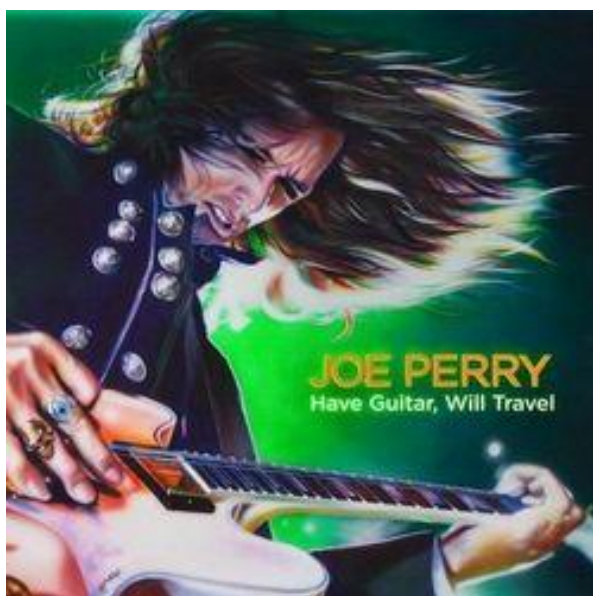
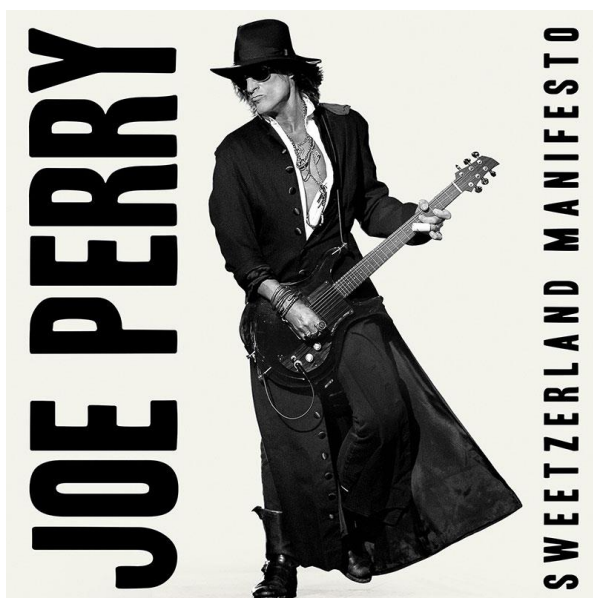
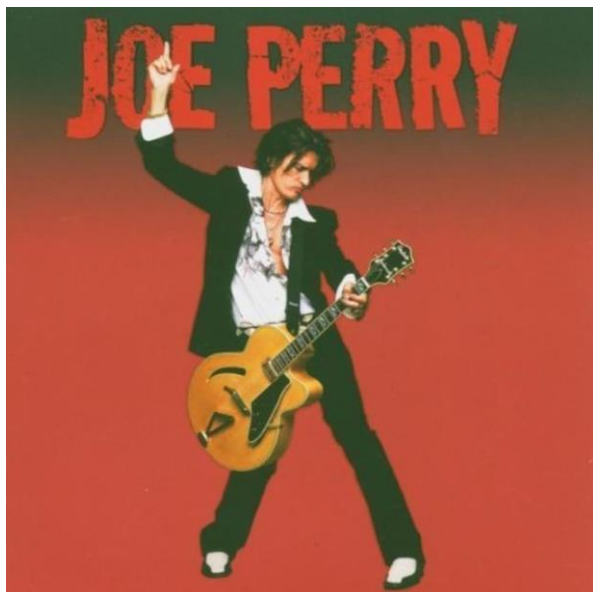
While Perry's primary musical focus has always been Aerosmith, he has also enjoyed a successful solo career.

In 2005, he released his first solo album, *Joe Perry* which was well-received by fans and critics alike.

The album allowed Perry to explore his musical influences outside of Aerosmith, showcasing his skills as a songwriter and solo artist. He followed up with several more solo releases, including *Have Guitar, Will Travel* (2009) and *Sweetzerland Manifesto* (2018).

Despite his solo work, Perry has remained loyal to Aerosmith, and the band continues to tour and record to this day. With classic albums like *Toys in the Attic* (1975) and *Rocks* (1976) still being hailed as masterpieces of rock music, Aerosmith's legacy continues to endure.

Joe Perry's contribution to the band's success remains undeniable, and his status as one of rock's greatest guitarists is secure.



LEGACY AND INFLUENCE

Joe Perry's impact on rock music is immeasurable. His work with Aerosmith has helped shape the sound of classic rock, and his guitar playing has inspired countless musicians.

Perry's raw, powerful style, which blends blues, hard rock, and pop influences, has made him a role model for aspiring guitarists around the world. His use of Gibson guitars, particularly the Les Paul, has become a signature element of his sound, and his unmistakable riffs continue to resonate with fans across generations.

As Aerosmith remains one of the longest-lasting rock bands in history, Joe Perry's legacy as one of the greatest guitarists of all time is firmly cemented. His unique playing style, his dedication to his craft, and his enduring partnership with Gibson guitars have made him an icon in the world of rock music.

Joe Perry's career is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the enduring appeal of classic rock. As he continues to perform with Aerosmith and explore new musical horizons, there's no doubt that his influence on the world of music will continue to be felt for many years to come.



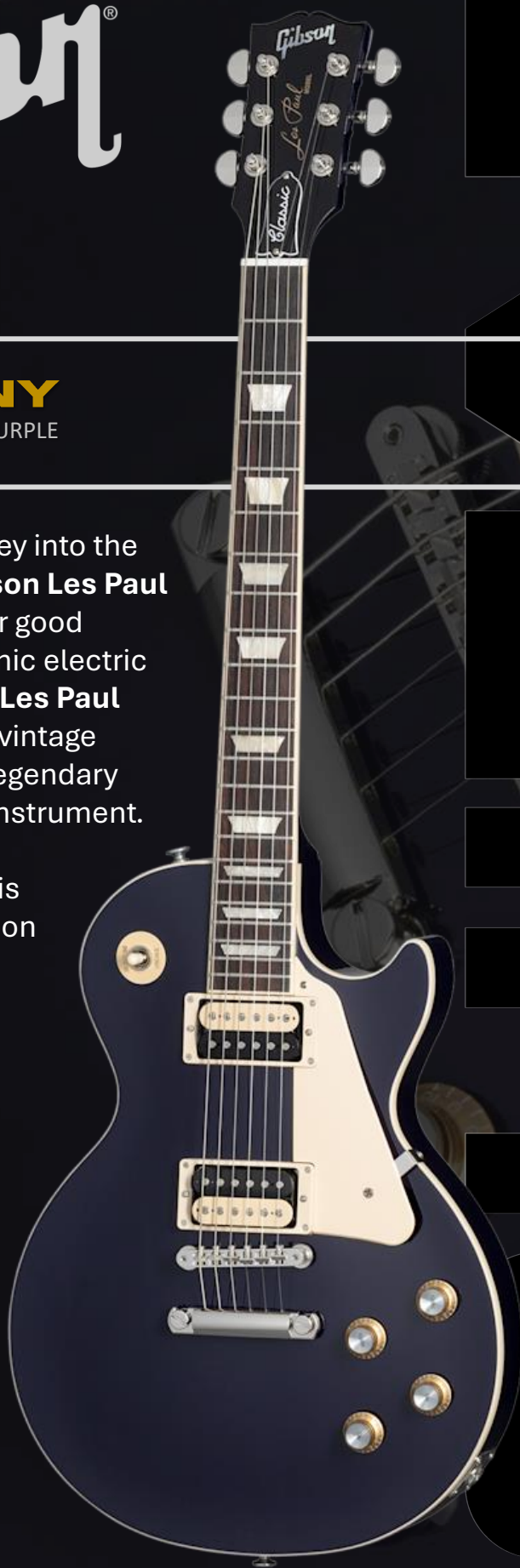
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LES PAUL CLASSIC, DEEP PURPLE

If you're just starting your journey into the world of guitars, the name **Gibson Les Paul** is one you'll hear often—and for good reason. It's one of the most iconic electric guitars ever made. The **Gibson Les Paul Classic in Deep Purple** brings vintage style, modern playability, and legendary tone together in one beautiful instrument.

