

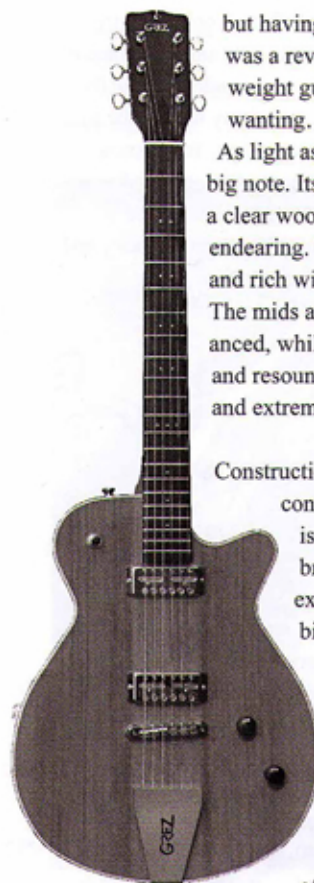
REVIEW: THE GREZ MENDOCINO

A Fine Example of the Builders Art

Is it the redwood top that reveals the wonderful tone found in this guitar? We really can't say, but beautiful it is... Enjoy.

We really didn't know what to expect from the Grez Mendocino. Sure, we had heard Mark Johnson playing his Grez,

the ToneQuest Report™



but having one here for a couple of weeks was a revelation. If you are fond of feather weight guitars the Grez won't leave you wanting... Is 5.8 lbs. light enough for you? As light as it is, the Grez also totes a mighty big note. Its sound is rich, full and vibey with a clear woodiness to the tone that is very endearing. Treble tones are pristine yet full and rich with no clanginess or sharp edges. The mids are ever-present and perfectly balanced, while the lower bass notes are pure and resounding. All in all a well-balanced and extremely toneful instrument indeed.

Construction is meticulous and well-conceived... Rest assured that this is not someone's idea of a home brewed guitar. The fit and finish are executed flawlessly, from the cream binding on the redwood top to the top itself – an ancient piece of tightly grained redwood – to the rich mahogany back and neck with its perfectly rounded neck shape that is neither to clubby or small. Perfect. The headstock on the Grez is reminiscent of a vintage guitar, smaller in the style of a Martin with excellent open-back tuners. The fingerboard is rich rosewood with a vintage look that reveals subtle streaks of lighter shaded wood, and the fret work is perfect. The medium jumbo frets have a nice round finish that makes playing the Grez a true pleasure and the TonePros Tune-o-matic functions just as it should. The custom stop tailpiece is also a cool touch.

The Lollar gold foils are a joy – rich and toneful with a vintage vibe that is sure to please. The neck pickup is big and jaunty, just waiting for a party to break out. The middle position is rich and nicely balanced, and the bridge is silky and devoid of any harsh or spikey treble tones. The Lollar's just work brilliantly in this guitar and the Grez fits extremely well with other instruments, which is to say that it isn't going to get smothered or otherwise lost in the mix. It's bright and jaunty tone is a real treat as guitar tones go. Just think of this guitar as being a uniquely satisfying to play with a signature tone that leaves you wanting nothing. The Grez's rich fidelity is definitely habit forming, and what a nice habit to have! You will also note that the Mendocino sounds unlike any other electric guitar you may own. Again, is it the redwood top? Certainly it plays a part, but so do the mahogany body and neck of course. The chambered body is also influencing the tone of the Grez no doubt, and the end result is a delicious guitar with zero faults or shortcomings, equally suitable for rock, jazz or the blues. Let's celebrate that, why don't we? Here's to the Grez Mendocino – a truly great guitar that definitely deserves your consideration. Quest forth... TQ

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