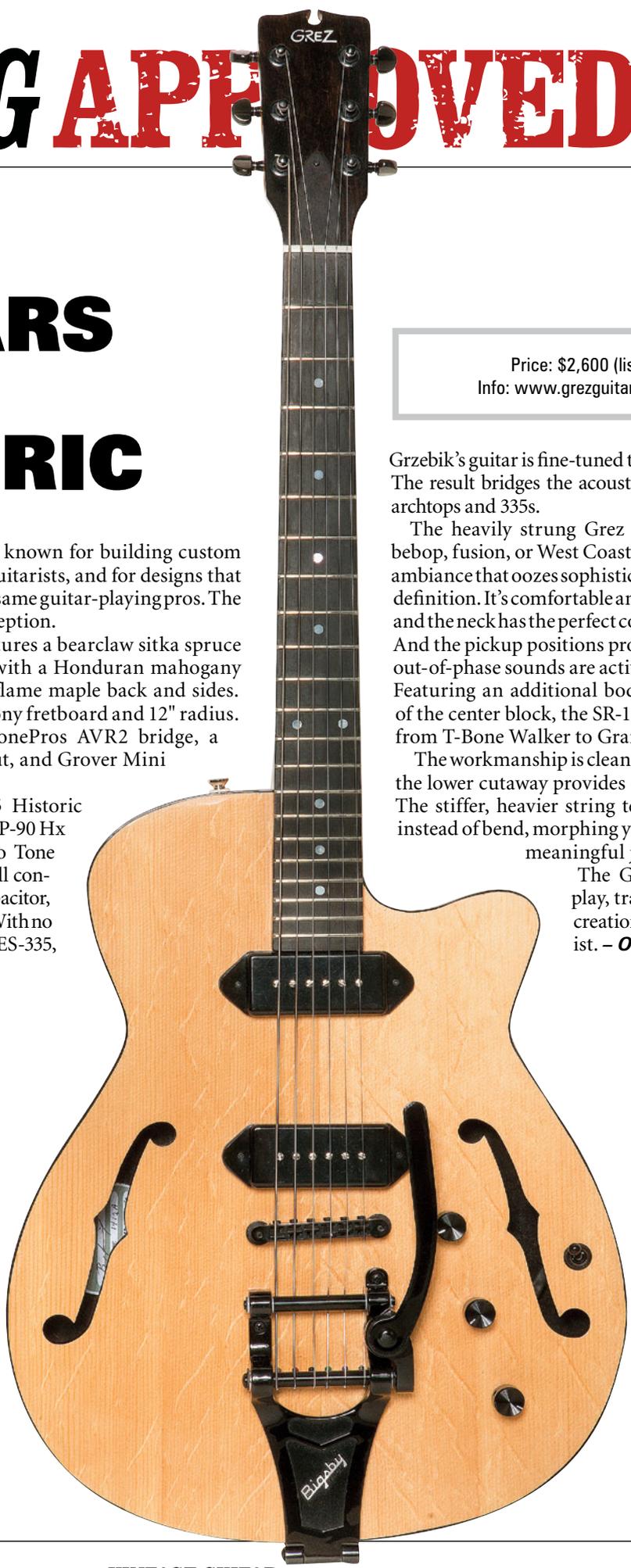# GREZ GUITARS SR-15 HISTORIC

Price: $2,600 (list)
Info: www.grezguitars.com

Designer Barry Grzebik is known for building custom guitars for persnickety guitarists, and for designs that incorporate input from those same guitar-playing pros. The Grez SR-15 Historic is no exception.

This semi-hollowbody features a bearclaw sitka spruce top and a clear nitro finish with a Honduran mahogany center block and neck, and flame maple back and sides. The 25"-scale neck has an ebony fretboard and 12" radius. The guitar also sports a TonePros AVR2 bridge, a Bigsby B700 vibrato, Tusq nut, and Grover Mini Rotomatic tuners.

For electronics, the SR-15 Historic mounts two noiseless Kinman P-90 Hx pickups, one Volume and two Tone controls with Bourns push/pull controls, an Orange Drop tone capacitor, and a three-way toggle switch. With no interest in replicating Gibson's ES-335,

Grzebik's guitar is fine-tuned to resonate at lower frequencies. The result bridges the acoustic chasm between hollowbody archtops and 335s.

The heavily strung Grez SR-15 Historic is perfect for bebop, fusion, or West Coast swing. It yields a dark, woody ambiance that oozes sophistication, warmth, and rich string definition. It's comfortable and sits close to the player's body, and the neck has the perfect combination of girth and width. And the pickup positions provide tonal variety galore. The out-of-phase sounds are activated with the pull/push pots. Featuring an additional body pickup located on the side of the center block, the SR-15 Historic delivers everything from T-Bone Walker to Grant Green.

The workmanship is clean, the Bigsby is a nice touch, and the lower cutaway provides easy access to the upper frets. The stiffer, heavier string tension will force you to slide instead of bend, morphing your hackneyed blues licks into meaningful jazz prestidigitations.

The Grez SR-15 Historic is fun to play, transformative, and an inspired creation for the discriminating guitarist. **– Oscar Jordan** VG