Even if you're new to guitars, this model makes a strong impression—and here's why.



WHAT IS THE GIBSON LES PAUL CLASSIC?

The **Les Paul Classic** is a modern take on the legendary Les Paul guitars that shaped the sound of rock, blues, and beyond. With its **Deep Purple finish**, it doesn't just sound good—it *looks* amazing too. It's designed for players who want that vintage Les Paul vibe, but with features that make it easier and more fun to play today.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Gibson Les Paul Classic is a workhorse.

You can use it for:

- **Rock and hard rock**
- **Blues**
- **Pop**
- **Jazz**
- **Indie**
- **Even heavier styles with the right amp**

It's incredibly versatile, which makes it perfect if you're still finding your musical style.



BUT ISN'T THIS A GUITAR FOR EXPERTS?

It might *look* like a guitar for the pros (and it is!), but if you're serious about learning and want an instrument that will grow with you, the **Les Paul Classic** is a solid investment. It's not just a guitar—it's a lifelong musical partner.

BEGINNER?

NO PROBLEM.

THIS GUITAR IS FOR YOU TOO.

While it's a professional-level instrument, the **Les Paul Classic** is still friendly enough for motivated beginners.

Here's what makes it a great option, even if you're still learning:

- **Solid Mahogany Body with Maple Top**
This combination gives the guitar a thick, warm tone with just the right amount of brightness. Great for both rhythm and lead playing.
- **SlimTaper Neck**
The neck is thinner and faster than older vintage models, which makes it easier to hold and move your fingers—perfect for new players.
- **Rosewood Fingerboard**
Smooth, responsive, and comfortable under your fingers. It's ideal for developing finger strength and accuracy.
- **Burstbucker Pickups**
These pickups give you that classic Les Paul sound—full, punchy, and rich. Whether you're playing clean tones or gritty rock riffs, they deliver the goods.
- **Push/Pull Coil Taps**
These let you switch between full humbucker power and brighter single-coil sounds, all with a simple knob pull. It's like having two guitars in one—great for exploring different sounds while you learn.

The **Gibson Les Paul Classic in Deep Purple** is more than just a beautiful instrument—it's a piece of music history. With easy playability, amazing tone options, and a bold, standout look, it's perfect for beginners who want to start strong and stay inspired.



An Interview With **ANTON BOTHHA**



Proaudio MusicGear: Anton, it's great to have you with us! Let's kick off with the basics — what's been happening in your world lately?

Anton Botha: Thanks so much, great to be here! Things have been full steam ahead. I've been focusing a lot on corporate entertainment over the past few years, and it's become a very exciting part of what I do. We've been fortunate to create some unique productions that are tailor-made for each company's mission and vibe — everything from intimate events to large-scale shows with dancers, aerialists, and acrobats. But despite all that, live performances on stage will always be the ultimate. Give me a stage and I'll be there!

Proaudio MusicGear: That's amazing. You've been a household name for a while now, but many people might not know how early you started. Take us back a bit.

Anton Botha: I was lucky to have incredible opportunities even back in primary school. I shared the stage with legends like Coenie de Villiers, Anneli van Rooyen, and Randall Wicomb. Then in 2003, I was selected as one of the finalists for ATKV Crescendo, which opened a lot of doors. From there, everything just grew — a SAMA nomination in 2008, a Ghoema nomination in 2016, and golden awards for my work on "Country Kersfees" and "Country Konings." It's been a wild but beautiful journey.

Proaudio MusicGear: And it seems like songwriting has also played a big part in your success.

Anton Botha: Definitely. I love writing songs just as much as performing them. Over the years I've written for artists like Juanita du Plessis, Wynand Strydom, Thys die Bosveldklong, and Izak Davel — it's really special seeing your lyrics take on new life in someone else's voice.

Proaudio MusicGear: What can fans look forward to musically? Any new projects or music coming soon?

Anton Botha: I've been spending a lot of time in studio lately. I'm working on some amazing collaborations and also revisiting a few classic cover songs — but with a fresh take. I'm planning to release a few new tracks within the next two months.

There's a definite move towards more original material, which I'm really excited about. The goal is to capture where I'm at musically right now while still tipping the hat to the sounds that shaped me.



Proaudio MusicGear: And what about 2025? Any big plans you can share?

Anton Botha: Absolutely! We're planning a series of tours along the coast and across the country — really trying to take the music to all corners of South Africa. It's about reconnecting with audiences in a big way. There's also more in the pipeline with BluEyesRecords — we're pushing boundaries with what corporate entertainment can look and sound like.

Proaudio MusicGear: Let's talk gear — we know you're quite the tone purist. What are you playing right now?

Anton Botha: Ah, gear talk — my favourite! I'm all about tone and I really love chasing those iconic sounds I grew up with. Mark Knopfler from Dire Straits has always been a big influence, and for me, nothing quite gets that tone like a Gibson Les Paul. I've been deep-diving into the Les Paul Standard vs.

Traditional debate — it's a tough call! Both have their strengths, but honestly, I don't mind a heavier guitar if it inspires me to make it sing.

That said, the Epiphone range has really impressed me too. It's got the look, feel, and sound that makes it ideal for beginners and working musicians alike. It's a killer option as a road guitar — reliable, versatile, and still delivers the goods.

Proaudio MusicGear: Sounds like you're always experimenting with your setup. Is there a specific tone or setup that's your go-to?

Anton Botha: Yes, definitely. I love the sound with the pickup selector in the middle position, and I roll the volume down just a little on the neck pickup — that gives me a sweet, balanced tone that's both vintage and modern. It works across genres and fits perfectly into my style.

Proaudio MusicGear: You've had your music reviewed in top magazines and featured on TV shows — from *Jukebox* to *Kwela*. How do you keep things fresh after so many years in the industry?

Anton Botha: I think it comes down to passion. Music has always been more than just a job for me — it's a calling. And the audience keeps me going. Every show is different, every crowd brings a new energy. I like to keep things spontaneous on stage — I'll take requests, improvise, even compose something on the spot. That keeps the fire burning.



Proaudio MusicGear: What can people expect from an Anton Botha performance?

Anton Botha: Entertainment for everyone. I want people to walk away feeling like they were part of something real — not just a gig, but a memory. I bring in a lot of 80s influences, especially from artists like Dire Straits, and blend it with Afrikaans pop, rock, and whatever the moment calls for. No two shows are the same — and that's the magic of it.

Proaudio MusicGear: Final question — what keeps you motivated after all these years?

Anton Botha: The love of music, plain and simple. And the fact that music has the power to connect people, to heal, to uplift. That's a responsibility I take seriously. As long as there are people to play for, I'll keep doing what I do.

