



BALANCING ACT

FEW GUITARS CAN DELIGHT BOTH THE EAR AND THE EYE IN EQUAL MEASURE, BUT WE THINK WE MIGHT HAVE FOUND ONE...

Case Guitars are hand-built by Jon Case in the South of England. The result of many years of thoughtful design and refinement, these instruments display not only a commitment to top-quality materials and tone, but a keen eye for aesthetics, balancing lines and curves to perfection.

The Case catalogue includes archtop electric, flattop electro-acoustic and V-style electric models, but this guitar, the J1, is the bedrock of the range. A Brazilian mahogany body and set neck are topped off with a sensational quilted maple carved top. The depth of figuring on this thick, book-matched slab of solid maple is simply outstanding and it's tastefully set off by a coloured abalone centre strip and a gorgeous tobacco sunburst.

The ebony fingerboard is inlaid with a series of mother-of-pearl 'wave' inlays, which perfectly mirror the fluid, offset shape of the double-cutaway body and three-a-side headstock.

The pickups are custom-made by Bare Knuckle, based on the UK company's Riff Raff humbucker but with the 'legs', which would normally stick out on either side, reversed to bend under the pickups, allowing them to be installed without the need for mounting rings. Pickup height is still adjustable from the rear of the guitar.

A three-way selector switch is joined by volume and tone controls with bespoke African black wood knobs, the tone knob doubling as a push-pull coil tap switch. With a Hipshot adjustable bridge, through-body stringing, Sperzel locking tuners and a Graphtech nut, the J1 offers impressive sustain, tone and resonance.

As these guitars are hand-made to order, you can specify whatever hardware, fret size, neck profile and finish you like, but we think that this J1 (listed at £2,650) gets the balance exactly right. **GB**

For more information, head to www.caseguitars.co.uk