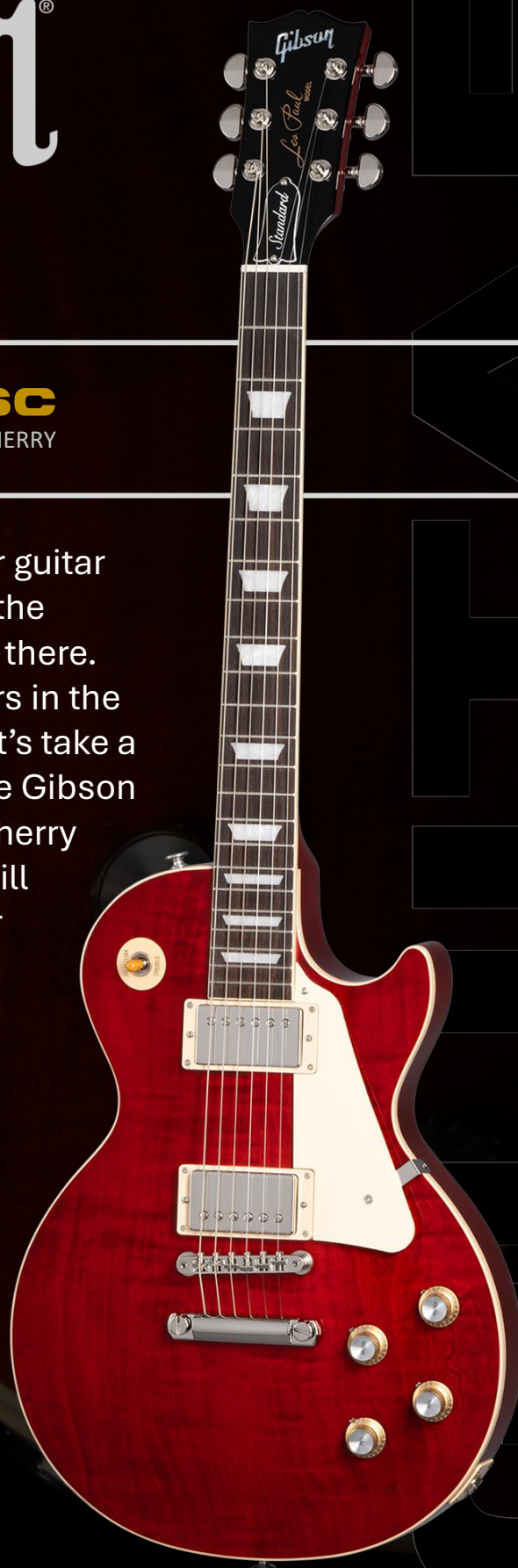


Gibson®

LPS600-SC

LES PAUL STD 60S FIGURED TOP + CASE, 60S CHERRY

If you're just starting out on your guitar journey, you've probably heard the name Les Paul pop up here and there. It's one of the most iconic guitars in the world—and for good reason. Let's take a gentle stroll into what makes the Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s in 60s Cherry such a big deal, even if you're still figuring out what makes a guitar great.



SO, WHAT IS THE LES PAUL?

The Les Paul is a solid-body electric guitar that was originally designed in the 1950s by Gibson and the famous musician and inventor Les Paul himself. It became legendary in the '60s when guitar heroes like Jimmy Page, Slash, and Gary Moore used it to shape the sound of rock, blues, and even jazz.

The Les Paul Standard '60s model brings that classic vibe from the 1960s back to life—just like the guitars those early rockstars played. This version comes in a rich, eye-catching 60s Cherry finish, which makes it look as vibrant as it sounds.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Les Paul Standard '60s is known for its **versatility**.

It's great for:

- **Rock**
- **Blues**
- **Jazz**
- **Pop**
- Even a bit of **metal**, if you like things heavy

This makes it an ideal guitar if you're not sure what style you'll land on yet—but you want something that can grow with you.

BUT ISN'T THIS FOR PROS?

Not at all! While it's definitely a high-quality instrument (and used by professionals), a beginner can absolutely learn on a Les Paul. In fact, starting with a guitar like this means you'll develop good habits, enjoy better tone, and have an instrument that will last you a lifetime.

Think of it like learning to drive in a luxury car, you'll feel the difference.



WHY IS THIS GUITAR SPECIAL?

Let's break it down into simple terms:

- **Solid Mahogany Body with Maple Top:**
Think of this like the “heart” of the guitar. Mahogany gives it a warm, deep tone, while the maple top adds brightness and sparkle. Together, they create a balanced sound that works great for almost any kind of music.
- **Slim Taper Neck:**
The neck is the long part you hold when playing. This one is designed to feel fast and comfortable—perfect for smooth playing and quick learning.
- **Rosewood Fretboard:**
This is where your fingers go when you press the strings. Rosewood feels smooth and warm under your fingers, which helps you play with ease.
- **Burstbucker 61 Pickups:**
These are the little “microphones” under the strings that capture the sound. They give you that vintage tone—crunchy when you want it, but also sweet and smooth. Perfect for everything from clean chords to gritty solos.
- **Top Hat Control Knobs & Tune-O-Matic Bridge:**
These let you fine-tune your sound and keep the strings stable, so your guitar stays in tune and sounds great every time you play.



The **Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s in 60s Cherry** is more than just a beautiful guitar—it's a piece of music history. With classic tone, solid construction, and timeless style, it's the kind of guitar that inspires you to keep playing and improving.

BRING YOUR GUITAR **BACK TO LIFE**

Give Your Icon the TLC It Deserves



Whether you've got an old family heirloom collecting dust, a vintage reissue with years of stage time under its belt, or a well-loved guitar that's just in need of a little pampering, the **Gibson Vintage Reissue Restoration Kit** is the all-in-one care solution your instrument deserves.

Thoughtfully curated by Gibson, this restoration pack is designed to clean, nourish, and protect your guitar while preserving its unique, aged charm.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE KIT?

This AIGG-RK1 restoration kit includes:

- **Restorative Finish Cream** – Designed to clean and refresh nitrocellulose lacquer finishes while maintaining the vintage look.
- **Premium Fretboard Conditioner** – Hydrates and protects your fretboard, reducing the risk of cracking and wear.
- **Low-Abrasion Metal Cleaner** – Brings back the shine on your hardware without stripping away its character.
- **Two Polishing Cloths** – Soft, non-abrasive cloths that are safe to use on all parts of your guitar.

Packaged in a compact 18cm x 15cm x 4cm kit weighing just 200 grams, this is a must-have for any vintage guitar owner or collector.

HOW TO USE THE RESTORATION KIT

(Step-by-Step Guide)

1. Prep Your Work Area

Find a clean, flat surface with good lighting. Lay down a soft towel or guitar mat to protect your instrument.

2. Start with the Fretboard

Using the **Premium Fretboard Conditioner**, apply a small amount to one of the included polishing cloths. Rub gently into the wood (avoid applying on maple fretboards unless specified safe). Let it sit for a few minutes, then wipe off any excess with the dry side of the cloth. This will moisturize the wood and protect it from drying out and cracking.

3. Polish the Hardware

Apply the **Low-Abrasion Metal Cleaner** to a clean cloth. Carefully clean the tuning machines, bridge, frets, and other metal components. Avoid getting any cleaner on the wood or finish—use slow, circular motions and light pressure.

4. Restore the Finish

Using the **Restorative Finish Cream**, apply a small amount to the second polishing cloth. Gently rub the cream onto the body in circular motions, following the grain of the wood. Buff lightly until the finish starts to shine, revealing a refreshed look that retains the instrument's aged personality.

5. Final Touch-Up

Use the dry cloth to wipe down the entire instrument, removing any leftover product or smudges.

Step back and admire your revitalized guitar.

WHY USE THE GIBSON VINTAGE REISSUE RESTORATION KIT?

This isn't just another cleaning kit. It's Gibson's answer to preserving musical history. Each product in the kit is tailored to work harmoniously with nitrocellulose finishes, aging wood, and delicate hardware—making it the perfect companion for reissues, antiques, and stage-worn workhorses alike. Best of all, it helps extend the life and playability of your guitar without compromising the unique character that only time can create.

If your guitar has a story to tell, the Gibson Vintage Reissue Restoration Kit helps it sing a little louder. Treat your instrument to the care it deserves—and keep it sounding and looking like a legend.



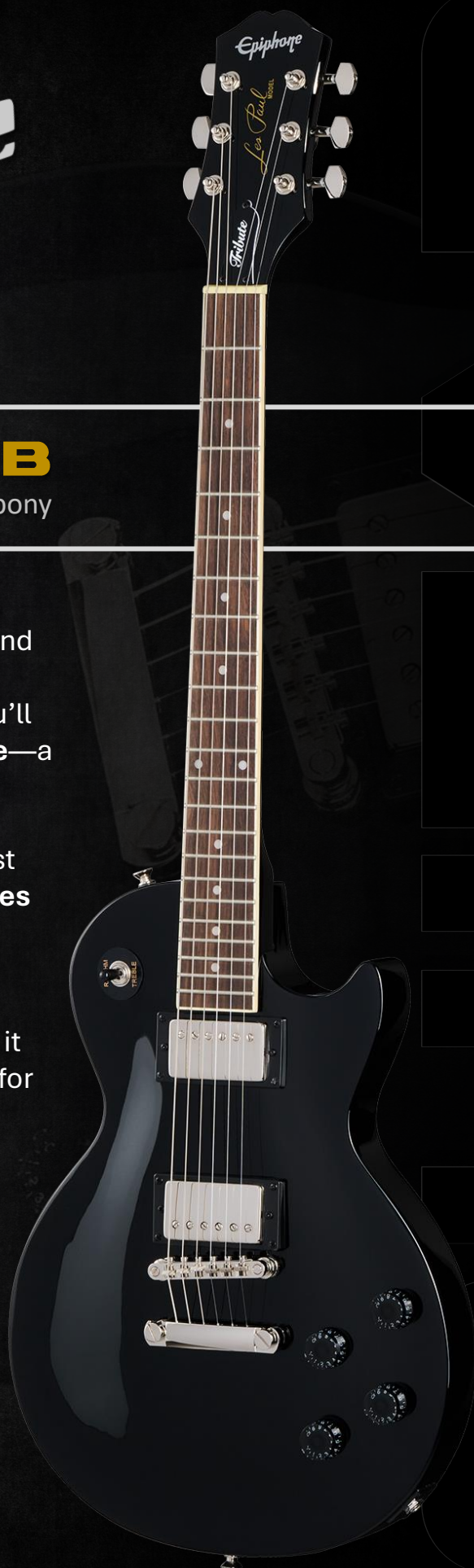
Epiphone

E1LPO-EB

Les Paul Tribute E1 Ebony

If you're just beginning to learn about guitars, the world of gear and brand names can feel a bit overwhelming. But one name you'll hear again and again is **Epiphone**—a trusted brand known for making affordable versions of classic Gibson designs. One of their most beginner-friendly models is the **Les Paul Tribute E1 in Ebony**.

Let's walk through what this guitar is, why it matters, and why it might be the perfect companion for your musical journey.



WHAT IS THE EPIPHONE LES PAUL TRIBUTE E1?

The **Les Paul Tribute E1** is part of Epiphone's range of budget-friendly electric guitars. It gives you the **look, feel, and sound** of a classic Les Paul, without the higher price tag.

It's designed with new players in mind—easy to play, built to last, and styled with a smooth **Ebony finish** that gives it a bold, professional look.

WHAT CAN YOU PLAY ON IT?

The Epiphone Les Paul Tribute E1 is versatile enough to handle:

- **Rock and blues**
- **Pop and indie**
- **Even punk or heavier tones with the right amp settings**
- **And of course, your first chords and melodies**

It's great for bedroom practice, jamming with friends, or recording your first song.

WHY CHOOSE THIS GUITAR?

As a beginner, you want a guitar that:

- Sounds good
- Feels comfortable
- Looks great
- Is affordable and reliable

The **Epiphone Les Paul Tribute E1 Ebony** delivers on all fronts. It gives you a classic Les Paul feel in a simplified, player-friendly form that helps you focus on learning and enjoying the process.



WHAT MAKES IT BEGINNER-FRIENDLY?

Here's why the E1 is a great starting point:

- **Lightweight Poplar Body**
This keeps the guitar comfortable to hold and play, even during longer practice sessions.
- **SlimTaper Neck Profile**
The neck is shaped for comfort and easy movement, especially helpful if you're still learning your way around chords and scales.
- **Smooth Fingerboard**
The fretboard is designed for effortless playability, making it easier to press down the strings and build up finger strength.
- **Humbucker Pickups**
These give you a warm, powerful sound with less unwanted noise. Whether you're going for clean tones or gritty rock distortion, they'll have you covered.
- **Simple Controls**
A couple of volume and tone knobs and a pickup selector switch make learning the basics easy without overwhelming you.

Your first guitar should be something that motivates you to pick it up again and again.

The **Epiphone Les Paul Tribute E1 Ebony** is stylish, playable, and built for progress.

If you're looking for a guitar that sounds great, looks even better, and won't overwhelm you while you learn, this might just be your perfect match.



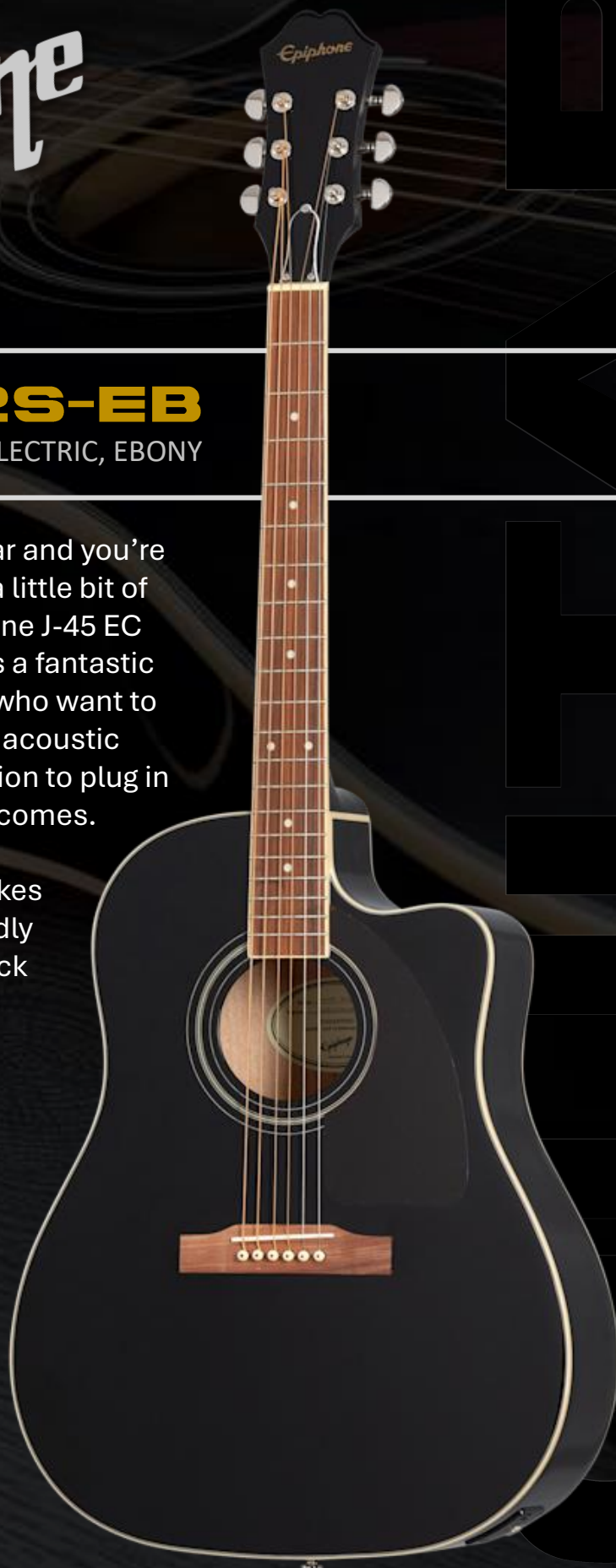
Epiphone

EE2S-EB

J-45 EC STUDIO ACOUSTIC/ELECTRIC, EBONY

If you're new to playing guitar and you're looking for one that can do a little bit of everything, meet the Epiphone J-45 EC Studio Acoustic/Electric. It's a fantastic starting point for beginners who want to enjoy the warm sound of an acoustic guitar, but also have the option to plug in and perform when the time comes.

Let's take a look at what makes this guitar so beginner-friendly and why it's such a smart pick for anyone just starting out.



WHAT IS THE EPIPHONE J-45 EC STUDIO?

The **J-45** is one of the most famous acoustic guitar shapes in the world, originally made famous by Gibson. The **Epiphone J-45 EC Studio** gives you that same legendary shape and sound, but at a much more accessible price.

The "EC" stands for "**Electric Cutaway**"—meaning this guitar has a built-in pickup so you can plug it into an amplifier, and a cutaway in the body so you can reach the higher frets more easily. It's finished in a smooth, dark **Ebony color** that looks elegant and bold.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The J-45 EC Studio is extremely versatile.

It's great for:

- **Pop**
- **Folk**
- **Country**
- **Singer-songwriter material**
- **Worship music**
- **General learning and practice**

Whether you're strumming chords, learning your first songs, or writing your own, this guitar is built to support your growth.

WHY THIS GUITAR STANDS OUT

As a beginner, you want a guitar that feels good, sounds great, and can do more as you improve.

The **Epiphone J-45 EC Studio** gives you:

- A quality acoustic tone
- The ability to plug in and play live
- A stylish look in classic Ebony
- Comfortable playability for all
- experience levels

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT FOR BEGINNERS?

Here's why the J-45 EC Studio is ideal if you're just learning:

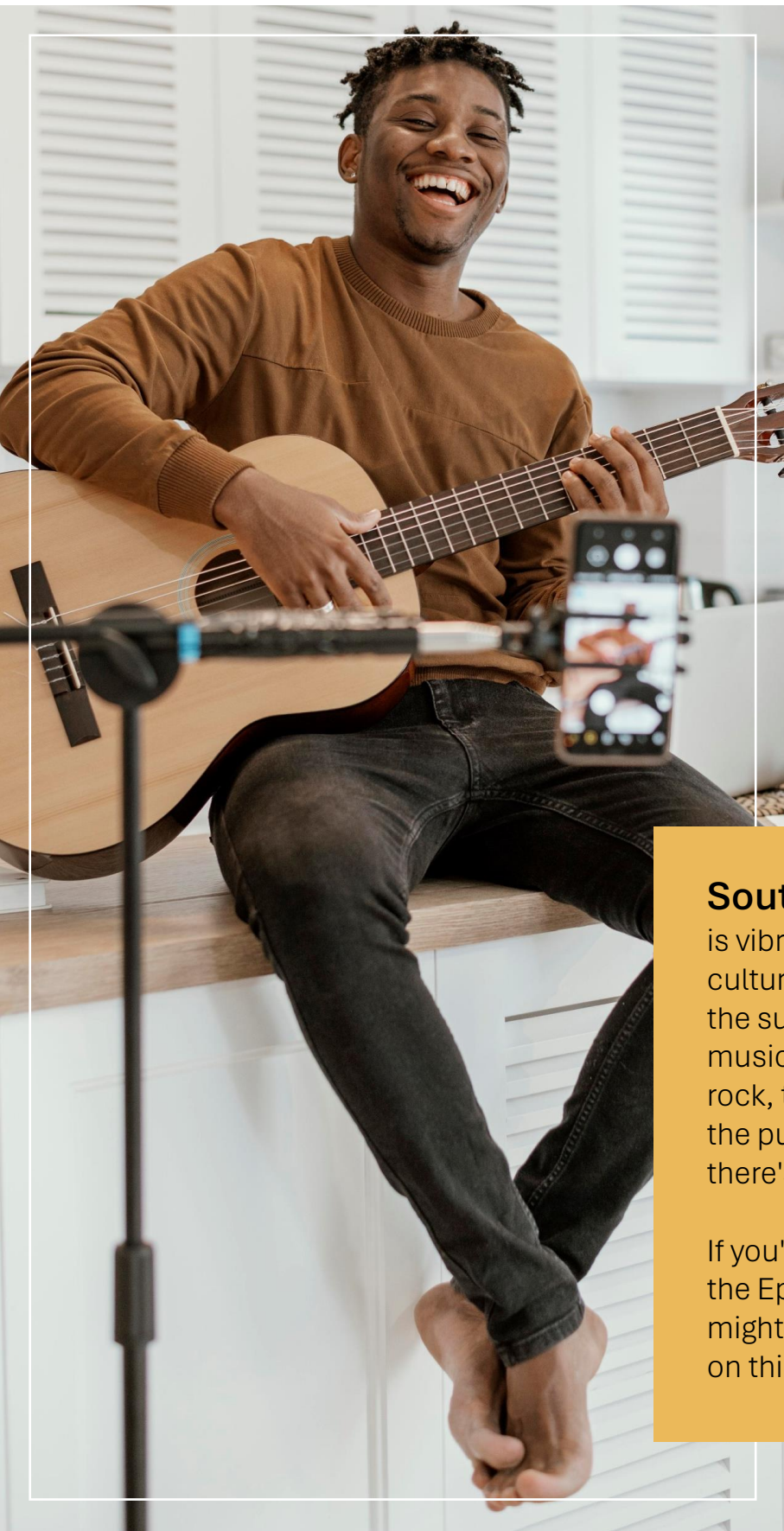
- **Comfortable Shape with Cutaway Design**
The rounded body feels natural to hold, and the cutaway lets you reach higher notes easily—perfect as you grow and try new things.
- **Spruce Top and Mahogany Body**
This combo gives you a warm, rich sound that works for strumming, fingerpicking, or playing with a pick. It sounds full without being too loud or sharp.
- **SlimTaper Neck Profile**
The neck is designed to be easy to grip and move around on. That makes it easier to form chords and improve finger strength over time.
- **Electronics for Plugging In**
With a built-in pickup and preamp, you can plug the guitar into an amp or sound system. This means you can play at home, on stage, or even record yourself—all with one guitar.
- **Onboard Controls**
The guitar has simple volume and tone controls, and even a built-in tuner—so you can keep your guitar sounding great without needing extra gear.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you're learning guitar and want something that looks professional, plays smoothly, and can grow with you—look no further. The **Epiphone J-45 EC Studio in Ebony** is a reliable, great-sounding choice that works for beginners and beyond.



It's a guitar you'll enjoy picking up every day, and it's ready to go wherever your music takes you.



Are You Looking to start Playing the Guitar?

South Africa's music scene

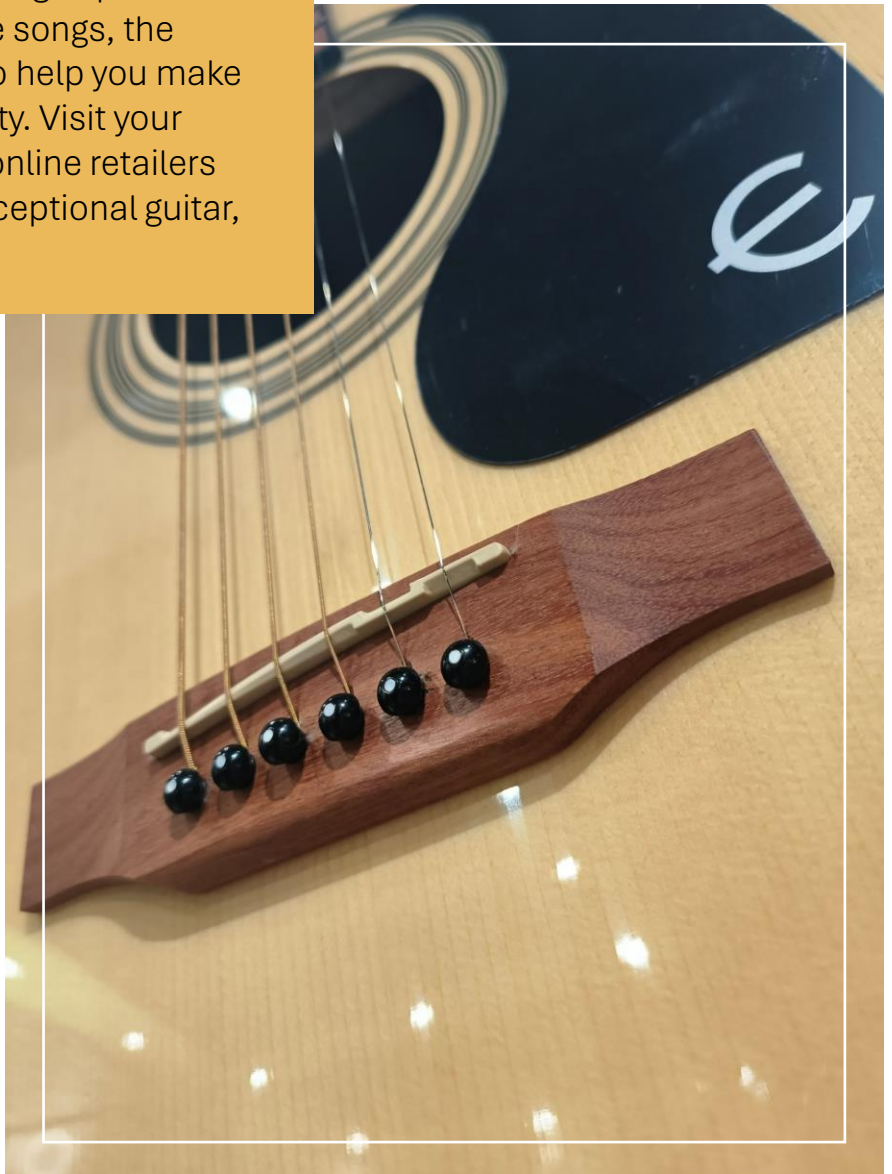
is vibrant and diverse, echoing the rich cultural tapestry of the nation. From the sun-drenched sounds of country music to the electrifying riffs of hard rock, the infectious beats of pop, and the pulsating rhythms of amapiano, there's a musical genre for everyone.

If you've ever felt the call of the guitar, the Epiphone DR-100 Acoustic Guitar might just be your perfect companion on this melodic journey.

Whether you're dreaming of headlining your own concert or simply enjoying a quiet evening playing your favorite songs, the Epiphone DR-100 is ready to help you make your musical dreams a reality. Visit your local music store or check online retailers to get your hands on this exceptional guitar, and let the music begin!

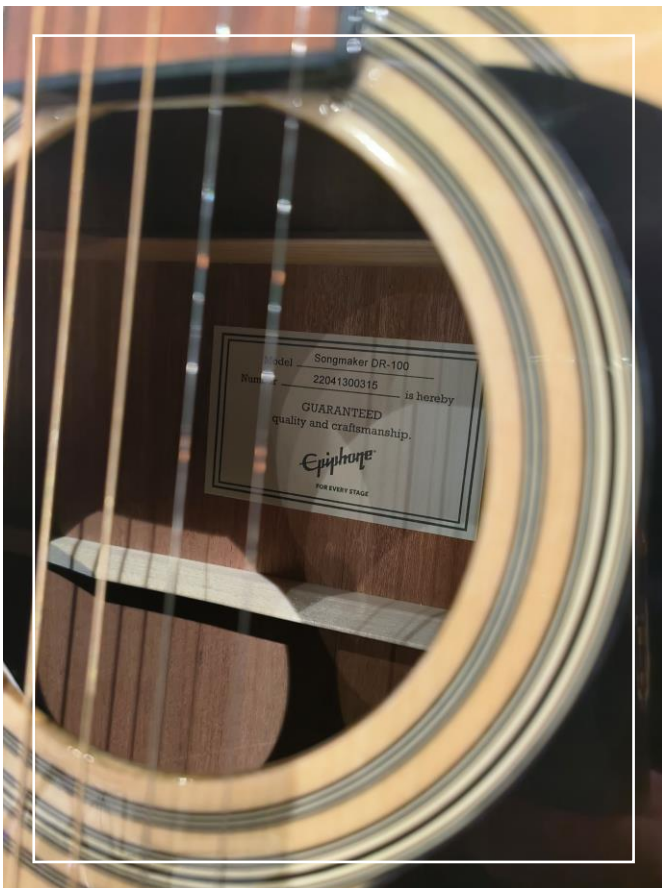
Epiphone's Most Popular Acoustic

The Epiphone Songmaker DR-100 has earned its reputation as the brand's best-selling acoustic guitar. It's not just a guitar; it's a gateway to exploring and expressing your musical creativity. Whether you're a first-time player or a seasoned professional, the DR-100 offers the quality and sound that musicians have come to expect from Epiphone.



A Guitar for All Ages

What makes the Epiphone DR-100 stand out is its universal appeal. It's incredibly affordable, making it accessible to aspiring guitarists of all ages. The guitar's construction features real tonewoods, ensuring a rich and authentic sound that belies its price. The select spruce top produces a lively, bright tone that can cut through the mix, whether you're strumming along with a country band or adding layers to a pop song. Meanwhile, the mahogany back and sides provide depth and warmth, perfect for the soulful sounds of hard rock or the laid-back grooves of amapiano.



The **Epiphone DR-100** Acoustic Guitar is more than just an instrument; it's an invitation to explore the rich musical landscape of South Africa and beyond. Its affordability, quality, and playability make it an ideal choice for guitarists of all ages and skill levels.

So why wait?

Pick up a DR-100, and start your musical journey today. With Epiphone, every stage is yours to conquer.



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THE ULTIMATE COMPANION

For musicians who need a portable yet high-quality instrument, the Jet Black Guitar with Cream Binding and Black Scratch Plate offers an exceptional blend of style, sound, and functionality. This guitar is not only visually stunning but also packed with features that ensure a rich playing experience.



Body and Neck Construction

Crafted from Okoume (Gaboon Mahogany), this guitar features a single-piece construction for both the body and neck. This design ensures durability, stability, and a rich, warm tone, ideal for travel and frequent use.

Fingerboard and Frets

The Laurel fingerboard features 18 frets, providing a smooth playing surface and attractive look. Laurel is known for its excellent feel and durability, making it perfect for various musical styles.

Scale Length

With a scale length of 20.7" (527mm), this guitar is compact yet playable, making it ideal for practice, travel, and small venue performances.

Pickups and Controls

Equipped with a mini-humbucker pickup, this guitar offers versatile, powerful sound. The coil-split feature, accessible via the Volume pot, allows for both humbucker and single-coil tones. The controls include a Volume knob (with pull function for coil-split) and a Tone knob, offering intuitive sound shaping options.

Machine Heads and Strings

Featuring Der Jung Sealed Tuners with a 1:14 gear ratio, this guitar ensures reliability and precision, keeping the guitar in tune during extended play. It comes with D'Addario EXL145 nickel wound strings, 12-54 (Heavy), providing balanced tone and durability.

Aesthetic Details

The jet black finish with cream binding enhances the guitar's visual appeal, highlighting its contours. The black scratch plate adds a vintage charm, making this guitar a standout piece both on stage and off.

Premium Gig Bag

The guitar comes with a premium gig bag made from rugged fabric, featuring a shoulder strap and multiple pockets. This gig bag ensures protection during transport and convenient storage for accessories.



Blackstar[®]

AMPLIFICATION

FLY 3 SHELL PINK

- **SMALL SIZE,**
- **BIG SOUND,**
- **BOLD STYLE**



Blackstar®

Don't let its size fool you—the **Blackstar FLY 3 Shell Pink** is a tiny titan of tone. Whether you're practicing in your bedroom, jamming at the beach, or recording on the fly, this 3-watt mini amp delivers everything you need in a compact, stylish package that stands out in any setting.

This isn't just a pretty face. Under the hood, the FLY 3 is loaded with features that rival much larger amps. With two switchable channels (Clean and Overdrive), you can go from smooth, shimmering tones to gritty, crunchy leads in seconds. Add in the tape-style digital delay for spacious, echoing effects, and you've got a serious creative tool right at your fingertips.

What really sets the FLY 3 apart is Blackstar's patented **Infinite Shape Feature (ISF)**—a tone control that lets you dial in British or American-style sounds (and everything in between) with just a twist of a knob. Want that warm midrange punch or a crisp high-end sparkle? It's all there, tailor-made for your taste.

Despite its **3-inch speaker**, the FLY 3 delivers impressive volume and clarity, with true Blackstar character in every note. It's designed to sound full and rich even at low volumes—perfect for quiet practice or spontaneous jam sessions. And when silence is golden, plug into the **emulated line out** for headphone practice or direct recording with zero fuss.



Want to play along with your favorite tracks? No problem—the **MP3/Line In** jack makes it easy to connect your phone or media player. Whether you're learning a new song or just vibing, the FLY 3 has you covered.

Built to travel, the FLY 3 runs on **batteries or DC power**, making it as portable as it is powerful. Its **solid construction** ensures it can handle life on the move, while the **Shell Pink finish** adds a fun, vibrant touch to your gear collection.



For beginners looking for a no-fuss practice amp, to seasoned players needing a reliable grab-and-go companion, the **Blackstar FLY 3 Shell Pink** is more than just a mini amp—it's a statement in sound and style.

**BIG TONE.
COMPACT FORM.
INFINITE CREATIVITY.**

That's the FLY 3.



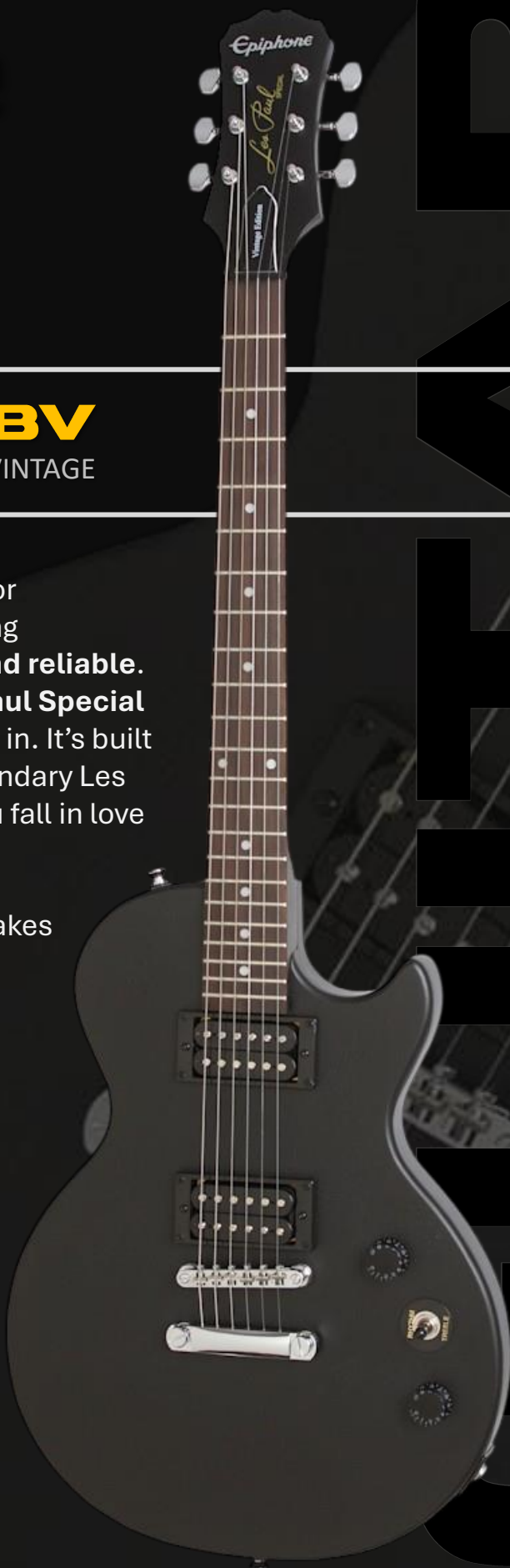
Epiphone

ENSV-EBV

LES PAUL SPECIAL SATIN E1, EBONY VINTAGE

You don't need something flashy or complicated—you need something **comfortable, great-sounding, and reliable.** That's where the **Epiphone Les Paul Special Satin E1 in Ebony Vintage** comes in. It's built for beginners, inspired by the legendary Les Paul design, and ready to help you fall in love with playing.

Let's take a closer look at what makes this guitar so perfect if you're just getting started.



WHAT IS THE EPIPHONE LES PAUL SPECIAL SATIN E1?

This model is part of Epiphone's range of affordable Les Paul-style guitars made specifically for new players. It keeps things simple, easy to use, and still delivers that classic rock 'n roll sound.

The "Satin" finish gives it a smooth, worn-in feel—like a guitar that's been played and loved for years. And the Ebony Vintage color? It's stylish, sleek, and looks like something straight off a rock stage.

WHAT CAN YOU PLAY ON IT?

This guitar is perfect for:

- **Rock**
- **Blues**
- **Pop**
- **Learning riffs, power chords, and your first solos**
- **Jamming with friends or playing through a small amp at home**



While the Les Paul Special Satin E1 is perfect for starting out, it's not something you'll outgrow right away. Its **solid build and quality tone** mean you can keep playing it as you improve. It's also a great backup or travel guitar for experienced players, which shows how versatile it is.

WHY IT'S GREAT FOR BEGINNERS

The Les Paul Special Satin E1 is designed with learners in mind.

Here's what makes it easy to pick up and play:

- **Lightweight Poplar Body**
This guitar won't weigh you down. It's light and easy to hold, which makes long practice sessions much more comfortable.
- **Slim Neck with Easy Access**
The neck has a slim profile that fits nicely in your hand. It's great for forming chords, sliding between notes, and building confidence as you learn.
- **Two Humbucker Pickups**
These pickups help produce a **warm, full sound** that's great for rock, blues, pop—or just playing around and discovering your sound. Plus, they help reduce noise so your tone stays clean.
- **Simple Controls**
Just two knobs (volume and tone) and a three-way switch. Super easy to learn and adjust as you go. No complicated settings—just plug in and play.
- **Satin Finish for Comfort**
The finish isn't glossy or sticky, so your hands can move freely on the neck and body while you play.



INTRODUCING THE
nord piano 6

A Versatile
Digital Piano for
Every Musician



nord piano 6



The Nord Piano 6 is a state-of-the-art digital piano designed to meet the needs of both professional performers and passionate enthusiasts. Available in two configurations—**73-key and 88-key**—it offers flexibility to suit various playing styles and requirements.

Both models feature a sleek, intuitive interface with dedicated LED faders for each layer, making sound customization straightforward. The Triple Sensor Hammer Action keybed delivers a responsive and authentic piano feel, closely emulating the touch of an acoustic grand piano.

The 73-key version provides enhanced portability without compromising on playability, while the 88-key version offers the full range for those who prefer the complete keyboard experience.

At the heart of the Nord Piano 6 are dual Piano and Sample Synth engines, allowing for advanced layering and splitting of sounds. This means you can combine different instruments and textures to create rich, complex performances.



The piano section boasts a vast library of grand, upright, and electric pianos, capturing the nuanced characteristics of each instrument. The sample synth section expands your sonic palette with a diverse range of sounds, from strings and brass to guitars and classic analog synths.

Each layer comes with its own dedicated effects section, offering a variety of modulation effects, reverb types, delays, and amplifiers.

This allows for real-time sound shaping and customization, enabling you to tailor your tone to fit any musical context. Features like Dynamic Compression and Unison further enhance the depth and presence of your sound.

Designed with live performance in mind, the Nord Piano 6 includes Seamless Transitions for smooth sound changes, Split Point Crossfades for blending sounds across the keyboard, and a Live Mode that stores your recent settings for quick recall.

The included Nord Triple Pedal 2 adds expressive control, supporting advanced features like Advanced String Resonance and Dynamic Pedal Noise, which contribute to a more realistic and immersive playing experience.

When deciding between the 73-key and 88-key versions, consider your specific needs. The 73-key model is lighter and more compact, making it ideal for musicians on the go or those with limited space.

The 88-key model offers the full range of a traditional piano, which is beneficial for classical repertoire and pieces that utilize the entire keyboard. Both versions maintain the same high-quality features and sound engine, ensuring no compromise in performance.

The Nord Piano 6 stands out as a versatile and powerful digital piano, catering to a wide range of musical styles and performance settings. Whether you opt for the portable 73-key version or the expansive 88-key model, you'll experience exceptional sound quality, responsive touch, and a host of features designed to inspire and elevate your playing.

Exploring the Blackstar Dept. 10 Series

Which Is Right for You?

For guitarists in South Africa, whether novice enthusiasts or seasoned professionals, the quest for the ultimate pedalboard amplifier is a crucial part of crafting a signature sound.





AMPED 1

DEPT. 10 | 100W AMP PEDAL

AMPED 1 The Versatile Powerhouse

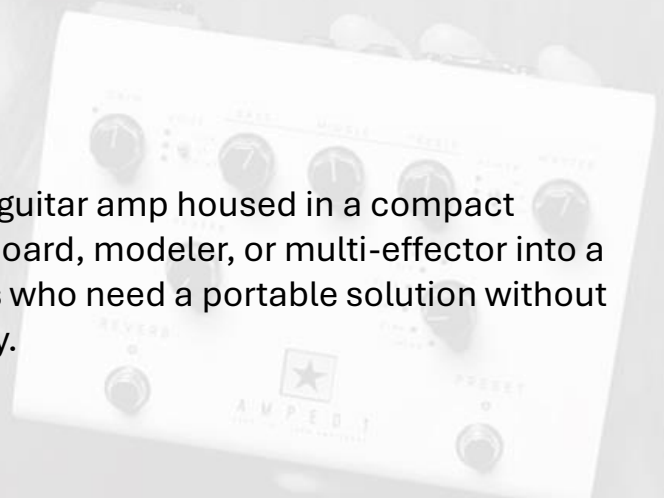
The AMPED 1 is a professional 100-watt guitar amp housed in a compact pedal, designed to transform any pedalboard, modeler, or multi-effector into a stage-ready setup. It's ideal for guitarists who need a portable solution without compromising on power or sound quality.

Key Features:

- **Power Valve Responses:** Features five valve responses (KT88, 6L6, EL34, 6V6, EL84) plus a linear response for transparent power amplification.
- **CabRig DSP Speaker Simulator:** Integrates cutting-edge DSP technology to emulate the sound and feel of a mic'd guitar cab.
- **Power Reduction:** Adjustable power output (100W, 20W, 1W), making it suitable for any environment, from live stages to studio sessions.
- **Connectivity:** Offers USB-C interface for recording and an XLR D.I. output for live performances.

Best For:

Guitarists who utilize extensive pedal setups and need flexible, high-quality amplification for both live and studio environments.





AMPED 2

DEPT. 10 | 100W AMP + FX RIG

AMPED 2

The Tone and Effects Specialist

AMPED 2 steps up with an integrated drive and an advanced effects processor, making it a potent standalone solution for those who prefer an all-in-one unit.

It's a superb choice for guitarists who value traditional valve amp tones combined with the convenience of modern technology.

Key Features:

- **Drive Voices and Effects:** Includes three drive voices (Boost, Drive, Fuzz) and comprehensive effects (Modulation, Delay, Reverb).
- **Response Control:** Offers three valve responses (EL34, 6L6, EL84) with settings to match various iconic amp tones (USA, UK, Classic).
- **Power Reduction and Connectivity:** Similar to AMPED 1, with versatile output options for different performance settings.
- **Onboard Chromatic Tuner:** Adds practicality for live use, ensuring you're always in tune.

Best For:

Players who need a dynamic range of built-in effects and drive options, alongside robust amplification capabilities.





AMPED 3

DEPT. 10 | 100W 3 CHANNEL AMP

AMPED 3

The High-Gain, Multi-Channel Marvel

AMPED 3 is tailored for guitarists who demand versatility and control over their sound. With the ability to create and store presets, it's geared towards performers who need to switch between multiple tones swiftly.

Key Features:

- **Multiple Channels and Voicings:** Six voicings (Clean Bright, Clean Warm, Crunch, Super Crunch, OD1, OD2) offer extensive tonal diversity.
- **Built-In Boost and Reverb:** Features a customizable boost (Pre or Post) and a studio-quality Reverb with a 'freeze' function.
- **CabRig and Connectivity:** Like AMPED 1, integrates CabRig technology with robust connectivity options for live and studio use.
- **User Presets:** Allows storing and recalling presets, a significant advantage during live performances.



Best For:

Advanced players who require a high degree of customization and the ability to switch between a wide range of sounds quickly.



Blackstar Polar 2

A Guitarist's Dream Interface



The Blackstar Polar 2 is a USB audio interface meticulously crafted with guitarists in mind, aiming to bridge the gap between traditional amplifier dynamics and modern digital recording. Its design focuses on delivering an authentic playing experience while ensuring high-quality sound capture.

KEY FEATURES

High-Headroom FET Inputs:

The Polar 2 features high-headroom Field Effect Transistor (FET) inputs that deliver impressively low noise levels. This ensures that the nuances of your guitar's tone are captured with clarity and precision.

Enhance Functionality:

A standout feature is the 'Enhance' switch, which emulates the input stage of a tube amplifier. When activated, it introduces subtle harmonics and a natural compression, enriching the guitar's signal and offering a more dynamic and responsive feel. This also helps prevent digital clipping, allowing for optimal input gain settings without compromising sound quality.

Versatile Connectivity:

With two combo XLR/jack inputs, the Polar 2 accommodates both instrument and microphone connections. It includes globally switchable 48V phantom power for condenser microphones, making it ideal for recording vocals or acoustic instruments. A dedicated headphone jack with volume control and main monitor outputs round out the interface, making it suitable for a range of setups.

Bundled Software Suite:

The Polar 2 comes with a comprehensive software bundle that includes Blackstar's St James Plugin Suite, Ableton Live Lite, Melodyne Essentials, and Relab LX 480 Essentials. This powerful toolkit offers everything a musician needs to start recording and producing right out of the box.





POLAR 2

FET INPUT INTERFACE

Users praise the Polar 2 for its ease of use and high-quality preamps. It delivers clean, detailed sound that faithfully captures the warmth and dynamics of electric and acoustic instruments.

The 'Enhance' feature, in particular, provides a noticeable lift to the signal, improving playing feel and tonal depth without over-processing.

The Blackstar Polar 2 stands out as a thoughtfully designed audio interface made with guitarists at its core. Combining high-end inputs, intuitive features, and a generous software package, it offers a seamless transition from analog inspiration to digital production.



THANK YOU PRIME CIRCLE



Proudly brought to you by

proaudio

Are you mixing with the right company?